York University

Political Science 4290.03 F
Topics in International Political Economy
The Future of Globalization: Structures, Forces, Processes, and Issues

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 6:00-6:45 or by appointment.

Objectives

Drawing on major theoretical and historical perspectives, this course critically examines the economic, political, cultural, and social issues raised by globalization -- its impact on identity, democracy, inequality, poverty, development, and revolution. These issues are analyzed through the lens of market civilization, hegemony, and imperialism with a focus on the economic interests and political powers of dominant forces that constitute the world order. We use analytical frameworks to understand how the existing and developing structures, institutions, forces, and processes will shape the future of global political economy, world order, and the marginalized and dispossessed. Grounded in contemporary problems and challenges, the course also examines alternative political and economic perspectives to globalization and market civilization. We do this through short lectures, student presentations, in-class debates, readings, and films.

Format

- The course is conceived primarily as a seminar for the discussion of assigned readings and the problem arising from them. The course will be taught by means of a short introductory lecture by the course director and/or films followed by student presentations, small group discussions, and class participation.
- Each seminar one or two students will critically introduce the assigned literature. Presentation should be so organized as to stimulate a class discussion, which will follow after these presentations. Students who have written response papers will be given priority in addressing issues/questions/arguments brought up in presentations.
- Students are expected to (1) come to the seminar having completed the assigned weekly readings and (2) actively participate in class discussions. All students are responsible for bringing at least one important issue or question pertaining to the readings.

Required Readings:

1. Isabella Baker & Stephen Gill (eds), Power, Production and Social Reproduction. Available from York Bookstore
2. Various other readings are available in the library’s electronic resources and/or on the web. Students are responsible for locating and reading them.
3. Additional required readings are available from the Scott Library Reserve
Assessment:

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<th>Weight</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>See Below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Oct 24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10-12 pages</td>
<td>Double spaced, 12 point font</td>
<td>Nov 28</td>
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<td>About 3000 words</td>
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<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Response Papers</td>
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<td>Class Debate</td>
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<td>Open discussions based on SR 2013 readings</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Last class</td>
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**Participation 20%**

Active class participation is a major component of this course. Students are expected to prepare for the class discussions on the basis of the assigned readings. Student participation will be evaluated in terms of attendance, bringing questions and issues, and knowledgeable contribution to seminar discussions. *Complete all of the required readings prior to coming to class.*

**Essay 40%**

You are required to write one essay of approximately 3000 words (10-12 pages), which deals with major issues discussed in this course. This means that you must pick one of the topics provided by the course director and develop a research question you want to examine in your paper. You are required to submit a proposal before writing the paper.

**Presentation or Response Papers 20%: TBA**

**PLEASE NOTE**

- **Late Papers:** Late assignments will be penalized at 5% per day (including weekends). Assignments later than 7 days past the deadline will not be graded.
- **Extensions:** Extended due date may be granted only under the following conditions: (1) must be accompanied by a doctor's note, if sickness or injury is claimed, or properly documented for other serious and unavoidable circumstances; (2) must be based on a COMPELLING REASON and requested in writing at least ONE WEEK in advance of the due date. Extenuating circumstances do not extend to computer problems, busy schedules, lost disks, weddings, vacations, etc.
- **Computer failure or error** will not be accepted as an excuse for late papers or assignments. The penalty for late work as described above will be applied.
- All work must be typed and meet academic standards. Work that does not meet the length requirements will not be accepted.
- Please **DO NOT** slip your assignments under my office door.
- **PowerPoint slides** will not be made available to students on-line. Students must attend class and take notes in order to have access to this material.
It is the responsibility of the student to catch up on **missed class notes** in consultation with classmates.

Please **turn off** your cell phones prior to the beginning of class.

Students are required to keep copies of all submitted **assignments** in case of the unlikely event that an assignment is lost.

**Laptop computers** can only be used for note-taking purposes during class. There have been complaints from fellow students in the past about students checking email, surfing the web, etc during lectures. This is very distracting for your fellow students and demonstrates a lack of respect for the professor. If the professor becomes aware of inappropriate and/or disruptive use of computers during class time, you will be asked to stop using your laptop during class and it may be necessary to ban laptops from class. The same policy applies to the use of cell phones for “texting” purposes.

Students are **expected** to arrive on time and stay for the entire class.

Please **do not bring food to class**. Eating is disruptive and impedes your ability to learn and/or participate in discussion.

Important information for students regarding the Ethics Review process, Access/Disability, Academic Honesty/Integrity, Student Conduct, and Religious Observance Days is available on the Senate web page: [http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cea_main_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cea_main_pages/ccas.htm)

**Email Policy:** In general, questions about substantive issues of course material must be asked in class. Provide your details: if you do not include your name, student number and course name or number, I may not know who you are. Put the course # in the subject area of your email.

Note that I **reserve the right to make changes** to this course outline as we go along.

Final Grade is determined according to the following scale: A+ 90-100; A 80-89.9; B+ 75-79.9; B 70-74.9; C+ 65-69.9; C 60-64.9; D+ 55-59.9; D 50-54.9; E 40-49.9; F 0-39.9

Students With Special Needs: Students with physical, psychological or learning disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods, as outlined in the York University Senate Policy on Students with Special Needs. They should advise the Course Director and the Teaching Assistant at the earliest opportunity, so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

Religious Observances: Should students require accommodation because of religious observance reasons, please contact the Course Director at the earliest opportunity.
Weekly Schedule of Readings

Week 1 – Sept 12: The usual discussion of course structure and requirements

Week 2 – Sept 19:  Introduction: On Global capitalism, Perspectives and Methods

- Marx & Engels: Manifesto of the Communist Party: Chapter 1 Online http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/ch01.htm


- Jeffrey R. Webber, “A Theory of Globalized Capitalism.” Monthly Review 61.05 (October 2009) Web or eResources

Week 4 – Oct 3: Globalization and Imperialism: Theoretical and Historical Debate

- Berch Berberoglu, “The Class Nature of Globalization in the Age of Imperialism.” Critical Sociology 35.6 (November 2009):785-800 Web or eResources
- Aijaz Ahmad, “imperialism of our Time.” Socialist Register 2004. Web or eResources

Week 5 – Oct 10: Globalization of Miseries: Underdevelopment, Environmental Degradation, Hunger and Poverty

- “Is economic inequality around the world getting better or worse?” The Economist, March 11,2004 versus “The cost of inequality: how wealth and income extremes hurt us all,” Oxfam Media Briefing 18 January 2013 Online
Week 6 – Oct 17: Globalization, Emerging Markets and the Empire


Week 7 – Oct 24: The Political Economy of Market Civilization


Week 8 – Oct 31: Co-Curricular Days

Week 9 – Nov 7: Globalization & Governance: Consumerism, Security and Freedom


Week 9 – Nov 14: Globalization, Migration and the Global Labor Market


Week 10 – Nov 21: Globalization, Governance and World order

- Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin, "Global Capitalism and American Empire.” *Socialist Register* 2004. [Web or eResources]

Week 11 – Nov 28: Globalization, War and Terrorism


**Week 12 – Dec 5: Praxis and Globalization: Discontent, Resistance and Revolution**

• A Drainville, "Quebec City 2001 and the Making of Transnational Subjects." Socialist Register (2002). Web or eResources
• *Socialist Register 2013*: The Question of Strategy : selected articles Web or eResources