



**Academic Year 2017-2018  
Syllabus  
Anthropology of Globalization  
6 CFU  
Prof. Piero Vereni**

### **Course Description**

This course is a study of globalization with a special focus on Rome, its cultural complexity and diversity. It offers the students local perspectives on globalization as it offers global perspectives on urban contexts. The intertwined processes of globalization and localization will be addressed via an in-depth study of urban settings (especially Rome and Venice) and the social, cultural, political, demographic and economic transformations the world is currently going through. From a more general perspective, the course will introduce the concept of “global cities” and discuss global city theory. The course will introduce Rome and Venice via a diversity of topical prisms: immigration, neighborhood formations, ethnicity, tourism, popular culture, youth culture, religious identities, food and identity, etc. The course has an explicit aim to force students to recognize and valorize local particularities in a globalizing world, but also to understand these particularities less as relics of the past for the tourist to gaze at, and more like dynamic and ongoing adaptations to the centrifugal forces of globalization. Within this general frame, the course aims at training students to watch at cities not only as immobile spaces with a cherished past, but also a vivid locations going towards their future.

In this respect a secondary aim of the course is to allow students to critically assess the economic theory of the global city and to integrate it with a more complex perspective based not only on economics, but also on political science, sociology and cultural anthropology. Cultural aspects of globalization are indeed central to urban contexts and more relevant to their current development than strictly economic factors.

The student will be asked to think about his or her own cultural backgrounds, to develop an analytic stance toward identity and power in the world today, to compare Rome and Venice to other urban settings in the World, and to learnedly discuss the global and local forces that shape his/her own life.

Pre-requisites for the course: none.

### **Teaching Method**

Lecture in class with some elements of PBS (Problem Based Learning) on the assigned readings. Twice the class shall be taken “on the field”, visiting some parts of Rome and talking to the local dwellers. So the course combines three teaching methodologies: lecture, PBS and fieldwork. Discussion in class will be used from time to time to check students’ reading work.

### **Schedule of Topics**

Topic 1	What is culture?
Topic 2	What is globalization of culture?
Topic 3	Urban development
Topic 4	Migration and the city (refugees)
Topic 5	Religion and globalization (Islam and Judaism)
Topic 6	Roman Catholicism
Topic 7	Global and local tourism
Topic 8	Housing issue and squats

Note: Changes in course plan may occur and will be announced in class. A routinely updated online version of the plan shall be available to students as soon as they confirm their participation. See my blog at [pieroovereni.blogspot.com](http://pieroovereni.blogspot.com) for up-to-date course plan.

## Textbook and Materials

1. Notes from lectures in class
2. Clifford Geertz: *Towards an interpretive theory of culture*
3. Arjun Appadurai: *Disjuncture and difference in the global cultural economy*
4. Selected essays from: I. Clough-Marinaro and B. Thomassen (eds) *The changing faces of the Eternal City*, Indiana University Press 2014.
5. Christopher Hibbert: *The Refuge of All the Nations*
6. V. Fabretti, P. Vereni, "When Homogeneity Calls for Superdiversity. Rome as a Religious Global City", *New Diversities*, 18 (1), 2016: 74-89.
5. Thomas Hylland Eriksen, *Overheating. An Anthropology of Accelerated Change*, London, Pluto Press, 2016.

## Assessment

Attendance: Students are required to notify the professor on time (that is in advance) if they cannot attend a class/tour. Lectures and tours must be carefully attended by students since their topics are an integral part of the programme and in tests and midterm some questions will explicitly use pieces of information from the lectures and visits NOT included in the readings.

Evaluation: Partly exonerated with written surprise tests and midterm in class. Plus final oral exam. In case students do not pass/turn down the grade of one or more test/mid-term, they will be tested additionally on that part of the program during the final oral exam.

Evaluation breakdown:

class participation: 35%

tests and midterm: 35%

oral exam: 30%

Students will be able to keep the results of tests/midterms only if they complete the exam within the same session, otherwise they will be tested additionally on that parts of the program during the final oral exam.

Not attending students will also study another assigned reading.

## Office hours

Normally on Tuesdays 9:30am-1:00pm but check in advance my online up-to-date calendar at my blog: [piero.vereni.blogspot.it](http://piero.vereni.blogspot.it) (if you check it on your mobile device, allow the "show desktop version" option to load, since the calendar shows on the right column, removed from the display for mobiles).

Office: room 16 first floor, block "B", LETTERE.

email: [piero.vereni@gmail.com](mailto:piero.vereni@gmail.com) or [pietro.vereni@uniroma2.it](mailto:pietro.vereni@uniroma2.it)

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**NOTE:** Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus or non Global Governance students** who would like to attend the course need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail [global.governance@uniroma2.it](mailto:global.governance@uniroma2.it) for registration and inform the Professor of the course. They are required to sign a code of conduct like all Global Governance students, accepting all values and rules. Please read it carefully before enrolling. Please notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson and only 3 absences are permitted to take the exams as attending student.