

# **POLI-4615-WA: Global Political Economy**

## **Course Outline**

Winter 2020

Instructor: Zubairu Wai

Office: RB 2041

Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30pm-2:30pm, or by appointment

Email: zubawai@lakeheadu.ca

Days: Wednesday, 11:30am-02:30pm, RB-3026

### **Course Description**

This course is designed as an advanced critical introduction to global political economy, both as an academic field of study and a site of power and politics. It seeks to provide students with a broad historical and theoretical overview of the field by focusing on some of the key issues and debates, the historical constitution and transformation of the global economy, the environment in which global relations are produced and regulated, and the forces and processes that guide them. This course aims to help students develop critical conceptual and analytical tools to understand the dynamics of global political economy as a site of conflict, cooperation, domination, and the production of global power and (dis)order. The course will be divided into two parts. The first part will focus on the theoretical and historical issues. It will examine the historical emergence/constitution of the global economy as well as the ideas and theoretical debates that have guided it. The second part will focus on processes and issues relating to the nature and functioning of the global economy and the profound changes in global power relations in the current era of neoliberal globalisations and the implications that these have for people, states, societies, world ecology and the environment.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the course, students should:

- Have a critical understanding of global political economy as a subfield of international relations, its history, the ideas which guided its emergence, and the major theoretical perspectives used to explain;
- Understand the nature of the global economy, its structural features, historical transformations, and their implications for states and societies;
- Be conversant with the dominant discourses on and about global political economy and have the conceptual and theoretical language to critically analyse and research issues relating to the field;
- Understand the nature of contemporary processes of globalisation, and the relationships between states, markets, social forces and global power;
- Have a critical understanding of the power-knowledge regimes or politics of knowledge in the field global political economy;
- An appreciation of the historical connections between North and South and the implications for contemporary North-South, as well as south-south relations.

### **Course Structure, Requirements and Evaluation**

This course comprises 12 weekly seminars based on student-led presentations of the course materials. We will meet every Wednesdays between 11:30am and 2:30pm in RB-3026. As

the success of the course will depend on attendance, class participation, and critical engagement with the course material, students registered on the course are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class, do at least one class presentation on the weekly assigned readings, and take part in class discussions. They are also required to complete a short critical review essay and a final research paper of any topic of their choice in global political economy.

The final grade will be weighted and calculated in the following manner:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and participation: | 20% |
| Presentation:                 | 20% |
| Short critical Review Essay:  | 25% |
| Final Research Essay:         | 35% |

### **1. Attendance & Participation: (20%)**

Attendance and participation are crucial for the success of the course. Students registered on the course are required to attend classes regularly, do the assigned readings before coming to class and take part in class discussions. A register of attendance will be kept throughout the duration of the course. Three absences may result in loss of the attendance and participation marks and substantially affect the final grade that one gets in the course.

### **2. Seminar Presentation: (20%):**

Each class will be organised around student-led presentations. Typically, a class presentation should not be more than 20 minutes per presenter. Every student must do at least one class presentation based on the identified themes and assigned readings per week. The order of presentation will be decided on the first day of class. Presentations are a major component of student evolution in the course. They are intended to help develop and enhance their ability to critically summarise, analyse and present academic material in a concise and systematic manner. A good presentation requires careful planning, proper organisation and analytical clarity. Presentations should be well organised, and capable of critically summarising as well as commenting on the assigned readings, drawing out the main points, how they relate to the theme of the week and how the individual readings also relate to each other: What is the main point /argument of the readings? How are the ideas developed/presented? How do they relate to the theme/topic of the week? How do the individual readings relate to or complement each other? What are their limitations? The presentation will be evaluated based on grasp of the literature, clarity of oral presentation of the material, attending to the ideas, and critically engaging with, and commenting on the material.

### **3. Short Review Essay (25%):**

The short critical review essay addresses the themes and issues relating to the readings of a week other than the one the student presents on. It is intended to test knowledge of some of the conceptual and theoretical issues covered in the course. The essay should critically and competently elaborate on and synthesise the various perspectives and arguments that emerge in that particular week's reading. **The short review essay should be 5, and no more than 7 pages (double-spaced),** excluding the title page and list of reference of cited work. It is due a week after the oral presentation.

### **5. Research Paper (35%):**

The final assignment is a research essay on any topic in Global Political Economy. **It should be 12 and no more than 15 pages (double-spaced),** excluding the title page and list of

reference of cited work.

### **Notes on Written Assignments:**

Written assignments are a major component of student evolution in the course. The assignments are intended to help develop and enhance your writing and analytical skills. Specific to this course, they are also intended to help enhance your ability to write a research paper on any topic in global political economy. In addition to citation, formatting, and grammatical rules, all written work will be evaluated based on organisation, clarity of style, grasp of the topic, the systematic and coherent way ideas are presented, the conceptual and theoretical soundness of your arguments, and your overall ability to craft a research paper.

### **Please Note:**

- It is the responsibility of every student to choose their own topics based on their individual interests. However, such topics must first be discussed and cleared with the instructor.
- All written assignments must have a title page indicating the title of the work; the name of the student and their student number; the course number, the name of the instructor. All written work should be **doubled-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point fonts, 1-inch margin**. Manipulating the margins or font size will be penalised.
- All written work must be properly organised and free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and complete bibliography of work cited. Students are required to cite all facts and figures that are not common knowledge, as well as ideas that are borrowed from other authors. Failure to do so will result in substantial penalty in calculating your grade for the assignment and overall grade for the course.
- For citation and referencing, **use only the Chicago referencing style for all written work** (see the link below for a quick guide):  
[https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html)
- All written assignments must be submitted on the date specified in the course outline. **Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 2% a day, including weekends.** Assignments will not be accepted two weeks beyond the due date. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentary evidence. In these circumstances, students may seek extension, prior to, not after, the due date. No retroactive extensions will be granted.
- **Failure to follow these instructions will result in a 20% deduction from the total points scored for the assignment, in addition to the 2% a day penalty for late submission.**

**Required texts:**

John Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy* 4e. (Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2014)

POLI-4615 GPE Course Kit on D2L

**Students with Special Needs**

Students with special needs may request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Such students should at the earliest opportunity advise the Student Accessibility Services, and the instructor of such needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate their needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

**Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

As academic integrity is crucial to the pursuit of university education, students are always expected to uphold the academic honour code and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university's policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation, recycling an old assignment, or submitting the same assignment in two different courses, and so forth. In order to make sure that a degree awarded by Lakehead University reflects the honest efforts and individual academic achievement of each student, Lakehead University treats cases of academic dishonesty very seriously and severely penalises those caught in violation of the university's policy on academic honesty. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences.

**Policy on Electronic Devices**

Cell phones are distracting and therefore should be turned off and kept out of sight during lectures. The instructor will assume that a visible phone is being used. In such a scenario, the offending student may either be told to turn off their phone and put it away, or asked to leave the class. As well, audio or video recording of lectures by students is only allowed with the prior consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Where permission is sought and granted, recorded material should be used solely for the student's private use, and not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

While I welcome emails from students, they are not a substitute for in-person communication. My scheduled office hours are stated in this outline. If you cannot make those times, we may always schedule to meet at times outside the office hours. Emails will be answered within two business days. Except where instructed to do so, or where prior permission has been granted by the instructor, students are discouraged from submitting any class assignments by email. Please use email only for quick queries and to set up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours. All students are required to have a

valid Lakehead University email address. It is your responsibility to maintain your email address in good working order. The University expects you to correspond with your professors through your official university email address, and not through other email accounts such as Hotmail or yahoo. Failure to receive important class announcements and messages from your professors because of a faulty email account (for example, an account which screens out emails as junk mail; bounced messages because of overloaded caches) are not legitimate excuses. Forwarding your Lakehead email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email accounts is not advisable. In some cases, messages from your Lakehead addresses sent to these other accounts may be filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your professors may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

### **Classroom Civility**

Debates and disagreements are a healthy part of the processes of learning, especially in the social sciences and humanities. However, debate does not provide the cover or excuse for conducting ourselves in manners that disrupt teaching and learning, or create hurt, discomfort, and toxic environment in the classroom. Bearing this in mind, we are all required to conduct ourselves at all time in a manner that is collegial and respectful. No racist, homophobic, or sexist comment will be tolerated in class.

### **Note of the Course Outline:**

This course outline is not set in stone. It is intended as a guide and may be revised and modified as the need arise. If such a need arises, students will be notified in advanced either in class or by email. As well, the modified or updated course outline will be uploaded on the course website on D2L.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1 (Jan 8): Introduction**

Course overview and House keeping

### **Week 2 (Jan. 15): The Study of Global Political Economy I: Mainstream Approaches**

#### **Required Readings**

John Ravenhill, 'The Study of Global Political Economy' Chapter 1 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy* 4e. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2014; pp. 3-24

Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1987), pp. 1-64

Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984), Part II, pp. 49-109

**[Note: Remember Friday, 17 January 2020 is the final date of registration]**

### **Week 3 (Jan 22): The Study of Global Political Economy II: Critical Approaches**

#### Required Readings

V. Spike Peterson, 'How (the Meaning of) Gender Matters in Political Economy', *New Political Economy* 10, no. 4 (2005); pp. 499-521

Chandra Mohanty, 'Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts: Ideologies of Domination, Common Interests, and the Politics of Solidarity' in M. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Talpade Mohanty, *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures* (New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 3-29

Robert Cox, 'Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory' *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10 no. 2 (1981):126-155

Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-systems analysis: an introduction* (Duke University Press Books, 2004), Chapters 2 &3, pp. 23 -59

### **Week 4: (Jan 29): Historical Roots I: 'Classical' Political Economy**

#### Required Readings

Mathew Watson, 'The Historical Roots of Theoretical Traditions in Global Political Economy' Chapter 2 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp 25-49

Adam Smith, Book I: Chapters 1, 2 & 3 of *The Wealth of Nations* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press [1776]), pp. 16-40

David Ricardo, 'On Foreign Trade,' Chapter VII of *The Principles of Political Economy and Taxation* (Kitchener: Batoche Books [1817] 2001), pp. 85-103

Friedrich List, Chapters 12 & 26 of *The National System of Political Economy* (New York: Longmans, 1909), pp. 108-120; 157-158

### **Week 5 (Feb 5): Historical Roots II: Marxism as a Critique of Classical Political Economy**

#### Required Readings

Karl Marx, 'The So-Called Primitive Accumulation,' Part 8 of *Capital*, vol. 1 (Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1887): pp. 713-765

Vladimir I. Lenin, 'Imperialism, as a Special Stage of Capitalism,' Chapter VII of *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism* (Sydney: Resistance Books)

Samir Amin, *Law of Worldwide Value* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2010): Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4

### **Week 6 (Feb 12): What is Left Out? Race, Gender, and Coloniality**

#### Required Readings

Frantz Fanon, 'On Violence in the International Context' in *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove, [1963] 2004), pp. 52-62

Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body and Primitive Accumulation* (New York: Autonomedia, 2004), pp. 61-132

Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1944), pp. 51-84

Aníbal Quijano, 'Coloniality and Modernity/Rationality', *Cultural Studies*, vol. 21 nos. 2-3 (2007), pp. 168-178

**Week 7 (Feb 19): Study Break 17 - 21 February [No Class]**

**Week 8 (Feb 26): The Emergence of the Global Economic System**

Required Readings

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams, *Global Political Economy 5e.* (New York: Palgrave, 2016); Chapters 3, 4, & 5, pp. 41-100

Giovanni Arrighi, *The Long Twentieth Century: Money, Power and the Origins of Our Times* (London: Verso), Chapter 1, pp. 28-75

Mike Davis, 'The Origins of the Third World', in *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World* (London: Verso, 2001), pp. 279-310

**Week 9 (March 4): The Post-War Global Economy System**

Required Readings

John M. Keynes, Chapter 1, 2, & 24 of *The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money* (Palgrave Macmillan [1936] 2018); pp. 3-21; 331-340

John G. Ruggie, 'International Regimes, Transactions and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Post-war Economic Order,' *International Organization*, Vol. 36, no. 2 (1982), pp. 379-415

Stephen McBride and John Shields, 'The Post-War Canadian State' Chapter 2 in *Dismantling a Nation: The Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada* (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997), pp. 35-51

Philip McMichael, 'The Development Project' Chapter 3 in *Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective 4e* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2008), pp. 55-84

**[Note: Remember, Friday 6 March 2020 is the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty]**

**Week 10 (March 11): Neoliberalism**

Required Readings

F. A. Hayek, 'The Principles of a Liberal Social Order' in *Studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics* (New York: Touchstone: 1969), pp. 160-177

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford University Press, 2005), Chapters 1-3, pp. 5-63

Stephen McBride and John Shields, 'The Canadian State and the Neo-Liberal Revolution,' Chapter 1 in *Dismantling a Nation: The Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada* (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997), pp. 17-34

## **Week 11 (March 18): Globalisations**

### Required Readings

Anthony McGrew, 'The Logic of Economic Globalization', Chapter 9 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp. 225-254

Jan Aart Scholte, 'Defining Globalisation,' *The World Economy* 31, no. 11 (2008): 4171-1502

Eric Thun, 'The Globalization of Production', Chapter 11 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp. 283-302

Gilbert R. Winham, 'The Evolution of the Global Trade Regime', Chapter 5 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp.109-138

Eric Helleiner, 'The Evolution of the International Monetary and Financial System'; Chapter 7 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp. 174-197

## **Week 12 (March 25): Global Financial Crisis**

### Required Readings

Louis W. Pauley, 'The Political Economy of Global Financial Crises' Chapter 8 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp.198-222

David Harvey, 'Disruption,' Chapter 1 in *The Enigma of Capital and the Crises of Capitalism* (Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 1-39

Paula Chakravarti and Denise Da Silva, 'Accumulation, Dispossession, and Debt: The Racial Logic of Global Capitalism' *American Quarterly* 64, no. 3 (2012), pp. 362-370

Adrienne Roberts, 'Finance, Financialization, and the Production of Gender,' Chapter 4 in Hozić and True, *Scandalous Economics: Gender and the Politics of Financial Crisis*, (Oxford, 2016), pp.

## **Week 13 (April 1): Development, Poverty and PE of Global Inequality**

### Required Readings

Nicola Phillips, 'The Political Economy of Development' Chapter 13 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp. 344-371

Robert Hunter Wade, 'Growth, Inequality and Poverty: Evidence, Arguments, and Economists' Chapter 12 in Ravenhill (ed.) *Global Political Economy*; pp. 305-343

Mike Davies, 'SAPing the Third World,' Chapter 7 in *Planet of the Slums* (London: Verso, 2006), pp. 151 –173

Stephen Gill, 'Constitutionalizing Inequality and the Clash of Globalizations,' *International Studies Review* 4, no. 2 (2002), pp. 47-65

Samir Amin, 'Imperialist Rent and the Challenges for the Radical Left,' *Globalizations* 11, no. 1 (2014), pp. 11-21

**[Note: Final research paper due at the end of class on 6 April]  
April 6 – 19 is the Examination Period. There will be no exam for this course**