Globalization

The readings focus on the globalization of culture. More specifically, they are intended to enable us to look into how certain cultural forms seem to be readily embraced in many parts of the world. With this in mid, we will look at mass media and at Christianity, on the grounds that they both constitute cultural phenomena that enjoy immense popularity the world over. (A couple of the readings link the two together, mass media and Christianity.) The question in each case—whether it comes to a specific film or genre, or a particular version of Christianity—is what people find appealing and compelling in what are not originally indigenous forms but have become meaningful to people in very far-flung places.

Requirements:
Each student is required to complete the assigned reading every week and to write a brief, one-paragraph or half-page comment or question on the reading. Those comments are to be submitted in class. Each class will begin by going over these topics for discussion, which will then structure the seminar discussion for the class.

Students must submit two additional written assignments. The first, due mid-way through the semester, is a consideration of at least four of the readings we have discussed, with reference to each other. This can be a review of the most pertinent or interesting issues that arise, or that touch on projects you are working on. The second is either of the following: 1) a paper of ten to twenty pages on a topic of your choosing, but with evidence in the paper that the readings and discussion for this course have had some impact on your thinking; or 2) an annotated syllabus for a course in your field that draws on ideas we have discussed. Were you to teach a course on the globalization of cultural forms at the upper-division undergraduate level, what topics would you address and what readings would you assign? You are expected to develop a syllabus that goes beyond the readings in this course, emphasizing whatever perspectives and areas most directly concern your own interests or work. The syllabus must be extensively annotated. For every reading assigned, you need to provide a brief synopsis of its contents and then an explanation of what purpose it serves in the course and why it comes at that point.

During the last several sessions of the seminar, students will present their term projects as works in progress, to solicit reactions and suggestions from members of the seminar.

Regular attendance is required. All absences must be explained, and following any absence, a two-page discussion of the reading must be submitted at the next meeting of the seminar.
I have placed book orders at the Co-op Bookstore. The readings will also be available at PCL Reserves.

Reading schedule

Week 2    January 25


Week 3    February 1


Week 4    February 8


Week 5    February 15


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1 “ER” indicates that a title is available as an Electronic Resource through the PCL.


Week 6 February 22


Week 7 March 1

Selections TBA:


Week 8 March 8


Midterm essay is due, to be submitted on Canvas.

Spring Break

Week 9 March 22


Week 10 March 29

Week 11 April 5


Electronic resource.

Week 12 April 12


Purchase requested

Week 13 April 19


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Week 14 April 26


Electronic Resource.

Week 15 May 3


Purchase requested.

**Final projects are due on Friday, May 12, at noon. They are to be submitted on Canvas.**