

## Sommersemester 2007

### Bachelor (B.A.)

#### Modul B09: International Module

#### Bezeichnung der Kurseinheit: International Studies II

Semester	3
Semesterwochenstunden	2
Kontaktzeit	32 h
Selbststudium	28 h

Lehrsprache	Englisch
Vorgesehene Gruppengröße	30
Leistungspunkte (ECTS)	2

Lecturer: Jean Lennox M.A.

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#### Course Outline

Objectives: What is globalisation, where did it start and where is it going? What does it mean? It means the British service sector can deal with its customers through call centres in India, or that a sportswear manufacturer can design its products in Europe, make them in south-east Asia and sell them world wide.

As a word, globalisation has existed since the 1960s. The dictionary says it is "the process enabling financial and investment markets to operate internationally, largely as a result of deregulation and improved communications" or "to make worldwide in scope or application".

The financial markets are where it started. In the late 1980s and 1990s the business model termed the "globalised" financial market came to be seen as an entity that could have more than just an economic impact on the parts of the world it touched.

#### Contents:

##### Step 1

Using the Internet, students will find all they can about the main players in the globalisation process -

1. **The World Trade Organisation (WTO) - how did it evolve? How many member countries does it have? How is it organised?** GATS - General agreement on trade in services. The German ministry for financial cooperation and development (Bundesministerium für Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung) BMZ has warned of the dangers of the GATS negotiations that are going on "behind closed doors". What is GATS, what could it mean for us and why? (Privatisation of public sector including schools, universities, hospitals, prisons etc.). Why should a German ministry warn us about a process initiated by the WTO?
2. **The International Monetary Fund (IMF)** The IMF is an international organization of 184 member countries. It was established to promote international monetary cooperation, exchange stability, and orderly exchange arrangements; to foster economic growth and high levels of employment; and to provide temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment. How is the IMF doing what it set out to do? Surveillance, technical and financial assistance, poverty reduction strategies? - how do they work?
3. **Globalisation critics - non-government organisations (NGOs)** eg. attac, WEED, Carl-Duisberg-Gesellschaft. These organisations are not opponents of the globalisation process but critics. It is through them that the general public became aware of the globalisation process. What are their aims and how do they go about achieving them?

##### Step 2

In groups, students research a specialist subject of their choice and give a presentation. Suggested topics include:

- The history of the globalisation process and the main players

- Globalisation and migration.
- Globalisation and the media - how has the internet affected communication? The power of the media.
- The spread of poverty. Is globalisation helping to ease poverty or is it causing it to spread?
- The North-South divide. NGOs like the Carl-Duisberg-Gesellschaft say globalisation is causing a divide between the countries of the North and the South. Can you find examples of this?
- Privatisation of the public sector. Which countries have privatised transportation or other major public sectors? What has happened in those countries?
- Fair Trade. Is it really helping the developing world or is it just a con trick?
- How can the private sector help the developing world? (Companies setting up factories, support programmes etc.)
- Globalisation and culture. Are we getting closer together or are we becoming more American? McDonalds, Burger King, Taco Bell.
- How did the WTO evolve from GATT?
- WWTO ministerial conferences in Singapore, Geneva, Seattle, Doha and Cancun. Who took part and what was decided there?
- The international money market. How does it function? Tobin Tax - a good idea or just utopian?
- Government support or free market trade? Can trade exist without government support and control? (Cartels, subsidies, grants, etc.).
- How is private industry helping the developing world?
- Which international and German financial institutions are helping the developing world? (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau, KfW). How are these institutions structured and where did they evolve (eg. Marshall Plan).
- Water and the liberalisation of the water sector. Where has the water sector been privatised and with what consequences? (South America). Where are the water hot-spots? What can be done to ease tension in the world over water shortage?
- Agricultural subsidies.

### Step 3

Consolidation, feedback, definition of globalisation

Requirements: Registered students of the BA programme in business administration can take this course as one option of their International Module. Students must be able to follow an ordinary lecture in English. **There is no need to complete International Studies I before enrolling for International Studies II.**

Teaching method: The focus will be on interactive teaching methods and individual research. Theory and practice will be interlaced and students will have to take an active part in discussions.

Assessment: The seminar relies on active participation of the students. Oral presentations and written contributions build the basis for assessment.

Set text: Verlag Le Monde Diplomatique - Atlas der Globalisierung  
 Johan Norberg - In Defence of Global Capitalism  
 John Cavanagh - Alternatives to Economic Globalisation  
 Thomas L. Friedman - The Lexus and the Olive Tree - Understanding Globalization  
 David Held (ed) Global Transformations Reader - An Introduction to the Globalization Debate

The entire course (including the internet exchange) will be held in English.

**Enjoy the course!**

**15 January 2007**