

# Lakehead

UNIVERSITY

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## **POLI 4615 FAO Global Political Economy**

**Instructor:** Todd Stubbs

**Class Times:** Friday 8:30-11:30, OA 2008

**Office/Hours:** Friday 11:30-12:30, or by appointment

**Email:** tstubbs@lakeheadu.ca

### **Course Description**

Global political economy is concerned with the “political determinants of international economic relations” (Krasner, 2010) with a special focus on the intensified process of globalization that has occurred since the late-1970s. These global relations and processes are multifarious but include cross-border trading, technological transfer, cultural integration and exchange, development initiatives and programs, and environmentalism. In this course we will engage with the empirical foundations of global political economy both historically and in terms of its contemporary dynamics. We will also assess and debate the relative merits of the leading theoretical schools and explanatory frameworks (realist, liberal institutionalist, and historical materialist) that attempt to account for these phenomena.

### **Course Outcomes**

Students in POLI 4615 will develop a high-level critical understanding of global political economy. They will hone their capacity to apply diachronic and synchronic modes of analysis to the examination of complex political-economic issues, forces, and dynamics. An emphasis is placed on critical reading and active engagement with scholarly literatures and theoretical schools. The course also stresses further advanced development of writing skills and presentation competencies.

### **Mandatory Reading Materials**

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams, *Global Political Economy* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Macmillan, 2017).

Additional materials are posted on D2L or linked in the syllabus. Be sure to check the weekly schedule for information about the readings.

### **Evaluation**

Proposal and Bibliography: 20%

Research Paper: 35%

Individual Presentation: 20%

Participation: 25%

## **Course Structure and Work Requirements**

### **Course Structure:**

Class will meet twice a week for a total of three hours. Weekly activities will vary (see the schedule, below) but a major emphasis is on discussion. Students are expected to read all assigned materials and take an active part in discussions.

### **Assignments:**

#### 1) Proposal and Preliminary Bibliography

Students will prepare a two-page double-spaced topic proposal for their Research Paper. The proposal must feature 1) a research question, 2) a hypothesis that answers the research question directly, and 3) relevant background information describing the major themes and their relevance to global political economy.

In addition, students will append to the proposal a preliminary annotated bibliography featuring no fewer than 8 scholarly sources, correctly formatted using APA or CMS.

Suggested topics and additional guidelines are posted on D2L. See the Assignment Guidelines file.

#### 2) Research Paper

- 6,000 to 6,250 words in length, not including the bibliography.
- Minimum of 20 scholarly sources.

The Research Paper will address in depth a historical or contemporary issue in Global Political Economy. Additional guidelines are posted on D2L. See the Assignment Guidelines file.

#### 3) Presentation

Each student will prepare a 10 min (minimum) presentation discussing their research project. The presentation will address the main elements of the project: 1) the topic, 2) the research question and hypothesis, and 3) the main themes drawn from the literature. The main purpose of the presentation is to seek input from the class on how to improve the project in anticipation of preparing the final version of the Research Paper.

#### 4) Participation

Participation is an essential feature of the course. This course is largely discussion based so attendance and preparation are critical. In addition to regular participation students should expect to lead at least one class discussion, which will include a brief summary of the reading material and the preparation of discussion questions.

**Evaluation of Written Assignments/Projects:****80-100% (A range):**

Shows advanced competency in meeting the research and/or analytical and/or communications and/or cognitive and/or technical requirements of the assignment.

- The work is of exceptional quality
- The work is insightful, detailed, articulate, grammatically correct, technically correct, and well organized

**70-79% (B range):**

Exhibits a good effort in meeting the requirements of the assignment or examination.

- The work may be less focused, detailed, organized or less widely researched than a paper worthy of a higher grade or communicates fewer ideas with less detailed analysis than an assignment worthy of a higher grade

**60-69% (C range):**

Average approach and level of success in communicating analysis, factual material, and ideas.

- The work offers less detailed analysis and/or a lack sufficient research, and /or a less articulate or less clearly focused argument and/or may have technical flaws

**50-59% (D range):**

A poor level of competency in meeting the requirements of an assignment or examination.

- The work is poorly organized and/or written, features generalized statements, lacks supporting details and/or critical analysis, and features significant technical flaws

**Below 50% (F):**

Failure to meet the requirements of the assignment.

**Course Policies****Late Assignments:**

All written work must be handed in on time. Late work will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends and holidays. Late assignments may not be accepted after more than ten days. To obtain an exemption for medical or compassionate reasons, students must present signed supporting documentation.

**IMPORTANT:** Unsubstantiated technical problems or electronic submission of blank files or otherwise unreadable files are not legitimate excuses for late penalty exemption.

**Laptops, Cellphones, and Other Electronic Devices:**

Unless the instructor approves their use for educational activities, students should refrain from using electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, and the like, during class. If these devices are required for emergencies students are encouraged to inform the instructor before class starts. Laptops are permitted; however, using them to browse the internet during class for non-educational purposes is strongly discouraged. Upon the request of the instructor, students should be prepared to close laptops when deemed academically appropriate.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Lakehead University's policy on academic misconduct can be found in the online Course Calendar 2013-14 > University Regulation > IX Academic Misconduct.

A copy of the "Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures" including sections on plagiarism and other forms of misconduct may also be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of candidates who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly.

- a. The minimum penalty for a candidate found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- b. A candidate found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.

Note: "Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

- a. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
- b. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given."

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## Weekly Schedule and Due Dates

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### **Due Dates**

Proposal and Bibliography: 27 September 2019

Research Paper: 15 November 2019

All due dates are valid to 11:59 pm on the specified day. Please submit papers to the D2L dropbox in pdf or .doc (Word) format.

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### **Weekly Schedule**

#### **Part 1: Approaches**

Week 1 (6 Sept.) Introduction to the Course/Political Economy and the Global System

O'Brien and Williams, Introduction

Week 2 (13 Sept.) Theoretical Frameworks

O'Brien and Williams, chs. 1 and 2.

Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory,"  
*International Security* 20, 1 (Summer, 1995): 39-51.

#### **Part 2: Historical Background**

Week 3 (20 Sept.) The Foundations of the Global Trading System

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 3.

Anne E. C. McCants, "Poor Consumers as Global Consumers: The Diffusion of Tea and Coffee Drinking in the Eighteenth Century," *Economic History Review* 61, S1 (Aug., 2008): 172-200

Week 4 (27 Sept.) Industry, Empire, and the Dependency Debate

#### **Proposal and Bibliography due 27 Sept.**

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 4.

Ilan Kapoor, "Capitalism, Culture, Agency: Dependency versus Postcolonial Theory,"  
*Third World Quarterly* 23, 4 (Aug., 2002): 647-664.

Andrés Velasco, "Dependency Theory," *Foreign Policy* 133 (Nov. - Dec., 2002): 44-45.

Week 5 (4 Oct.) Disintegration, Reconstitution, and the Postwar Global Economic Order

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 5.

Michael Mastanduno, "System Maker and Privilege Taker: U.S. Power and the International Political Economy," *World Politics* 61, 1 (Jan., 2009): 121-154.

### **Part 3: Contemporary Thematic Frameworks**

Week 6 (11 Oct.) Comparative Advantage, "Offshoring," and Global Supply Chains

O'Brien and Williams, chs. 6 and 7.

Mobina Hashmi, "Outsourcing the American Dream? Representing the Stakes of IT Globalisation," *Economic and Political Weekly* 41, 3 (Jan. 21-27, 2006): 242-249.

(In-Class Film) *Global Car: Who Really Builds the American Automobile* (2010).

Week 7 (25 Oct.) The Global Financial System and the "Financialization" of the Economy

#### **Presentations**

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 8.

Daniel W. Drezner and Kathleen R. McNamara, "International Political Economy, Global Financial Orders and the 2008 Financial Crisis," *Perspectives on Politics* 11, 1 (March 2013): 155-166.

Week 8 (1 Nov.) Global Labour Standards

#### **Presentations**

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 9.

Dennis Arnold and Toh Han Shih, "A Fair Model of Globalisation? Labour and Global Production in Cambodia," *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 40, 3 (2010): 401-424.

Week 9 (8 Nov.) Gender and Global Political Economy

#### **Presentations**

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 10.

Kate Bedford and Shirin M. Rai, "Feminists Theorize International Political Economy," *Signs* 36, 1 (Autumn 2010): 1-18.

Week 10 (15 Nov.) Sustainable Development, International Organizations, and Human Rights

**Research Paper Due 15 Nov.**

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 12.

Jennifer Clapp and Eric Helleiner, "International Political Economy and the Environment: Back to the Basics?" *International Affairs* 88, 3 (May 2012): 485-501.

Week 11 (22 Nov.) Multilateralism and the Potential for Global Governance

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 13 and 15.

Richard Baldwin, "The World Trade Organization and the Future of Multilateralism," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30, 1 (Winter 2016): 95-115.

(In-Class Film) *The Chinese World Order* (2016)

Debate Preparation

Week 12 (29 Nov.) Where We are Now and Where We are Headed

O'Brien and Williams, ch. 14 and 16.

Debate