This seminar aims at surveying the current conditions of transnationalism and globalization through critical reading of published ethnographies, with emphasis on popular culture and cross-cultural consumption. Special attention is paid to ethnographic representations and theoretical debates regarding the cultural imperialism thesis, the nexus of global and local interactions, and the methodologies of writing local ethnographies of transnationalism. Students are expected to explore not only WHAT have been written on transnationalism and globalization but also HOW they were written and what can be improved if one intends to carry out such a research project.

REQUIREMENTS:

1) All students are expected to come to the class with one or more questions/issues that are put in written (within one page). These questions/issues will be used to facilitate discussions in the class.

2) Each week, at least one student will give a formal presentation. The student is required to prepare an outline of the major issues and make this available to other seminar participants by Tuesday evening through email.

3) A research paper about 20 pages in length is due on March 10, the last class meeting. Students are encouraged to develop a small project, through presentation and paper writing, which, ideally, is related to their long-term research interest.

4) Grades will be based on contribution to the class (including the weekly written assignment, discussions, and individual presentation) and the term paper, in equal measure.

Textbooks available at UCLA bookstore:


All books used in this seminar are also put on reserve at the University Research Library. Individual articles/book chapters will be put on reserve at the Anthropology Reading Room.

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**Weekly Reading List**

**Week 1. Introduction and Organization** (Jan. 6)


**Week 2. The “Old” Globalization** (Jan. 13)


**Week 3. (Jan. 20)**

M. L. King Day. No class meeting.

**Week 4. The Challenge of Globalization to Anthropology** (Jan. 27)


Week 5. Cultural Supermarket and Individual Identity (Feb. 3)


Week 6. Guest Workers in a Post-Modern Space (Feb. 10)


Week 7. (Feb. 17)

Presidents’ Day. No class meeting.

Week 8. Golden Arches in the Global-Local Nexus (Feb. 24)


**Week 9. Globalization, Modernization, and the State** (Mar. 3)


**Week 10. Toward Local Ethnographies of Globalization** (Mar. 10)

