

Globalization and Development

POSC 160S | Spring 2026 | Mon./Wed. 2:00 – 3:20 PM | Student Success Center 308

Professor: Steven Liao

Teaching Assistant: Carlos De Souza (csouz008@ucr.edu)

Syllabus Version: May 18, 2026

Contact Information

Office: 2207 Watkins Hall

Phone: 951-827-7977

steven.liao@ucr.edu

<http://www.stevenliao.org>

Office Hours

Wed.

11 AM–1 PM

(Email to set up Zoom/in-person meeting)

Description

The globalization of trade, finance, and migration has significant implications on countries' prospects for economic development. This course explores the relationship between globalization and development in historical and contemporary context through key perspectives on global inequality, development strategies, governance, institutions, and technology. The goal of this course is to equip students with the ability to intelligently discuss and critically assess the complex relationship between economic globalization and development in different regions. Students considering a career in policy making, academic research, development work, management, consulting, or activism, as well as those simply seeking to enhance their knowledge and sharpen their analytical skills, would do well to grasp the fundamentals of economic globalization and development today.

Readings

There is one required text for this course:

- Rodrik, Dani. 2011. [The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy](#). New York: W. W. Norton & Company. (Referred to below as “Rodrik”)

Copies are on reserve at Rivera Library. All other materials are available on the course Canvas site or as otherwise indicated. Files posted to Canvas will be under “Course Materials” and are named according to the authors' last name and the year of publication.

Exams, Assignments, and Grading

Take-Home Exam 1 (25%) and 2 (25%)

Each exam includes one long essay question that will require (1) a clear argument, and (2) the synthesis of lecture and course material across multiple topics to support the argument. Both exams will be open book and open notes. Working with others (or AI) on the exam is prohibited.

Essay answers must be within 2.5-pages long, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, and have 1 inch page margins. Students can cite lecture materials and outside research (peer-reviewed articles, university press books, authoritative media sources, etc.). Citations should be in a standard format (e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago). The bibliography does not count towards the page limit, and should be on a separate page at the end of the essay.

Students will have 4 days to complete the exam on their own. Exam 1 is due on **May 3** (Sunday) by 11:59 PM and Exam 2 is due on **June 7** (Sunday) by 11:59 PM.

Essay answers must be uploaded to Canvas and checked by turnitin—a plagiarism detection system—before the due date and time. Essays that are turned in 1 minute to 24 hours after their due date will be penalized by 1/3 a letter grade. Essays will be marked down a full letter grade for each additional 24 hour period they are late.

Globalization Country Report (35%)

Students must complete a five-page report that analyzes the developmental impact of globalization on a country of their choice (**excluding the United States**). Please see the separate guidelines document that describes content requirements in detail. Students should confirm their country choice with their TA by **May 1** (Friday). Reports should follow the same format requirements as the exams.

Reports are due on **May 27** (W) by 11:59 pm and should also be uploaded to Canvas and checked by turnitin. The same late penalties for the exams apply for the report.

Section Participation (15%)

Discussion sections will start the first week (**March 30 – April 3**). The goal of discussion sections will be to discuss the week's lectures and readings in more detail. TAs will circulate section policy statements clarifying how section participation will be assessed (e.g. attendance, class participation) and specific guidelines for the submission of papers.

Lecture Attendance (bonus 3%)

To encourage and reward students' attendance and participation during lectures, Professor Liao will randomly take attendance three times during the quarter. Each attendance will add one full point to students' final grades.

Grading Policy

In case of grading disputes students must meet with their TA within **one week** of receiving the contested grade to request clarification. If the TA's clarification is not satisfactory students may appeal the grade to the professor within one week of the TA meeting. The student must email the TA and Professor Liao a 500-word written rationale for the appeal. If Professor Liao accepts the appeal he will independently assess the work and assign a new grade that may higher, lower, or the same as the original grade.

Course Policies

Lecture Mode

Following university policies, Professor Liao will deliver all lectures in person. Disruptive behavior or discriminatory speech will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

All students are subject to the university's policies and procedures on academic integrity in all aspects of their course participation. If a student has questions about any aspect of the policies, he or she should consult the instructor for guidance. Students should take particular care to adhere to standard practices for the citation of published work. Plagiarism is a deeply serious offense. Presenting the work of others as your own is strictly prohibited and will result, at minimum, in a failing grade for the class. For further details see: <http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academicintegrity.html>

Deadline Extensions

Please let Professor Liao and your TA know as soon as possible if you are encountering any challenges so that we can help. Exam or paper deadline extensions will be granted under severe circumstances (e.g., illness or emergency). However, job/internship interviews and deadlines in other courses do not qualify. Extension requests should be emailed to Professor Liao with the student's TA cc'ed at least **12 hours** in advance. Students will be required to provide documentation of their circumstance (e.g. note from Student Health or an Association Dean). Students are reminded that they are subject to the university's Standards of Conduct (<http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/standards.html>) when requesting an extension.

Accommodation

Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. Please contact Professor Liao or the TA as early as possible about your needs, and we will treat the matter confidentially, within university policy, and with the resources provided by Student Special Services (<http://specialservices.ucr.edu/disabilities/>).

Student Needs

For additional supportive resources, see Student Health Services (<https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/>), Counseling & Psychological Services (<https://counseling.ucr.edu/>), and R'Pantry (<https://basicneeds.ucr.edu/rpantry>).

Course Schedule and Readings

Course Overview

March 30 (M)

Course syllabus

Development in a Global Context

April 1 (W)

April 6 (M)

Rodrik (Chapter 7): p. 135–158

Florida, Richard. 2005. “The World is Spiky: Globalization Has Changed the Economic Playing Field, But Hasn’t Levelled It.” *The Atlantic*. p. 48–51.

Waves of Globalization

April 8 (W)

Rodrik (Chapter 1, 2, 4): p. 3–46, 67–88.

Baldwin, Richard. 2016. “The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization.” Introduction. p. 1–15.

International Trade: Why Trade? Winners and Losers?

April 13 (M)

Rodrik (Chapter 3): p. 47–66.

Oatley, Thomas. 2012. *International Political Economy*. Chapter 4.

Global Production

April 15 (W)

April 20 (M)

Baldwin, Richard. 2016. “The Great Convergence: Information Technology and the New Globalization.” Chapter 3. p. 79–110.

Nathan M. Jensen. 2003. “Democratic Governance and Multinational Corporations: Political Regimes and Inflows of Foreign Direct Investment.” *International Organization* 57(3). p. 587–596 *only*.

International Trade and Development

April 22 (W)

April 27 (M)

Frieden, Jeffrey A. 2006. *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century*. New York: W.W. Norton. p. 317–320, 351–356, 419–430.

Hausmann et al. 2011. *The Atlas of Economic Complexity: Mapping Paths to Prosperity*. The MIT Press. Part 1: Section 1-3 (p. 15–31).

International Monetary System

April 29 (W) **Exam 1 Distributed at 11:59 PM, due on May 3 (Sun.) by 11:59 PM**
May 4 (M)

Frieden, Jeffrey. 2008. “[Globalization and Exchange Rate Policy.](#)” *The Future of Globalization*. Ed. Ernesto Zedillo. New York: Routledge. p. 344–357.

Aizenman, Joshua. 2010. “[The Impossible Trinity \(aka The Policy Trilemma\).](#)” *The Encyclopedia of Financial Globalization*. Working Papers. UC Santa Cruz Economics Department, No. 666. p. 1–21.

International Finance and Development

May 6 (W)
May 11 (M)
May 13 (W)

Rodrik (Chapter 5, 6): p. 89–134.

Schmukler, Sergio L. 2004. “[Financial Globalization: Gain and Pain for Developing Countries.](#)” *Economic Review* 89(2): 39–66.

International Migration: Why Move? Winners and Losers?

May 18 (M)

Helms, Benjamin and Leblang, David. 2019. “[Global Migration: Causes and Consequences.](#)” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. p. 1–11 *only*.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2017. *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. “Introduction” 197–210, “Natural Experiments” 222–224, “Key Messages and Conclusions” 264–268.

International Migration and Development

May 20 (W)
May 27 (W) **Globalization Country Report Due by 11:59 PM**

Gibson, John, and David McKenzie. 2011. “[Eight Questions about Brain Drain.](#)” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 25(3): 107–128.

Artificial Intelligence and Development

June 1 (M)

Max Tegmark. 2017. *Life 3.0*. Prelude (p. 1–21), Chapter 1 (p. 22–48), and Chapter 3 (p. 118–133).

The Future of Globalization and Development

June 3 (W) Exam 2 Distributed at 11:59 PM, due on June 7 (Sun.) by 11:59 PM

Rodrik (Chapter 9 & 10): p. 184–232.

Rodrik (Chapter 12 & Afterward): p. 251–284.