This course outline begins by providing some overall information about the course and the instructors. It is then divided into five sections, one for each component of the course. In each component, the instructor provides you with a statement about assigned readings as well as the assignment for that section of the course. Please review this syllabus carefully as it will familiarize you with the reading requirements as well as your assignments. This will assist you as you plan your term and decide how to allocate your time for this and your other classes.

**Time and Place:** Slot 14, 2:30 – 3:45pm, Tu-Th; 503 Tier Building

**Instructors** (in order of appearance):

Todd Scarth, History, 356 University College, 474-7459, e-mail: todd.scarth@umanitoba.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15-11:00 am or by appointment

Radhika Desai, Political Studies, 527 Fletcher Argue, 474-9818, e-mail: radhika.desai@umanitoba.ca  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00-2:30

Derek Johnson, Anthropology, 443 Fletcher Argue, 474-6330, e-mail: Derek.johnson@umanitoba.ca  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 or by appointment.

Robert Chernomas, Economics, 508 Fletcher Argue, 474-9510, e-mail: Robert.chernomas@umanitoba.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 11:30-12:30

Mark Hudson, Sociology, 333 Isbister, 272-1655, e-mail: mark.hudson@umanitoba.ca  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00-11:00; Friday, 11:00-12:00; or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION and FORMAT:**

This course is an interdisciplinary seminar exploring issues in political economy at the global level from the perspectives of, History, Economics, Political Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology.

The format of the course will combine lectures with class discussion. Instructors from each of the participating disciplines will address selected issues that represent some of the contributions of their discipline to the study of global political economy. Each instructor will appear for five sessions; each will present reading assignments to the group and assignments for study/research which will form the basis for evaluation in the course.
READINGS:

Required reading has been determined by each participating instructor and has been assembled as a set of Course Materials which can be purchased at the University of Manitoba Bookstore. Each instructor has provided direction about when material is to be read during the course of the class in each section of the course outline.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There are five assignments, each worth 20% of the course grade, one assigned by each instructor. These assignments are to be completed one week after the last appearance of each instructor (specific dates are provided below).

Papers must be typed or computer-printed, and must be double-spaced, with margins of approximately three centimetres on all sides. Prepare a cover sheet with paper title, your name and student number, and identifying details of the course. Number pages, beginning with the first page of text (just turn on word processor page numbering).

Evaluation emphasis will be placed on research skill, understanding of concepts, and organization and presentation of the material. Poorly written or poorly organized essays will be marked down.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING:

Regular and dependable attendance, punctuality, and preparedness are expectations in the course.

Students will have received feedback amounting to at least 40% of the final grade prior to the Voluntary Withdrawal deadline for this course, November 12, 2014.

Written assignments are to be submitted on the dates indicated unless prior and acceptable arrangements are made with the respective instructor. Essays submitted late without approval will be marked down 10% per day.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following grade scale (final scale TBA):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80--89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>70--74%</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>65--69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
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Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism and cheating (section 7.1), exam personation and duplicate submission (see Section 4.2.8 in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2013-2014). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and F (CW) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include
suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (CW) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty. The Faculty is considering adopting a zero-tolerance approach for “cheating” on either a term test or a final examination. Under this approach, students for whom allegations of cheating have been upheld will receive a final course grade of F (CW) and a minimum two-year suspension. Multiple offences of cheating will result in an increased term of suspension.

If you engage in any of the above offenses, expect no mercy from me if you get caught. While most of these acts are pretty straightforward, some students are a bit uncertain about plagiarism.

**PLAGIARISM: READ THIS. WE WILL ACCEPT NO EXCUSES FOR PLAGIARISM.**

While it sounds fancy, plagiarism is basically ripping off somebody else’s writing and ideas and presenting them as your own. **It is serious, and it is easily avoided.** If you get an idea from somewhere else and present it in your work, whether you are quoting directly from it or not, provide a proper citation in an acceptable format. If it is a direct quote, place it in quotation marks. In the body of your text, you can provide a parenthetical citation like (Smith 2013: 267), where Smith is the author’s last name, 2013 is the year of publication, and 267 is the page upon which you found the idea or quotation. Then give a full reference in a separate reference section at the end, like so:


For citations of journal or newspaper articles, online sources, presentations, and other tricky stuff, consult a style guide like the one found at:


Cutting and pasting material from the Web is NOT research. It is plagiarism, and it will be detected. Do not cut and paste from the Web or any other source.

You should also be aware that it is a serious breach of academic integrity to manipulate, falsify, or falsely represent data used in a paper, presentation or thesis. The Faculty of Arts treats data manipulation as exceptional cases of academic fraud, with penalties of ‘F’ on the paper, ‘F-CW’ in the course, and suspension ranging from 2-5 years.
COURSE SCHEDULE:

Sep 4   Introduction: Prof Hudson

Sep 9 – 23   History: Prof. Scarth

Sep 25 – Oct 9   Political Studies: Prof. Desai

Oct 14 – Oct 28   Anthropology: Prof. Johnson

Oct 30 – Nov 13   Economics: Prof Chernomas

Nov 18 - Dec 2   Sociology: Prof Hudson

History Component

Global Political Economy attempts to connect the disciplines of “politics” and “economics” (among others). While the separation between politics and economics may be commonly seen as natural and eternal, this is not the case. Classical political economists such as Smith, Ricardo, and Marx conceived of their topic in broad terms; their work often incorporated moral philosophy, language, and civil society in addition to politics and economics. It was only in the late 19th century that the study of “the economy” -- isolated from the broader social and political context -- took root. This module will begin with a discussion of how and why the strict separation between Economics and broader social / political theories came about. What was at stake in this conceptual distinction?

The rest of the module will apply the same approach to the historical rise of neoliberalism. The focus will be on how ideas change over time, and how social forces and interests shape these changes.

Readings:


Class 3: Harvey, David. 2007. A Brief History of Neoliberalism, chapters 1 – 2, pp. 5 – 63 (fn pp 207-211);


Essay Assignment:

Read the following article, available from the Wall Street Journal:


Prepare a 1,200 - 1,500 word essay reflecting on how this article explains and reacts to the financial crisis in relation to the readings we have done on neoliberalism. Do not use any other sources (you are of course free to research any unfamiliar references or terminology). The essay is due on September 30.

Political Studies Component

Even since it emerged in the late 1990s, the chief claim of ‘globalization’ discourse has been that the state has become economically irrelevant. This claim, and all the others about the formation of a unified world economy on which it rested, have been refuted by sceptics of globalization. In this module we attempt to understand the claims of globalization discourse and their refutation by sceptics and go beyond this debate to ask, if the sceptics were right, as they seem to be, why then did the world start talking about globalization discourse in the 1990s? Why did these ideas emerge when they did and what interests did they serve? Finally, we look at a critical corollary of globalization discourse in international relations: the doctrine of ‘humanitarian intervention’ and how it violates the sovereignty of states.

Reading Assignments for the Political Studies Component


Essay Assignment:

Write a short essay of between 1500 and 2000 words on the chief way(s) in which your view of globalization and the state has been changed by one of more readings in this module. You are not required to use other sources but if you do, you are expected to follow regular referencing practices. The essay is due on October 16.

Anthropology Component

This module of the course is an introduction to contributions of anthropology to global political economy. Emphasis is particularly on how anthropologists see human-environment relations under capitalism. We begin with three prominent thinkers who show anthropology’s distinctive contribution to GPE. We then introduce the current global ecological crisis and the liberal response to it. In the last class we discuss an anthropological critique of the liberal position in relation to fisheries.

October 14: Anthropological contributions to global political economy: structure, process, relationships, and representation.
Wolf, Eric R.
Isaac, Barry L.

October 16: Commodity fetishism and global political economy
Taussig, Michael T.
Chapter 1: Fetishism and Dialectical Deconstruction
Chapter 2: The Devil and Commodity Fetishism

October 21: Marxist political ecology
Foster, John Bellamy, Brett Clark and Richard York

October 23: The liberal response to ecological crisis
Anonymous

October 28: Anthropological political ecology
Pálsson, Gíslí
Assignment for the Anthropology Component

A key lesson of anthropology and political ecology for GPE is that capitalism and its effects are not monolithic. Rather, capitalism plays out at particular times and in particular places. Building on the ideas and readings from this module of the course (and elsewhere if you wish), use the following reference to illustrate this central anthropological argument about the embeddedness of change under capitalism. Your bibliography should refer constructively to at least three other sources in addition to Brosius.

Brosius, J. Peter

Cite references in text in the form (Wolf 1982:10-11) for sources of information and ideas. The essay should be approximately 1500 words, plus a bibliography of references cited. Put a word count on your first page, double side your essays, and don’t bother with a separate title page.

The essay is to be handed in by 4:30PM on November 4 at the Anthropology office, 432 Fletcher Argue.

Economics Component

Reading Assignments for the Economics Component:

Read the material, which will be the basis for lecture/discussions, in the following order:

1) Bowles-Edwards on the surplus
2) Bowles, Gordon & Weisskopf- Business Ascendancy
3) Chernomas-Bankruptcies and Bailouts
4) Chernomas & Hudson-To Live and Die in America: Class, Power, Health, and Healthcare

Assignment for the Economics Component:

Write a thousand word essay on any topic that you can find in Bankruptcies and Bailouts that relate to profits, making use of the course lecture materials. The only chapter you can’t use for the paper is the Chernomas chapter.

This assignment is due on November 20th.
Sociology’s major contribution to political economy has been to conceptualize and express modes of power as they become sedimented in social structures and institutions. In these 5 sessions, we’ll discuss the outlines of contemporary political sociology: the field that attempts to make sense of social stasis and change through the lenses of power and authority.

Reading Assignments for the Sociology Component:


Assignment for the Sociology Component:

Briefly describe the trends in wealth and income inequality over the past two decades, both in Canada and the United States. Using the course readings, and any supplementary sources you think are required for your argument, discuss the implications for power and democracy contained within trends in inequality. Are inequality and the capacity to “make the world” linked? How so? What are the mechanisms through which disparities in wealth and income are connected to “liberty” as you understand that term?