Course Overview
This course locates organizational communication studies within the larger context of globalization and in particular, within the context of globalization-from-below. The course foregrounds a variety of organizations working within and across national borders to affect social and political change. The course is designed to highlight challenges of organizing and communicating across multiple forms of difference to transform unjust social, economic, and political arrangements. We will be reading from a variety of sources that can be drawn upon to question and re-frame more conventional bodies of communication research to imagine new possibilities for both research and teaching.

Required Reading


Additional required reading materials will be made available via blackboard.
Course Schedule

8.29 Introduction to Seminar & Organizational Communication


Ritzer, G. (2010)
Appendix: Disciplinary approaches to globalization (pp. 505-514).

9.5 Globalizing Organizational Communication & Social Change Research


Dutta, M. J. (2011)
Introduction (pp. 1-28)
Theorizing Social Change Communication (pp. 29-63)

Ritzer (2010)
Chapter 1: Globalization I
Chapter 2: Globalization II

9.12 The Structures of Globalization & Marginalization

Dutta (2011)
Chapter 2: Poverty at the Margins
Chapter 3: Agriculture and Food
Chapter 4: Health at the Margins

Moghadam (2013)
Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview

Ritzer (2010)
Chapter 3: Globalization and Related Processes I
Chapter 4: Globalization and Related Processes II
9.19  **Challenging Globalizing Discourses**


Ritzer, G. (2010)
Chapter 5: Neo-liberalism
Chapter 6: Global Political Structures & Processes

9.26  **Organizations as Sites of Social Change (& discussion of proposal papers)**

Dutta (2011)
Chapter 8: Organizing for Social Change


Ritzer, G. (2010)
Chapter 7: Structuring the Global Economy
Chapter 8: Global Economic Flows
10.3 Transnational Social Movements

Moghadam, V. M. (2013) Chapters 1, 2 and 3
Select Chapter 4, 5 or 6

Ritzer, G. (2010)
Chapter 9: Global Culture and Cultural Flows
Chapter 10: High-Tech Global Flows and Structures
Chapter 16: Dealing with, Resisting, and the Futures of Globalization

10.10 Organizing Transnational Feminism for Social Change


Ritzer, G. (2010)
Chapter 12: Global environmental flows
Chapter 15: Global Inequalities II

10.17 Organizing Refugee Re-settlement


Ritzer (2010)
Chapter 11: Global flows of people
Chapter 13: Negative global flows and processes
Chapter 14: Global Inequalities I
**10.24 Dialogic Approaches to Social Change**

Dutta (2011)  
Chapter 6


Freire (2001)  
Chapter 1

**10.31 Participatory Communication Programs & Social Change**

Dutta (2011)  
Chapter 9


General Introduction (pp. xi-xxiv)  
Chapter III: “Making Do”: Uses and Tactics

**11.7 Performing and Mediating Social Change**

Dutta (2011)  
Chapter 7  
Chapter 10

Film: “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”
11.14 Orientations to Difference (& funding sources paper due)


11.21 National Communication Association Convention
(Seminar will not meet.)

11.28 Happy Thanksgiving!

12.5 Applied Projects presented and due

12.12 Course wrap-up and Research Papers presented and due

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Course Requirements and Grading

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Discussion questions, leadership and participation

Your contributions to discussion will be assessed in three ways. *First*, you will be asked to submit a weekly discussion question that takes up what you consider to be an important issue raised by the week’s readings. As you pose these questions, be sure to explain how they arose from the course readings. We will begin each class meeting by briefly summarizing the central contribution of each reading and clarifying any conceptual fuzziness. Try to go beyond this level by addressing substantive issues that surface for you as you think over that week’s readings. *Second*, you will be asked to identify potential funding sources for the research emerging from this seminar. Each of you will develop a one-page list and description of potential sources that will serve as a basis for seminar discussion. *Third*, seminar leadership and participation includes the difference your presence in the seminar makes via the many ways you engage course
materials and interact with each other throughout the term, including responses to other students’ weekly discussion questions.

**Applied project**

This assignment involves re-conceptualizing a traditional undergraduate course by locating the subject area within a larger global context. You will be asked to select a course from among the more widely recognized subject areas of the discipline and re-design it. This includes developing your philosophy or vision for the course and why such a course is necessary, your objectives for what you would like to accomplish, and an outline of key topics, readings, films and exercises/activities.

**Research paper**

This paper can take a number of forms all of which could lay the foundation for further development into a conference-quality research project/paper. These include (but are not limited to) a critical review of the literature, a theoretical essay, or a case analysis (where sufficient public data are available). For instance, you might a) identify a particular area of communication research and critique/re-frame it in light of the larger global context, b) develop a preliminary case analysis of how a local or global organization creatively works with difference and/or organizes for social change, or c) take up a theoretical issue relevant to the study of organizing and communicating for social change. During the early weeks of the semester you will be asked to write a brief proposal identifying possible subject areas for your research. We’ll discuss these for the purpose of assessing the relative potential and richness of each as the subject for your final research paper.

**References**


