

POL 379 International Political Economy Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Funk

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Website: Google Classroom

Office hours: T 11:00-12:00 & 3:15-5:15; W 3:30-4:30; R 11:00-12:00 (QH 314) – or by appointment

Class schedule/location: W 6:00-8:45 (QH 227)

Prerequisites: POL 112 or 151 or 161

Summary and objectives:

While current academic norms in the U.S. separate the study of “economics” from “politics,” there is a long history of seminal thinkers – ranging from Adam Smith to Karl Marx – who have held them to be inextricably intertwined. In this course, we will apply such a “political economy” lens in order to grapple with a series of fundamental questions that are essential for understanding today’s – and tomorrow’s – international system. In particular, through critically analyzing the contributions of a diverse array of observers, we will focus our efforts on seeking to understand the origins of the contemporary (and hegemonic) liberal-capitalist order, the current movement toward (and backlash against) “globalization” and the nature of other “global” phenomena (ranging from climate change to the political economy of “global cities”), the causes of and responses to the recent global financial crisis, and future directions in global politics and economics. Throughout, we will analyze how (and the extent to which) varied theoretical approaches have managed to shed light on the dynamics that underlay the global political-economic order in which we exist, as well as what efforts have been made to promote *change* in that very order.

Specifically, through this course you will work toward the following objectives:

- Increase your familiarity with global current events as well as how they are conditioned by the interaction between politics and economics, and explore theoretical tools for deepening your understanding of them.
- Further develop/hone the ability to read, engage with, critique, and discuss higher-level and challenging texts, particularly academic writing.
- Gain valuable experience in guiding a group discussion involving complex political and economic issues, responding to participants’ questions and concerns, and synthesizing material for your classmates.
- Make substantive contributions to complex and nuanced conversations about difficult and at times contentious ideas and issues.
- Learn to write longer but focused texts that synthesize and analyze numerous and complex ideas, make a clear but nuanced argument, and demonstrate strong writing and communication skills.

Course format:

To the greatest possible extent, this course will function as a discussion-oriented seminar. That is, your comments and reactions to readings and other materials are to play a fundamental role in guiding the trajectory of the class. As such, participation and deep engagement are *expected* and will factor heavily into your final grade. Note also that this is designated and designed as a “Writing Across the Curriculum” course, which implies a set of specific requirements concerning the quantity and quality of written text

that you must produce. For more details, see the College's Bulletin. We will also take several opportunities over the course of the semester to discuss and analyze what makes for successful writing.

Books & readings:

As befits a course of this nature, the reading load is relatively heavy. I make no apologies for this. I have selected the readings with great care and expect you to read them accordingly. Your ability to read, digest, engage with, and react to the diverse perspectives presented in these texts will be of great importance for both your grade and our collective experience in this class. The (below) required books may be purchased from the campus bookstore or obtained elsewhere. The other readings are available online or through the course webpage (details below).

Required texts:

- Clark, Greg. 2016. *Global Cities: A Short History*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
- Chang, Ha-Joon. 2009. *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*. New York: Bloomsbury Press.
- Polanyi, Karl. 2001. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time* (second edition). Boston: Beacon Press.
- Streeck, Wolfgang. 2016. *How Will Capitalism End? Essays on a Failing System*. Brooklyn, NY: Verso.

News & current events:

You are *required* to follow current events relating to international politics and economics on your own. Throughout the semester, we will discuss news stories and relate them to course materials. Given the international focus of this course, you are (not so gently) encouraged to peruse both U.S. and non-U.S. news sources (as we will discuss in this class, one's context, background, and position influence how s/he understands the world!). You may consider signing up for daily email updates to facilitate the process. Palatable and relatively serious options include, but are certainly not limited to:

- U.S.-based
 - *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/index.html>)
 - *Los Angeles Times* (<http://www.latimes.com/world/>)
 - *Washington Post* (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/>)
 - *Wall Street Journal* (<http://www.wsj.com/news/world>)
- International
 - *BBC* [UK] (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world>)
 - *Al Jazeera* [Qatar] (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/>)
 - *Agence France-Presse* (<https://www.afp.com/en/news-hub>)
 - *The Guardian* [UK] (<https://www.theguardian.com/international>)
 - *The Economist* [UK] (<http://www.economist.com/>)

Course requirements & grades:

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| A | 93-100 | B+ | 87-89.9 | B- | 80-82.9 | C | 73-76.9 | D+ | 67-69.9 | D- | 60-62.9 |
| A- | 90-92.9 | B | 83-86.9 | C+ | 77-79.9 | C- | 70-72.9 | D | 63-66.9 | F | <60 |

30 percent: attendance, participation & engagement

This is a discussion-oriented seminar! As such, it is *absolutely mandatory* that you complete all of the readings before class and are adequately prepared to engage in and make substantive contributions to our shared learning experience. You will be graded on the consistency and quality of these

contributions. Your regular attendance is thus assumed as opposed to “graded” per se. As part of this grade, you are *required* to see me during office hours at least once during the semester (in other words, if you do not come to office hours during the semester, you will receive a “0” for “attendance, participation, & engagement”).

15 percent: leadership of class discussion

You will be required to lead (or co-lead) one of our class discussions (details forthcoming). You will sign up for a date/session shortly after the beginning of the semester.

55 percent: midterm exam & final paper

Midway through the semester, there will be a cumulative written exam. I will provide additional information as the date draws near. Though focusing on material from the second half of the semester, the final paper will provide you with an opportunity to think in a comprehensive and holistic manner – drawing from readings, conversations, and debates from the entirety of the semester – concerning big-picture issues in international political economy. This paper must have a minimum of 2000 (and no more than 2200) words. These assignments, respectively, are worth 25 and 30 percent of your overall grade.

| Assignment | Date/due date |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Midterm exam | October 11 |
| Final | December 6 (11:59 pm) |

Course policies:

- The contents of this syllabus are subject to change, revision, and/or update.
- All assignments must be turned in via the course website (Google Classroom).
- Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 10 percent (e.g. from 95 to 85) every 12 hours. Thus, an assignment that was due at 11:59 pm on September 21 will automatically lose 10 points if turned in at any point between 12:00 am – 11:59 am on September 22, and so on.
- You can format assignments as you wish so long as the output is easy on my eyes.
- You may use your preferred citation style, provided it is applied consistently. Political science majors are encouraged to adopt APSA style (<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA.html>).
- In all of your writing assignments, style, syntax, grammar, etc. all count. As sagely observed by the writer William Raspberry, “Good English, well spoken and well written, will open more doors than a college degree. Bad English will slam doors you didn’t even know existed.”
- IMPORTANT! Based on a growing mountain of research, as well as my own (also growing) frustration with watching you watch your various screens during class, there is a strict, no-computer/phone/tablet/etc. policy for this course. If you must take a call, then you may leave the room to do so. Otherwise, my expectation is that you will be fully mentally present for the conversation that is occurring in the physical space that surrounds you, not one that exists in cyberspace. This rule is for your own good! In addition to eliminating distractions that may keep you from engaging in the course and classroom discussions, studies have demonstrated that screen-less students achieve better grades. Violations of this policy may be pointed out during class in a manner that will be embarrassing for you and, further, will have severely negative consequences for your “attendance, participation, & engagement” grade. The one (and only) exception to this rule is if I ask you to search for information for class-related purposes.
- I reserve the right to ignore emails that A) ask for information available on the syllabus and/or B) do not adhere to basic norms of etiquette. Regarding the latter, you are *required* to follow these guidelines: <https://static01.nyt.com/section/opinion/WorthenEtiquetteHandout.pdf>.

College policies:*Academic accommodations*

Students with a documented disability wishing to utilize academic accommodations should contact the Office of Academic Support by calling 251-380-3470 or emailing casa@shc.edu as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be arranged.

Academic dishonesty

Students who engage in any act of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the College's Bulletin of Information. Possible sanctions include receiving a failing grade for the course and dismissal from the College. You are encouraged to review the Bulletin for further information.

Academic support services

The Center for Academic Support and Advising provides academic support services for all students. For more information on academic support services including academic accommodations and course specific tutoring, visit www.shc.edu/casa. For writing and math tutoring, visit the Center for Academic Excellence, www.shc.edu/cae.

Early alert system

Purple Alert is the college's official early alert system. Faculty and staff are able to send an alert to a Student Success Coach about a student's level of engagement and/or performance inside and outside of the classroom. Students who receive alerts should respond to the Student Success Coach in a timely manner so that they can be matched with appropriate resources. For more information, call 380-3472 or email purplealert@shc.edu.

COURSE SCHEDULE*Availability of readings:*

*- located on the course site (Google Classroom)

Note:

To maximize comprehension, readings are to be completed in the order they are listed.

- 8/23 Course introduction & what's at stake
 *Engels. "Working-Class Manchester." Pp. 579-585.
 *Davis. *Planet of Slums*. Pp. 174-198.
 Krugman. "Why We're in a New Gilded Age." <http://goo.gl/kE83Fk>.
 "Economics students aim to tear up free-market syllabus." <https://goo.gl/SaisWr>.
 "An international student call for pluralism in economics." <https://goo.gl/7Gu3Br>.
 Prose. "Humanities teach students to think. Where would we be without them?"
<https://goo.gl/h5BEyr>.
- 8/30 **NO CLASS**
 Attending annual conference of the American Political Science Association

- 9/6 The making of “market economy/society” & the (capitalist) world economy
 *Beckert. *Empire of Cotton*. Pp. ix-xxii.
 Rowlatt. “The dark history behind India and the UK's favourite drink.”
<http://goo.gl/XxZlqL>.
 Polanyi. *The Great Transformation*. Pp. 45-70 & 136-157.
 *Marx & Engels. “Manifesto of the Communist Party.” Pp. 473-491 (from *The Marx-Engels Reader*).
- 9/13 The post-WWII world economic order: multilateral institutions, neoliberalism, & their critics
 *Schwartz. *States versus Markets*. Pp. 177-218.
 *Fukuyama. “The End of History?” Pp. 1-5.
 *Harvey. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Pp. 5-38.
- 9/20 Theories of IPE & responses from the (post)colonies
 *Gilpin. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Pp. 25-64.
 *Fanon. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Pp. 52-62.
 *dos Santos. “The Structure of Dependence.” Pp. 231-236.
 *Clark. “Rethinking Chile’s ‘Chicago Boys.’” Pp. 1350-1360.
- 9/27 Free trade, economic development, & the “secret” history of capitalism (part I)
 Chang. *Bad Samaritans*. Prologue & chapters 1-5.
- 10/4 Free trade, economic development, & the “secret” history of capitalism (part II)
 Chang. *Bad Samaritans*. Chapters 6-9 & epilogue.
- 10/11 **MIDTERM EXAM**
- 10/18 Topics/issues/trends: globalization & its discontents
The U.S. in/ & the global economy
 Waldman. “Inside Alabama’s Auto Jobs Boom.” <https://goo.gl/86rGjZ>.
 Bessner & Sparke. “Don’t let his trade policy fool you: Trump is a neoliberal.”
<https://goo.gl/c1Jvkn>.
Brexit, the Irish border, & the political economy of London
 McCann & McSorley. “The Hardest Border.” <https://goo.gl/geHpni>.
 Kimmelman. “London’s New Subway Symbolized the Future. Then Came Brexit.”
<https://goo.gl/bHyWKL>.
China & the “Project of the Century”
 Gracie. “Tales from the new Silk Road.” <https://goo.gl/F5d5zj>.
 Perlez & Huang. “Behind China’s \$1 Trillion Plan to Shake Up the Economic
 Order.” <https://goo.gl/RQhdBx>.
Future trajectories
 Saval. “Globalisation: the rise and fall of an idea that swept the world.”
<https://goo.gl/hHarnx>.
 *Wolf. “The long and painful journey to world disorder.”
 *Drezner. “Five Known Unknowns about the Next Generation Global Political
 Economy.” Pp. 1-23.

- 10/25 “New” actors: global cities & corporations
 Khanna. “The New World Order Is Ruled by Global Corporations and Megacities—Not Countries.” <http://goo.gl/9d7Wef>.
 *Sassen. “The Global City: Introducing a Concept.” Pp. 27-40.
 *Rossi & Vanolo. *Urban Political Geographies: A Global Perspective*. Pp. 1-11.
 Clark. *Global Cities: A Short History*. Pp. 117-148.
 *Davis. *Planet of Slums*. Pp. 1-19.
- 11/1 Global capitalism & you: technology, identity & climate change
 *Castells. *The Rise of the Network Society*. Pp. 1-25.
 *Klein. *This Changes Everything*. Pp. 1-25 & 56-83.
 Lukacs. “Neoliberalism has conned us into fighting climate change as individuals.”
<https://goo.gl/rTzrqJ>.
- 11/8 At the levers of the global economy
 *Ho. *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Pp. 73-121.
 McDonald. *The Golden Passport: Harvard Business School, the Limits of Capitalism, and the Moral Failure of the MBA Elite*. “Introduction.” <https://goo.gl/o3M5s7>.
- 11/15 The disruption/crisis & its aftermath: who? what? when? where? why? how?
 Taibbi. “The Great American Bubble Machine.” <http://goo.gl/8BVC2E>.
 *Varoufakis. *The Global Minotaur*. Pp. 1-25.
 *Roubini & Mihm. *Crisis Economics*. Pp. 266-275.
 *Blyth. “The Austerity Delusion.” Pp. 41-56.
 Cohan. “Can Wall Street Save Trump from Himself?” <https://goo.gl/bM5uJ9>.
- 11/22 **NO CLASS**
 Thanksgiving
- 11/29 Future horizons: what is to be done?
 Reich. *Saving Capitalism*. <http://goo.gl/oKw1BX> (click on “read an excerpt”).
 Polanyi. *The Great Transformation*. Pp. 245-268.
 Chakraborty. “How could we cope if capitalism failed? Ask 26 Greek factory workers.”
<https://goo.gl/SMDisD>.
 Streeck. *How Will Capitalism End?* Ch. 1 & 9.
 Kirk. “Capitalism's excesses belong in the dustbin of history. What's next is up to us.”
<https://goo.gl/qR8u3d>.
- 12/6 **Final paper due**