Course Description:
Building on the core concepts and theory introduced in MC 230, MC 231 shifts from a comparative national perspective to examine the relationship between culture and politics at the transnational and global scales. While the nation is often posited as a paradigmatic form of modern identification and political organization, interdisciplinary scholarship on transnationalism focuses on how global processes unsettle the relationship between cultural formations and discrete national contexts. Over the course of the semester, we will examine the varied ways that global processes shape the politicization of cultural identities, practices, and representations across national spaces. In doing so, we will explore the following questions: How new are the processes associated with contemporary globalization? Are we indeed living in an era of unprecedented global mobility and interconnection? If so, what are the implications for how groups engage in politics, understand cultural difference, and imagine and construct their social worlds? Finally, do such processes reproduce, ameliorate, and/or intensify global inequality and conflict?

The course is organized into three topical sections. The first section examines the use (and some argue abuse) of cultural representations of difference in global politics by focusing on a sustained case study of discourse on the ‘War on Terror.’ Students will read interdisciplinary texts that debate U.S. representations of the ‘Muslim World’ and its role in shaping post-9/11 foreign policy. Together we will evaluate the degree to which cultural explanations can account for the historical and political roots of global conflict. The second section historicizes economic globalization by looking at its development in the colonial and post-colonial Caribbean. We pay particular attention to how the production and consumption of commodities have shaped patterns of uneven economic development between the global North and South. This section concludes by presenting both the promises and pitfalls of contemporary globalization. The third and final section of the course focuses on how groups imagine and construct transnational identities through the politics and poetics of diaspora. Case studies explore the global circulation and production of hip hop culture across national spaces and the development of diasporic forms of citizenship among Chinese in Panama.

Course Objectives:
MC 231 has five objectives: 1) to introduce a range of theoretical approaches to the study of transnational cultural politics; 2) to cultivate the ability to understand key concepts such as globalization, transnationalism, representation, othering, colonialism, post-colonialism, and diaspora; 3) to recognize the role of cultural identities, practices, and representations in shaping global politics and public affairs; 4) to build competency in interdisciplinary inquiry and analysis; and 5) to improve research, writing, and speaking skills.
Required Texts:
- Additional readings available through Angel and SBS course pack.

Requirements and Grading:
- Participation/Attendance 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Commodity Chain Project 20%
- Immigrant Interview 15%
- Final Exam 25%

Attendance and Participation Policy:
Your attendance in class will figure into your participation grade. In order to earn a 3.0 or higher for attendance/participation a student must miss no more than two class periods, consistently arrive to class on time, come prepared with printed course readings, and make at least one informed contribution to class discussion per week. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. If you are having a serious medical or personal issue that keeps you from attending class and completing your assignments on time, please come to discuss this with me in office hours as soon as the problem arises.

Academic Honesty:
I adhere to JMC and MSU policies on academic integrity for all work in the course. The James Madison College student handbook specifies that the minimum sanction for academic dishonesty is a 0.0 for the course. A record of the incident will be included in the student’s confidential file. In some cases, students unknowingly engage in plagiarism by failing to attribute ideas or data, paraphrased sentences, and direct quotes to their original sources. While I do not distinguish between unintended and intended plagiarism, I am available to help you learn to incorporate proper paraphrasing and citation practices into your academic work. Do not hesitate to consult with me in office hours if you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

Honors Option:
The honors option text for this semester will be Nina Glick Schiller and Georges Eugene Fouron’s *Georges Woke Up Laughing: Long Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home* [ISBN: 0822327910]. If you would like to earn an "H" on your transcript for this course, you will need a final grade of at least 3.5 in all of the normal course requirements and must write an additional short paper. Please contact me by the forth class to express your interest.

Other Course Ground-Rules:
- Attend class regularly and on time.
- Read all materials before coming to class.
- Bring your readings to class and take notes.
- Meet class deadlines for assignments.
- Do not use electronic devices (including computers) in class.
- Let me know if you have special needs related to a learning disability.
- Be collegial and show respect for all class participants.
- Speak up. Express yourself. Offer your opinions, criticisms, perspectives, and experiences.
- Have fun. Be humorous, forgiving, and lighthearted about the learning process.
- Come to office hours to discuss any ideas, questions, suggestions, and/or challenges you may have regarding the course, assignments, or academic work in general.

Course Schedule:

**M 1/10** – Introductions
• Review Course Syllabus

**W 1/12** – Introductions II

**M 1/17** – No Class

**W 1/19** – Culture Clash

**M 1/24** – Culture Talk
• Mahmood Mandani (2002) “Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism” American Anthropologist 104(3): 766-775 [A]

**W 1/26** – Cultural Imperialism

**M 1/31** – Power and Representation

**W 2/2** – Mediating the ‘War on Terror’

**M 2/7** – Mediating the ‘War on Terror’ II
II. The Political Economy of Culture

W 2/9 – A Literary Take

M 2/14 – A Literary Take II

W 2/16 – The Social Life of Commodities

M 2/21 – Colonialism and Consumption

W 2/23 – Colonialism and Consumption II

M 2/28 – Post-Colonial Predicaments
• Film Screening: Life and Debt (2001) Dir. Stephanie Black

W 3/2 – Post-Colonial Predicaments II
• Jamaica Kincaid (1988) A Small Place (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York) [T]

M 3/7 & W 3/9 – Spring Break

M 3/14 – Making Globalization Work

W 3/16 – Making Globalization Work II

M 3/21 – Commodity Chain Poster Presentations

W 3/23 – Commodity Chain Poster Presentations

M 3/28 – Commodity Chain Poster Presentations
III. Diaspora and Transnationalism

W 3/30 – Diaspora

M 4/4 – The Black Atlantic

W 4/6 – Hip Hop and Diasporic Politics

Film Screening: Slingshot Hip Hop (2009) Dir. Jackie Reem Salloum – Date/Time TBA

M 4/11 – Transnational Hip Hop

W 4/13 – Diasporic Citizenship

F 4/15 – Interview Papers Due (5pm Angel Drop Box) – Please bring hard copies to class on Monday

M 4/18 – Diasporic Citizenship II

W 4/20 – Diasporic Citizenship III

M 4/25 – Diasporic Citizenship IV

W 4/27 – Last Class – Exam Review

Final Exam – Tuesday, May 3, 3:00-5:00PM