

PASSIONIST
EARTH & SPIRIT CENTER

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DISCUSSION COURSE

Globalization and Its Critics



This eight-session course is designed to address the implications of globalization, a force that is shaping our world and local communities.

To its supporters, globalization is an inevitable force that will bring prosperity to Americans and raise the standard of living around the world. With this prosperity will come enhanced human rights in autocratic countries, healthy ecosystems all over the Earth, and a world of peace. To its detractors, globalization threatens ecosystems that support all life, it benefits the holders of capital over workers of the world, and it facilitates the centralization of power in transnational corporations. It objectifies humans in terms of their utility to the economy; natural resources in terms of their utility as raw materials for the industrial process; and the air, oceans and fresh waters as a free dumping place for toxins and pollutants created by economic development.

PURPOSE:

- To understand the structural aspects of globalization: its institutions, processes and effects;
- To examine how globalization impacts food production, the environment, social equity, public opinion and cultures;
- To explore a variety of possible future visions and how they can be cultivated.

The only fee associated with the course is \$25, which covers the cost of the book of readings and materials. The course is being offered by the Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, located in the barn behind the Passionist Monastery at 1920 Newburg Road in Louisville, KY.

For more information about hosting or participating in this course or other transformative learning opportunities, contact the Earth & Spirit Center by phone at 502.452.2749, or email: earthandspirit@passionist.org, or visit our website: www.earthandspiritcenter.org.

TOPICS COVERED:

The first three sessions address the structural aspects of globalization. The next five explore how globalization impacts food production, the environment, social equity, public opinion, and cultures.

Globalization Overview: Globalization means different things to different people and contrasting views will be explored in addition to how globalization has come about over the past two generations.

Questioning Free Trade: Is free market global trade good for everyone? For who? What are the powers governing it and what authority do they have? How are you affected?

Transnational Corporations: Of the top 100 economic entities in the world, 66 are corporations. How did corporations come to be so big with such power and influence? If they are the source of problems in the world today, can they also be part of the solution?

Food in the Global Marketplace: Explore how globalization is determining how and where food is being produced today along with the environmental and social implications. Learn how you can take steps to influence the food system and regulate what you and your family ingest.

Globalization and the Environment: Explore how free trade increases energy consumption, pollution, and privatization of natural resources.

Social Equity: Examine the disparity of wealth around the world and within the U.S. Consider what economic globalization contributes to the disparity. Discuss changing labor practices as well as employment trends.

Shaping Opinion: Explore the invisible influence corporations have on shaping public opinion through corporately controlled public relations firms that generate news stories.

Homogenization of Cultures: Examine how transnational corporations are changing the character of our local communities and those around the world. Learn how concerned citizens are struggling to preserve the uniqueness of their communities.

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SPONSORS COURSES DESIGNED BY THE NORTHWEST EARTH INSTITUTE
MOTIVATING INDIVIDUALS TO EXAMINE AND TRANSFORM PERSONAL VALUES AND HABITS,
TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EARTH, AND TO ACT ON THAT COMMITMENT.