

**Economic Globalization:
Creating a Just Global Society**

**Course Syllabus
By Rev. Sharon Delgado
January 14-18, 2008**

Course Description

In this course, students will examine globalization, its many facets, complexities, paradoxes, controversies, and effects. The institutions that dominate the global economic system will be emphasized, especially as these affect the mission and work of the church. Students will discuss and critique the ideology that supports economic globalization, consider alternative models of global society, and consider strategies for educating congregations and equipping them for action.

Course Objectives

At the successful conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the system of economic globalization, its benefits and harms
- Identify the primary institutions and policies that promote economic globalization
- Demonstrate an understanding of diverse interpretations of globalization
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ideology (Market Fundamentalism) that undergirds the current system and to compare it with the values of faith traditions
- Explore economic relationships and conflicting rights (between consumers and producers, private owners and the “commons,” corporations and natural persons)
- Demonstrate familiarity with proposed principles upon which a compassionate, just, and sustainable global society could be built
- Develop action strategies for individuals and congregations to respond to the challenges of economic globalization

Overview of the 5 classes of the course:

1. An Overview of the Global Economy
2. Debating Globalization: Do Its Benefits Outweigh Its Harms?
3. Who is My Neighbor? Economic Relationships in the Global Economy
4. Globalization, Religion, and Values
5. Reform or Re-Construction? Toward a Just Globalization

Required Texts:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. eds., *The Globalization Reader*. Second Edition. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, Ltd., 2004)

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell: Faith-Led Resistance to Corporate Globalization* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007).

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God* (Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2001)

Optional Texts:

Rifkin, Ira, *Spiritual Perspectives on Globalization: Making Sense of Economic and Cultural Upheaval* (Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2003).

Video/DVD Resources:

Brief segments of these documentaries will be shown in class to facilitate discussion and to introduce students to materials that can be used in the local church.

Commanding Heights. A PBS documentary based on a book by the same title written by Daniel Yergin (a Pulitzer Prize winner) and Joseph Stanislaw. It is also available on-line. This documentary provides an excellent background of how we got to where we are today in terms of globalization.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/index.html>.

Global Village or Global Pillage: How People Around the World are Challenging Corporate Globalization. Jeremy Brecher, A Project of the World Economy Project, Preamble Center, New York. www.villageorpillage.org.

WTO: The Whole World in Whose Hands? (20 min.) Published by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church.

Black Gold: Wake Up and Smell the Coffee. Oxfam America. Shows how the global economic system affects small coffee farmers, and introduces fair trade alternatives. www.blackgoldthemovie.com

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Brave New Films. www.walmartmovie.com.

Thirst, Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufmann. Shows effects of water privatization and peoples' struggles to regain control of this basic resource. www.thirstthemovie.com.

China Blue, A PBS documentary about sweatshop workers in China who make blue jeans. <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/chinablue>.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

The basis for awarding a Pass or No Grade for this class will be:

- **Pass** represents satisfactory or outstanding achievement and a professional judgment that the work produced met or exceeded the criteria below.
- **No Grade** represents marginal or unsatisfactory achievement and a professional judgment that the work produced was insufficient to satisfy the criteria.

The following criteria will be the basis for evaluation:

- Attendance will be crucial, since there are only five classes.

- Understanding of assigned reading will be demonstrated by participation in discussion and through one 3 to 5 minute presentation.
- Written assignments will be evaluated according to degree of clarity, logic, organization, analysis, and synthesis of issues.

Description of Course Assignments and Expectations:

Attendance and Participation: 30% of final grade.

3 Written Papers: 30% of final grade Due on second, third, and fourth days of class, respectively. Each paper should be 1-2 typewritten pages in length.

- Writing Assignment 1 (due on second day of class): In *The Globalization Reader* (Lechner and Boli), read the Introduction to Part II, “Explaining Globalization,” on pages 55-57. Essays in Part II present the phenomenon of globalization from various perspectives. Select one essay to read and critique. The emphasis should be on the phenomenon of globalization as a whole.
- Writing Assignment 2 (due on third day of class), based on class discussion and assigned reading: Write a brief essay answering the following question: Do you think that the benefits of economic globalization outweigh its harmful effects? Why or why not? (Alternate assignment: select, read, and critique an essay that discusses globalization’s benefits and harms. You can choose an essay from *The Globalization Reader*, Part I, “Debating Globalization,” on pages 7-51, or from any other source.)
- Writing Assignment 3 (due on fourth day of class), based on class discussion and assigned reading: Write a brief essay critiquing globalization from your own faith tradition. (Alternate assignment: select, read, and critique an essay that discusses globalization from a particular faith tradition. You can choose an article from those listed below, or from any other source.) Be prepared to discuss your perspective in class.

Oral Presentation or Special Project (Solo or with another class member): 40% of final grade. Due at final class.

Give a 3-5 minute oral presentation on the following topic: “How faith communities can respond to globalization in ways that bring positive change.” (Alternative assignment: Prepare a special project that demonstrates a practical way to educate, inspire, and/or motivate people within faith communities to respond to globalization in ways that bring positive change. Examples include art, worship, role play, spoken word, liturgical dance, educational techniques, visuals, music, etc.) The purpose of this assignment is to facilitate your knowledge of globalization and address the issue of how to involve faith communities in responding to and transforming globalization. (For Special Projects, present proposal to instructor in advance for approval.)

Class #1 An Overview of the Global Economy

Purpose of class

- To answer the question: “What is globalization?”
- To acknowledge various perspectives on issues related to globalization.
- To survey the institutions that make up the global economy and identify the policies that promote economic globalization.

Required Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader*. Chapter 6, 44-50; Introduction to Part II, p. 55-57, choose one chapter in Part II to read and critique.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 10, p. 106-124.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, Introduction and Chapter 1, p. 1-29.

Optional Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader*. Chapter 6, 44-50; Chapters 7, 8, 9, p. 57-76.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 12, p. 147-164.

Class #2 Debating Globalization: Do Its Benefits Outweigh Its Harms?

Due: First Written Paper.

Purpose of class

- To deepen participants’ understanding of the primary institutions and policies that promote economic globalization
- To explore the beneficial and harmful effects of economic globalization
- To understand diverse interpretations of globalization.

Required Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader*. Introduction to Part II, p. 55-57, One self-selected chapter in Part II. Introduction to Part IV, pages 157-159; Chapters 21-22, p. 177-189; Chapter 25, p. 200-207.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 6, p. 56-72; Chapter 11, p. 130-146.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, Chapter 2, p. 30-45.

Optional Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader* Chp 9 – 14, p. 70 – 119.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 7, p. 73-81.

Class #3 Who is My Neighbor? Economic Relationships in the Global Economy

Due: Second Written Paper.

Purpose of class

- To explore economic relationships and conflicting rights (between consumers and producers, immigrants and established populations, private owners and the “commons,” corporations and natural persons, indigenous and non-indigenous communities).

Required Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader*. Chapter 20, p. 167-176; Chapters 23-24, p. 190-199; Chapter 51, p. 392-397.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 1, p. 10-21; Chapter 11, p. 130-146.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, Chapter 3, p. 46-69.

Optional Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader* Chapter 38-40, p. 297-312.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 2-5, p. 22-55; ; Chapter 13-14, p.165-189.

Class #4 Globalization, Religion, and Values

Due: Third Written Paper.

Purpose of class

- To examine the ideology that support the current global economic system, often called Market Fundamentalism, and to compare it with the values of faith traditions;
- To discuss the effect of globalization on moral agency, and religious responses to the problem.

Required Readings for this class:

(Note: People may select chapters from Ira Rifkin’s book, *Spiritual Perspectives on Globalization*, online articles listed below, and/or other essays or articles related to religious approaches to globalization, in lieu of the following chapters.)

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 8, p. 82-99; Excerpts from Chapter 10, p. 124-129; Chapter 15, p. 191-214.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, Chapter 5, 100-132.

Optional Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader* Chp 38-40, p. 297-312.

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 1, p. 10-21; Chapter 8, p. 83-99.

Class # 5: Reform or Re-Construction? Toward a Just Globalization

Due: Oral Presentation or Special Project: 35% of final grade Last class.

Purpose of class

- To discuss principles upon which a compassionate, just, and sustainable global society could be built
- To develop action strategies for individuals and congregations to respond to the challenges of economic globalization

Required Readings for this class:

Lechner, F. J., Boli, J. *Globalization Reader*. Introduction to Part X, p. 407-409; Chapters 53-54, p. 410-421; Chapters 57-58, p. 435-448..

Delgado, Sharon, *Shaking the Gates of Hell*, Chapter 16-17 and Conclusion, p. 215-251.

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia D., *Healing a Broken World: Globalization and God*, Chapter 6, 133-150.

Websites on Religious Perspectives on Globalization:

- Cardinal Francis George, "Globalization: Challenges to the Church's Mission," <http://www.omiworld.org/DocumentationDettaglio.asp?L=1&I=37>
- The Bahá'í International Community, "The Prosperity of Humankind," <http://info.bahai.org/article-1-9-2-11.html>
- Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir, "The Jewish Ethicist: The Risks and Benefits of a Worldwide Marketplace," <http://besr.org/ethicist/globalization.html>.
- World Council of Churches: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation: Churches Response to the Policies of International Financial Institutions": <http://www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/jpc/temptation.html>
- David Frawley, "The Hindu Response to Globalization," in *Hinduism and the Clash of Civilizations*, <http://www.bharatvani.org/books/civilization/partI9.htm>
- Chandra Muzaffar, "Globalization and Religion": <http://www.islamonline.net/english/views/2002/03/article16.shtml>
- James Kurth, "Religion and Globalization": <http://www.fpri.org/fpriwire/0707.199905.kurth.religionglobalization.html>
- Alfred Bloom, "Globalization and Buddhism," <http://www.shindharmanet.com/writings/globalization.htm>
- David Loy, "Religion and the Market": <http://www.religiousconsultation.org/loy.htm>
- Philip Jenkins, "The Next Christianity," <http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/2002/10/jenkins.htm>
- Vinay Lal, "Reflections on the Indian Diaspora," <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/Diaspora/reflect.html>

Reference Websites:

- <http://www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/theories.html> Globalization Theories
- <http://www.globalisationguide.org/sb02.html> Listing of globalization websites
- <http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/websites.htm> Global Policy Forum Websites
- <http://www.globalpolicy.org/globaliz/index.htm> Global Policy Forum
- <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/about/websites.jsp> YaleGlobal Online
- <http://www.earthwindow.com/grc2/resources/> Interesting web resources
- <http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2000/041200.htm> International Monetary Fund (IMF), "Globalization: Threat or Opportunity."