



**Academic Year 2018-2019  
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**

<b>Topic 1</b>	What is culture?
<b>Topic 2</b>	What is globalization of culture?
<b>Topic 3</b>	Urban development
<b>Topic 4</b>	Migration and the city (refugees)
<b>Topic 5</b>	Religion and globalization (Islam and Judaism)
<b>Topic 6</b>	Roman Catholicism
<b>Topic 7</b>	Global and local tourism
<b>Topic 8</b>	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) *Global Rome - 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

1. Attending students. You do not miss classes and do study week after week the assigned readings (online folder at <https://goo.gl/Db45GV>), and after about five weeks you take an oral midterm exam on the first part of the programme. Since Nov. 12th up to the end of the month it will be possible to book via email an appointment in professor Vereni's office (room 16 first floor B building LETTERE) to orally exonerate the first part of the programme. Book by email ([pietro.vereni@uniroma2.it](mailto:pietro.vereni@uniroma2.it)) and you'll be assigned a 20-minute-slot in professor Vereni's office hours over the week.

At the end of the programme as your "last class" there will be a written final pre-exam on the rest of the programme. From that moment on you can come any time during office hours to be examined on the book *Overheating* by T. Hylland Eriksen (not presented during class). The exam on *Overheating* can be taken either during office hours or regular exam slots. If you followed this regular path for attending students, you come in the dates of regular exams only to have your booklet signed by the professor with the final grade.

2. NON attending students (presence below 80%). You download mp3 registrations of classes and study assigned readings (online folders). At the end of the lessons, you come in late December for a final pre-exam (five open questions on the whole programme, two hours). In January you get the oral examination on *Overheating* by T. Hylland Eriksen (not presented during class). The exam on *Overheating* can be taken either during office hours or regular exam slots. If you miss the December pre-exam and in January you still have to take both the written (assigned readings folder) and the oral (*Overheating*) exam, you come to the first call (appello) for the written, and the second for the oral exam.

3. GG students not in Rome for Erasmus or Venice. You can work as with the second option (non attending students), listening to the mp3 files and reading the assigned papers (both are online). Once in Rome you can come to the pre-exams or regular exam dates. You study *Overheating* on your own, and you can orally be examined during office hours or regular exam dates.

4. Mp3 loathers. If you are a non-attending student but you can't do with listening recorded classes, you can manage this way: you read on your own the assigned readings in the online folder and you come to the final pre-exam or regular exam dates to pass the written exam (5 open questions on the readings of the whole programme presented in class, like anybody else). When you come for the oral exam on *Overheating* YOU MUST ADD the chapters "The Impact of the Concept of Culture on the Concept of Man" AND "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight" from the pdf Geertz 1973 which you can find in the same online folder. For this oral exam you can come during office hours or in regular exam dates.

## 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).

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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:** Erasmus or non Global Governance students who would like to attend one or more courses and take one or more exams 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.  
Notice that attendance is required from the very first lesson and you need to attend at least 80% of the course to be considered an attending student.