



GLBL 201: Globalization and Cultural Change

Term: Fall 2026

Credits: 3.0

Lecture Times & Location: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00–2:15 p.m., Lovell Hall 140

Modality: In-Person

Alkimi University is a fictional institution created by Alkimi AI to demonstrate its products. It does not admit students, grant degrees, employ faculty, or accept payments. All people, places, policies, and figures in this document are invented.

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Prof. Harriet Vance (Professor of History)
- **Email:** hvance@university.alkimi.ai
- **Office:** Lovell Hall 222
- **Office Hours:**
 - Monday & Thursday: 9:30–11:00 a.m. (In person, Lovell Hall 222)
 - Tuesday: 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Virtual via Zoom; link posted in Canvas)
 - Also available by appointment.

Course Description

Interdisciplinary examination of global interconnectedness, economic integration, transnational migration, cultural hybridization, and the social impacts of globalization across modern societies. GLBL 201 provides an interdisciplinary examination of the structural forces and human experiences that define modern globalization. We investigate how the accelerating circulation of capital, commodities, people, technologies, and ideas reshapes national sovereignty, local traditions, and cultural identities. Drawing on history, political economy, sociology, and cultural anthropology, the course explores global trade networks, international governance institutions, labor migration, diaspora communities, and media flows. Students analyze the tensions between cultural homogenization and hybridization, interrogating how global interconnectedness generates both unprecedented collaboration and deep inequalities across societies.

Prerequisites

None.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of GLBL 201, students will be able to:

1. **Analyze Theories of Globalization:** Compare economic, political, and cultural theories of globalization, differentiating hyperglobalist, skeptical, and transformationalist paradigms.
2. **Evaluate Transnational Economic Integration:** Trace global commodity chains, trade liberalization, international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, WTO), and labor division.
3. **Examine Migration and Diasporic Communities:** Analyze the drivers and cultural impacts of contemporary international migration, refugee flows, border regimes, and transnational identities.
4. **Assess Cultural Hybridization and Homogenization:** Interrogate debates surrounding cultural imperialism, Americanization, glocalization, and indigenous cultural preservation.

5. **Formulate Evidence-Based Global Policy Critiques:** Conduct interdisciplinary case-study research on global challenges, synthesizing diverse geopolitical viewpoints in structured analytical essays.

Required Course Materials & Approximate Costs

1. **Manfred B. Steger. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*. 5th ed., Oxford University Press, 2020.** Approx. \$12 print or digital purchase.
2. **Frank J. Lechner and John Boli, eds. *The Globalization Reader*. 6th ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.** Approx. \$45 print purchase; digital options available.
3. **Alkimi Global Studies Reader: Foundational Policy Documents, Treaties, and Case Studies.** Free digital access provided via Canvas.
4. **Total estimated cost:** \$35 to \$57.

Generative AI Policy (AI Level 2: AI Permitted with Disclosure for Specified Tasks)

In accordance with Alkimi University Academic Policies (Student Handbook §5.8), GLBL 201 operates under **AI Level 2**.

- **What is permitted:** You may use generative AI tools to assist in researching background facts on international organizations, exploring alternative perspectives on trade agreements, and proofreading written drafts.
- **What is prohibited:** You may not use generative AI to write your weekly reading critiques, draft your case study essays, formulate primary arguments, or complete examinations.
- **Disclosure:** All essays and written assignments must include an AI disclosure statement identifying whether any AI tools were used for exploratory research or copyediting, accompanied by a brief summary of the prompts.

Grading Components and Weights

- **Global Case Study Essay 1: Commodity Chains and Labor:** 15% (Due Thursday, October 1 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Midterm Examination:** 20% (In class, Thursday, October 22)
- **Global Case Study Essay 2: Migration and Cultural Hybridity:** 20% (Due Thursday, November 12 at 11:59 p.m.)
- **Weekly Reading Critiques & Discussion Prompts:** 15% (Canvas reading responses and analytical questions posted on Tuesdays by 10:00 a.m. before seminar discussion)
- **Seminar Engagement & Policy Simulations:** 10% (Active, informed participation in weekly seminar dialogues, breakout case studies, and multilateral policy simulations)
- **Comprehensive Final Examination:** 20% (Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.)

Grading Scale (Alkimi University Standard)

- **A:** 93–100% | **A-:** 90–92%
- **B+:** 87–89% | **B:** 83–86% | **B-:** 80–82%
- **C+:** 77–79% | **C:** 73–76% | **C-:** 70–72%
- **D+:** 67–69% | **D:** 60–66% | **F:** Below 60%
- **Extra credit:** None is offered.

Course Schedule (Fall 2026)

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
Week 1	Aug 27	Foundations of Globalization: Concepts and Dimensions: What is globalization? Historical benchmarks, definitions, core dimensions (economic, political, cultural, ecological), and	<i>First day of classes: Wed Aug 26.</i>

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		ideological debates. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 1; Lechner & Boli, Introduction</i>	
Week 2	Sep 1, 3	Theoretical Paradigms: Hyperglobalists, Skeptics, and Transformationalists: Competing analytical paradigms: hyperglobalists, skeptics, and transformationalists; the role of technological connectivity. <i>Reading: Held et al., 'Rethinking Globalization'; Steger, Ch. 2</i>	<i>Wed Sep 2: Add/section change deadline.</i>
Week 3	Sep 8, 10	Historical Precedents: Empire, Trade, and Colonial Legacies: Colonialism, imperial trade routes, mercantilism, the Atlantic slave trade, and the historical precursors of modern global systems. <i>Reading: Lechner & Boli, Part I selections</i>	<i>Mon Sep 7: Labor Day (no classes). Wed Sep 9: Census date (last day to drop without a W).</i>
Week 4	Sep 15, 17	Global Economic Architecture: Bretton Woods and Neoliberalism: The Bretton Woods conference, the Washington Consensus, structural adjustment programs, trade liberalization, and neoliberal economic theory. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 3; Stiglitz, 'Globalism's Discontents'</i>	—
Week 5	Sep 22, 24	Transnational Corporations and Global Commodity Chains: Global value chains, multinational corporate supply networks, sweatshop labor, race-to-the-bottom dynamics, and international labor standards. <i>Reading: Gereffi, 'The Organization of Global Commodity Chains'</i>	—
Week 6	Sep 29, Oct 1	Multilateral Institutions and Global Governance: The United Nations system, the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, and non-governmental organizations; Case Study Essay 1 due Thursday. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 4; Lechner & Boli, Part IV selections</i>	Global Case Study Essay 1: Commodity Chains and Labor due Thu Oct 1 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 7	Oct 6, 8	National Sovereignty and Transnational Political Formations: Is the nation-state eroding? Supranational unions (the EU), Westphalian sovereignty, border security regimes, and regional trade blocs. <i>Reading: Strange, 'The Declining Authority of the States'</i>	—
Week 8	Oct 15	Global Stratification and Grassroots Resistance (Fall Break Week): Income inequality between and within states, fair trade certification, labor organizing, and grassroots resistance; Fall break week. <i>Reading: Milanovic, 'Global Inequality by the Numbers'</i>	<i>Oct 12–Oct 13: Fall break (no classes). Fri Oct 16: Midterm grades due.</i>
Week 9	Oct 20, 22	Transnational Migration and Refugee Flows & Midterm Exam: Push and pull factors, labor migration, brain drain vs. brain gain, refugee crises, and asylum policies; Midterm Examination in class Thursday. <i>Reading: Castles, 'Why Migration Policies Fail'; Midterm Review</i>	Midterm Examination (in class).
Week 10	Oct 27, 29	Cultural Globalization: Homogenization vs. Hybridization: Cultural imperialism, Americanization, glocalization, the McDonalidization thesis, and the persistence of local cultural resilience. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 5; Appadurai, 'Disjuncture and Difference'</i>	—
Week 11	Nov 3, 5	Global Cities, Urban Segregation, and Cosmopolitanism: Saskia Sassen's global city hypothesis, financial command centers, spatial segregation, and cosmopolitan identities in global metropolises. <i>Reading: Sassen, 'The Global City: Introducing a Concept'</i>	<i>Fri Nov 6: Last day to withdraw (W) or elect Pass/No Pass.</i>
Week 12	Nov 10, 12	Religion, Identity, and Fundamentalism in a Globalized Age: The resurgence of religious identity, transnational religious networks, religious fundamentalism as a reaction to secular modernity; Case Study Essay 2 due Thursday. <i>Reading: Juergensmeyer, 'The Global Rise of Religious Nationalism'</i>	Global Case Study Essay 2: Migration and Cultural Hybridity due Thu Nov 12 at 11:59 p.m.
Week 13	Nov 17, 19	Ecological Globalization and Climate Justice: Planetary ecological challenges, transboundary pollution, climate change	—

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Assignments & Deadlines
		negotiations, the Paris Agreement, and climate justice for the Global South. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 6; Lechner & Boli, Part IX selections</i>	
Week 14	Nov 24	Digital Globalization and Network Societies (Thanksgiving Week): The internet, social media networks, digital capitalism, information warfare, surveillance, and virtual transnational publics (Thanksgiving week). <i>Reading: Selected articles on digital transnational networks</i>	Nov 25–Nov 27: <i>Thanksgiving break (no classes).</i>
Week 15	Dec 1, 3	Backlash and Deglobalization: Populism and Nationalism: Right-wing populism, economic protectionism, Brexit, border walls, and the resurgence of ethno-nationalism across Europe and the Americas. <i>Reading: Rodrik, 'Populism and the Economics of Globalization'</i>	—
Week 16	Dec 8	Future Trajectories of Globalization and Course Synthesis: Future trajectories of the international order: multipolarity, sustainable development goals, global citizenship, and course synthesis. <i>Reading: Steger, Ch. 7 & 8; Review</i>	Wed Dec 9: <i>Last day of classes.</i> Thu Dec 10: <i>Reading Day.</i>
Finals	Dec 14	Comprehensive Final Examination: Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m., Lovell Hall 140.	Culminating essay and comparative analysis exam covering theoretical paradigms, transnational institutions, and cultural globalization.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular and engaged attendance is vital for meaningful seminar discussion, collaborative policy simulations, and peer case critiques. Students are permitted two unexcused absences during the semester. Each subsequent unexcused absence will reduce your overall course grade by one-third of a letter grade. Missing more than five class sessions will result in a failing grade for the course. Students who miss the first two class meetings without notifying the instructor may be dropped. Students may miss class for religious observance without penalty if they notify the instructor in writing within the first two weeks of the semester (by Wednesday, September 9, 2026). Absences for university-sponsored activities (athletics, performances, conferences) are excused with a letter from the sponsoring office at least one week in advance.

Late Work Policy

Written case study essays lose one-third of a letter grade (e.g., from A- to B+) for each 24-hour period they are submitted past the deadline. Essays submitted more than three days late will not be accepted without prior formal accommodation. Weekly reading critiques must be submitted on Canvas by Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. to facilitate discussion and cannot be submitted late.

Final Exam Policy

The final examination (Monday, December 14, 2026, 1:00–3:00 p.m.) is scheduled by the University Registrar and can't be moved without the Dean's written approval (Faculty Handbook §5.5). A student with three or more final exams on the same calendar day may reschedule one of them. Requests go to the instructor of the middle exam by the last day of classes. For this term, send the request by Wednesday, December 9, 2026 (Student Handbook §6.4).

Academic Integrity

Alkimi University is an academic community devoted to rigorous scholarship, open intellectual inquiry, and uncompromising ethical conduct. All students are subject to the regulations of the Alkimi University

Academic Integrity Policy. Academic dishonesty—including plagiarism, cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication of empirical data, and unauthorized submission of academic work generated by artificial intelligence—undermines the integrity of the university and carries severe disciplinary sanctions. Sanctions range from a failing grade on an assignment or exam to an administrative course failure recorded as an 'XF' on the official transcript, academic suspension, or expulsion. Suspected violations are formally investigated and resolved through the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with Faculty Handbook §6. For detailed information, consult the Office of Academic Integrity, Lovell Hall 315, (555) 555-0163, integrity@university.alkimi.ai.

Accessibility Services

Alkimi University is committed to providing equitable educational access and reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychological, learning, and chronic health conditions. Students requesting academic accommodations must formally register with the Office of Accessibility Services, Harlan Hall 204, (555) 555-0155, access@university.alkimi.ai. Once approved, students will receive an official Faculty Accommodation Letter detailing approved accommodations. Students should present this letter to the instructor as early in the semester as possible, and at least one week prior to any exam or assignment requiring accommodation. Accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Student Wellness and Mental Health

Your physical health, psychological well-being, and mental health are essential to your academic success. If you experience heightened stress, anxiety, depressive symptoms, personal trauma, or academic burnout, free, confidential counseling and medical care are available through the Hollis Health & Counseling Center, located in the Hollis Center. Routine appointments are available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. during the semester by calling (555) 555-0190 or emailing health@university.alkimi.ai. Urgent, 24/7 crisis psychological counseling is accessible immediately at (555) 555-0199.

Campus Student Support Services

- **Academic Advising Center:** Lovell Hall 101 | (555) 555-0158 | advising@university.alkimi.ai
- **Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library 3rd Floor | Free consultations on papers, reports, and research projects at any stage.
- **Whitcombe Library:** Whitcombe Library, Main Floor | (555) 555-0170 | askalibrarian@university.alkimi.ai
- **Hollis Health & Counseling Center:** Hollis Center | (555) 555-0190 | 24/7 Counseling Line: (555) 555-0199 | health@university.alkimi.ai
- **The Writing Center:** Whitcombe Library | Consultations on global case study research papers, thesis formulation, and citation formatting.