

Global Political Economy 4700

Studies in Global Political Economy

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Friday: 2:30-5:25 PM
309 Tier Bldg.

GPE 4700 Studies in Global Political Economy (6) An advanced interdisciplinary seminar which will study the effects of institutions, structures, and dynamics operating in the current global political economy. Students, working in groups, will be expected to do case studies on selected local (or regional) political economies. *Prerequisite: written consent of GPE coordinator.*

This class is intended to allow you to put your interdisciplinary analytical skills to work on a problem or issue that you find particularly urgent or interesting. You will produce a high-quality research paper by the end, and present your research findings orally. As such, much of the seminar time will be devoted to exploring and working through the research process in a very hands-on way. Students can elect to work in a team or a group on a common research topic, but I expect that most of you will choose to carry out an independent research project. Your research paper will make use of public domain social science data sources. The intention is for you to use existing data sets and therefore, ethical approval of projects will not normally be required. Your final research paper will have a theoretical as well as a research component.

The purpose of this course is to assist each of you in the identification of a research topic and in carrying a research project through to completion. This means following a progression of key steps, including finding a topic area, distilling that down to a researchable question, conducting a thorough literature review, developing a theoretical context for your question, developing a research methodology, identifying and operationalizing variables, collecting data, analyzing data, and writing up your research findings in the form of a major paper.

Each student will, for the Fall semester, work with the course instructor to lay out a researchable topic. The course instructor will then help the student locate a faculty member(s) who will help them further refine their topic, locate relevant literature, and establish a viable research method, bringing the paper to a conclusion by the end of Winter semester. The student will view this faculty member(s) as an expert to be consulted in a professional manner. The consulted faculty member will be review the final research paper, comment on it, and provide a final grade for the student. The final grades for the course will be based primarily on the quality of final paper, but will also reflect the quality of assignments throughout the course that serve to bring the paper to completion.

A Typical Seminar

We will meet as a class every second week through the fall semester to work through the preparatory stages of researching and writing your paper. In addition, we will have three sessions at which you will present on various stages of your research. The seminar will sink or swim based on your degree of preparation and active participation. There will be one or two chapters of the text or articles to read for each meeting, which **you MUST have read prior to class. Failure to do so means that you won't be able to contribute to the class discussion, and will thus be dead weight that your classmates have to carry through the seminar. Don't inflict this on your colleagues.** There may be a short lecture by the course instructor to set some context, after which we will turn to a student-driven discussion of the readings and of issues connecting the readings to your own research processes, topics, and questions.

Readings

The course textbook is Booth, W., Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. All other readings will be made available electronically.

Assessment

You will be assessed as you move through the research process. Please note that assignments are often due on days we do not have class. Due dates and the weighting of each component in your final grade is as follows:

Monday, Oct 6:	A Topic and Preliminary Bibliography: 25
Friday, Oct. 10:	Topic Presentation: 10
Wednesday, Nov. 12:	Literature Review: 60
Wednesday, Nov. 26:	An Answerable Research Question: 30
Monday, Jan. 5:	Theory and Method: 50
Friday, Jan. 9:	Theory and Method Presentation: 20
Monday, Feb. 23:	First Draft: 80
TBA:	Final Research Presentation: 25
Thursday, Apr. 2 :	The Final Paper: 200

Total Available Points: 500

Letter grades are assigned according to the percentage of total points earned over all assignments, as follows:

A+: 95-100%
A: 80-95%
B+: 75-89%

B: 70-74%
C+: 65-79%
C: 60-64%
D: 50-59%
F: 0-49%

Course Policies and Practices

1. Classroom Comportment.

We want to maintain an environment of lively discussion that allows for disagreement and a diversity of views and perspectives. Basically, this means behaving respectfully toward the instructor and toward one another. It also means that you have a responsibility to yourself and to the rest of the class to speak your mind, and to do so in a way that furthers the conversation. We must all be willing and able to speak, to support our arguments with logic and empirical evidence, and to be willing to modify our pre-existing stances and beliefs.

Part of maintaining a respectful environment is being fully present. Turn off your cell phones, iPhones, iPods, and other gadgetry. If you must take notes on a laptop, please do so, but keep your computer use to those activities necessary for class participation.

2. Academic Integrity:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, and duplicate submission (see Section 7, p. 29, in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar 2009-2010). 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. I 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 2005: 267), where Smith is the author's last name, 2005 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:

Smith, Bob. 2005. *My Unbelievably Brilliant Book of Ideas*. New York: Conglomerate Publishing Co.

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

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

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.

3. Late Work

In this class, it is extremely important that you stay on track to successfully complete your final paper. This is a multi-stage process, and if you fall behind early, it will be difficult to catch up. As such, I expect you to complete the course assignments by the due dates listed above. Failure to do so will result in a 10% reduction in your grade each day for the first five days, after which time you will receive a zero grade on the assignment.

In the event that you fall victim to a documentable catastrophe, or feel called to participate in a pivotal event designed to bring about revolutionary change in the world, either of which results in a late assignment, come and explain your situation to me, and we'll arrive at an accommodation that gets you on track to finish your paper on time.

Schedule of Events

Part A: Class Meetings

Sept. 5: Introductions

Sept. 19: Discussion of potential topics; What is Political Economy Research?
Reading: Clement, W. 1997. "Whither the New Canadian Political Economy?" pp. 3-7 in *Understanding Canada: Building on the New Canadian Political Economy*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press;

Gonzalez, G. 2001. "Practical Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service." Ch. 2 in Gonzalez, *Corporate Power and the Environment: the political economy of U.S. environmental policy*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield. (Historical)

Oct. 3: The Research Process (**Topic and Preliminary Bibliography Due**)
Reading: Ch. 1 & 2, Booth, Colomb, and Williams;

Veltmeyer, Henry. 2014. "Bolivia: Between Voluntarist Developmentalism and Pragmatic Extractivism." Ch. 3 in Veltmeyer and Petras (eds.) *The New Extractivism: A post-neoliberal model or imperialism of the twenty-first century?* London: Zed Books. (Case Study)

Oct. 10: Topic Presentations

Oct. 17: Developing an Answerable Question
Reading: Ch. 3 & 4, Booth, Colomb and Williams;

Muzaka, V. 2009. *Shaping Global Rules: Proprietary Pharmaceutical Companies as Global Political Actors*. *New Political Economy* 14(2): 289-301. (Getting from Visionary to Answerable, abstract to concrete).

Oct 31: Literature Review and Data Collection
Reading: Ch. 5 & 6: Booth, Colomb, and Williams;

Come with an idea of what kind of data you might need to answer your question. This is a hands-on session in the Dafoe Library Computer Lab with Data Librarian Gary Strike.

Nov. 14: Methods (**Literature Review Due**)

Reading: Ch. 7, 8 & 9, Booth, Colomb, and Williams;

Carroll, W. 2004. "From Oligarchy to Corporate Governance: The end of the Old Boys' network?" Ch. 2 in Carroll, Corporate Power in a Globalizing World: a study in elite social organizing. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Network Analysis)

Nov 28: Integrating Theory and Methods **(Research Question Due)**

Reading: Ch. 10 & 11, Booth, Colomb, and Williams;

McNally, D. 2009. From Financial Crisis to World Slump: Accumulation, Financialisation, and the Global Slowdown. Historical Materialism 17: 35-83. (Integration of Theory and Methods; Basic Statistics)

Dec 3-Jan 6: Winter Holiday

Reading: Ch. 12-17, Booth, Colomb, and Williams.

Part B: Individual Meetings With Faculty Advisors

Schedule meetings once every two weeks with your advisor, to discuss your research progress, give drafts, and accept feedback.

Meeting: Friday, January 9: Theory and Methods Presentations.

Part C: Research Presentations

DATES TBA

Apr. 2: **(Final Paper Due)**