

Globalization

Popular Culture, Change, Resistance

COLT 303, 22008, Spring 2013, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:50 pm, VKC 210

The word globalization may first make us think of the interconnections of world's economic markets, but what about the ways in which globalization transforms the interconnections of the world's cultural imaginations? This course explores the ways globalization has dynamically affected popular culture, and thus transformed the ways in which people relate to one another, imagine the world, and imagine their place in it. Our discussion will focus on popular music, film, dance, and sports cultures, as well as their representations in literature--especially in the contexts of youth culture, transnationalism, and cosmopolitanism. Core questions include: How do dynamics associated with globalization affect the creation, dissemination, and consumption of contemporary popular culture? How do new technologies, such as the advent of social media, affect the way we create and share culture and ideas about it? How does the consumption of popular culture today compare to that of previous generations? And given these changes, what forms of nostalgia have emerged in popular cultural expression? Also, how do contemporary dynamics of cross-cultural relating create new types of collectivities, or new types of social and political subjects, and how do they reconfigure old ones? For example, how might shifts in ideas about the *consumer* also entail shifts in ideas about the *citizen*? Course readings consist of a diverse collection of fiction including Sesshu Foster's *World Ball* (City Lights Publishers, 2009), Edwidge Danticat's *After the Dance: A Walk Through Carnival in Jacmel Haiti* (Crown Journeys, 2002), and Alain Mabanckou's *Black Bazaar* (Serpent's Tale, 2012). The critical discussion will be grounded in work by scholars like Arjun Appadurai, George Lipsitz, Harry Elam, Dick Hebdige, Naomi Klein, and Paul Gilroy.



Ryan Brennan, *Disco Globe* installation detail (2006).
Disco ball, globe continents gold leaf.

This is a required course for all Tracks of the Comparative Literature Major and Minor.

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