

2J03 GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY Winter 2019

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Course Description

This course focuses upon the relationship between economics and politics on a global scale. It considers the evolution of the global political economy through several historical eras (1400-1800s, 19th and 20th centuries) and key frameworks (trade, production, finance, development, environment, gender, labour, ideas, security and governance). Students will also develop an appreciation of the key theoretical approaches to understanding the global political economy. The primary objectives are to inspire an informed interest in world affairs and to equip students to succeed in upper-year and graduate international political economy / international relations courses. The written assignment is designed to develop student research skills.

As a second year course, this is a survey of a large topic. The subject of each week's lectures could easily be expanded into their own courses. For example, I sometimes teach a fourth year seminar on one aspect of the theories we examine (rationality and nonrationality in GPE) and a third year and a graduate course on an element of week 12 (political economy of climate change). In addition to getting an overview of global political economy, please pick a particular area that you are interested in and be prepared to learn more about that through your essay and outside reading. The exam will be structured so that you can demonstrate what you have learned rather than quiz you about every area of the course.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand how history has shaped the GPE
- Be familiar with the major theoretical approaches to GPE
- Understand the main structures of the GPE
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of one particular facet of the GPE

Required Materials and Texts

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics* 5th Edition (New York: Palgrave 2016).

There are [earlier editions of this text](#), but they will be missing recent developments. This is especially true of the global finance section which brings students up to date on the global credit crisis and the European sovereign debt problem. The book has a companion website which has information such as a glossary and multiple choice quizzes on each chapter.

Class Format

This course is designed as a package which contains a course textbook, course website, lectures and tutorials. The four elements complement each other. If you take

each element seriously you will do much better in the course. Prior to each week's lecture you should do the *reading* assigned for that week. Each week's *lecture is structured as an argument* about the material you have read in preparation for the class. The lectures are designed to get you to think about what you have read. If you do not come to the lecture to listen to the argument, it will be harder to critically engage with the course subject matter. *Tutorials* will usually deal with each subject in the week following the lecture. This gives you time to absorb the readings and lectures and should allow you to participate more fully in tutorials. The website provides additional tools such as a self-test quiz questions to give you a sense of how much you are understanding, links to international organizations and NGOs, useful apps, links to videos with useful or funny information on IPE, and mock exam questions. The final exam will be based upon readings and lectures.

Since this is a survey course, material is covered very quickly. ***If you do not do the weekly reading you will have problems following the lectures and will be overwhelmed by the material, making it difficult to write a successful exam.***

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Tutorial Participation - 15%, throughout term
2. Mid Term Quiz -10%, 5 Feb.
3. Research Proposal - 5%, Week of Feb 11
4. Research Essay - 35%, Week of 25 March
5. Final Exam – 35%, Exam period

Course Evaluation – Details

Tutorial Participation (15%), due throughout the term

Students are expected to participate consistently and effectively in the work of their respective tutorial groups. Tutorials are an opportunity to engage with the ideas and concepts presented in the course through open discussion. Marks will be based upon attendance / weekly paragraph (9) and participation (6).

Mid Term Quiz (10%), due 5 Feb.

40 question multiple choice quiz based on material in Chapters 1 – 6.

Research Essay Proposal (5%), due in Tutorial Week of Feb. 11

Research proposal and annotated bibliography, Guidelines for proposal are attached.

NOTE: Final essays will not be accepted unless a previous research proposal has been handed in. Final essay must be based upon research proposal. There are NO exceptions to this requirement.

Research Essay (35%), due in Tutorial Week of 25 March

Essay to be handed in **tutorial** the week of 19th of March. Please note that papers **must** be submitted in hard copy and **cannot** be accepted electronically or by fax. **Students should also submit an electronic copy on Turnitin via Avenue to Learn on the same day.** Your essay will not be marked unless the TA has a hard copy and a Turnitin copy. (if you object to using Turnitin speak to me) Guidelines for the essay are attached. Your TA will return the paper at the last tutorial.

Final Exam (35%), due during exam period

A two and a half hour exam will be scheduled in the April exam period. The exam will be designed to determine what you have learned over the course. Details about

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1: 8, 10 January 2019

8 Jan. – Course Introduction

10 Jan. – What is GPE?

Week 2: 15, 17 Jan

15 Jan. – GPE Theories I

Readings: Chapters 1&2

17 Jan. – GPE Theories II

Week 3: 22, 24 Jan

22 Jan. – European expansionism

Readings: Chapter 3

24 Jan. – Industrial Revolution / Imperialism/ Post 1945

Readings: Chapters 4-5

Week 4: 29, 31 Jan

29 Jan. – International Trade Basics

Readings: Chapter 6

31 Jan – International Trade: Key Issues

Week 5: 5, 7 February

5 Feb. – Multiple Choice Quiz in Class

7 Feb. – Transnational Production: The Basics

Readings: Chapter 7

Week 6: 12, 14 February

Feb. 12 – Transnational Production: Key Issues

Feb. 14 – Global Finance: The Basics

Readings: Chapter 8

Notes: Essay proposal due in tutorial this week.

Week 7: 19, 21 February

Reading Week

Week 8: 26, 28 February

26 Feb. – Global Finance: Key Issues

28 Feb. – Global Finance: Credit, Debt and Austerity

Week 9: 5, 7 March

5 March – Division of Labour

Readings: Chapter 9

7 March – Gender

Readings: Chapter 10

Week 10: 12, 14 March

12 March – Development: The Basics

Readings: Chapter 11

14 March – Development: Key Issues

Week 11: 19, 21 March

19 March – Environment: The Basics

Readings: Chapter 12

21 March – Environment: Key Issues

Week 12: 26, 28 March

26 March – Ideas and Technology

Readings: Chapter 13

28 March – Security

Readings: Chapter 14

Notes: Essays due this week.

Week 13: 2, 4 April

2 April – Governance

Readings: Chapter 15

4 April – Exam review

Readings:

Week 14: 9 April

9 April – self study

Readings:

Tutorial Discussion Questions

Week of Jan. 21: Approaches

Question: *What are the strengths and weaknesses of the primary approaches to global political economy?*

Week of Jan. 28: World Economy

Question: *What accounts for the different patterns of interaction between Europeans and non-Europeans from 1400-1900?*

Week of Feb. 4: Trade

Question: *What are the most significant developments in international trade in the post - 1945 era? Why have they occurred?*

Week of Feb. 11: Production

Question: *How has international production changed in the last 50 years and what are some of the implications of these changes?*

Week of Feb. 18 Reading Week

Week of Feb. 26 Finance

Question: *What basic concepts and processes are unclear and need to be discussed?*

Week of March 4 Finance continued

Question: *What impact does the global financial structure have on states, corporations and citizens?*

Week of March 11 Labour and Gender

Question: *What is the relevance of the division of labour concept for global political economy?*

Question: *What is the relevance of a gendered analysis of global political economy?*

Week of March 18 Development

Question: *What are the most promising options for countries that wish to develop?*

Week of March 25 The Environment

Question: *What attention should be given to environmental factors in the study of global political economy?*

Week of April 1 Ideas / Security / Governance / Exam Prep

Question: *Do you have any questions about the last three chapters?*

Question: *What questions do you have about the course that might help with exam preparation?*

2J03 Weekly Paragraphs

You are required to hand in a weekly paragraph during your tutorial. The paragraph should comprise of the following elements:

1. A paragraph of about 150 words which discusses what you think was the most important insight from the reading for that week.
2. A list of three questions about the reading or that flow from the reading that could be explored in the tutorial.

There are 10 tutorials and you are required to hand in 9 paragraphs. You get one free class, so MSAFs do not apply for this assignment. You will receive one mark for each paragraph handed in. They must be handed in at the beginning of the class because they are intended to prepare you for tutorial discussion. No paragraphs will be accepted after the class is finished.

2J03 Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography

Your research proposal is due early in the course. As soon as you get the textbook, flip through the table of contents and chapters to see if there is a topic that interests you. You may wish to pursue one of the subjects mentioned in the boxes. Take a look at the online bibliography for suggestions about articles and books in the field. One of the links to the international organizations or NGOs or one of the videos may stimulate your thinking.

A good proposal communicates to the reader in as much detail as possible the problem that you are interested in and the line of investigation that you intend to pursue. The clearer you make this to the reader, the more help the TA can give to you, and the better your final paper will be. There are several areas your proposal needs to cover.

1. As background, briefly describe the *general area of investigation*, the topic you intend to pursue. It often helps the reader understand your personal interest in this topic so you may want to describe this briefly.
2. Pose your *central research question*. This should be a single sentence focusing on a single issue, contradiction, puzzle or dilemma. Usually your question should be a “why” or a “how” question as opposed to a “what” question.
3. Explain how the proposed topic is related to the subject matter of the course. **Indicate how and where it links into the textbook. This is essential! Failure to do this will result in a grade of 0/10!!!**
4. Describe your proposed line of inquiry. What do you need to find out in order to be able to answer the question? List any secondary questions that you need to answer to move toward answering your main question. Describe your plan for finding evidence.
5. Provide an **annotated bibliography** which includes the main or most important sources relevant to your topic. This is like a regular bibliography, but it also includes short **summaries** of the article/book (2 sentences) and why it would be useful for your project. An easy way to find articles and abstracts is to use one of the library’s an online database such as [ProQuest Political Science](#).

You can find the books or articles themselves, and read the introductions and conclusions in order to get a general idea of what the article / book is about. You need 5 **academic** journal articles and 5 books.

DUE: In tutorial week of February 11 (Late penalty in effect)

LENGTH: 600 words or no more than two double spaced pages of text (12pt font) + annotated bibliography

WEIGHTING: 5% of final grade

2J03 Research Paper

The purpose of the research paper is to communicate to others what you have learned. **The topic of your paper must follow the research/paper proposal that you have handed in earlier, as modified by the comments you received and any discussions you have had with your TA subsequently.** It must reflect one of the themes from the course.

Your paper should include:

- An introduction which contains: description of the intellectual problem you are investigating; a thesis statement in the introduction which sets out your argument; a brief description of the plan or parts of the paper.
- The body of the paper which develops your argument. It offers an interpretation of the evidence you have uncovered. It weighs evidence in favour and against your particular argument.
- A conclusion which discusses of the implications of your argument and suggests new research questions that arise from your paper
- Bibliography (not annotated!)

Papers must be properly referenced following a major style such as APA, MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. For more information see the ['Citation and Style Guides'](#) tab

DUE: In tutorial week of 25th March

LENGTH: No more than 3,500 words excluding bibliography and title page

WEIGHTING: 35% of final grade

Course Policies

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Late Assignments

Late papers will be accepted subject to a late penalty of 1 mark per day to a maximum of 5 days, after which they will not be accepted and a mark of 0 will be recorded. (One mark per day means that an assignment worth 20/35 handed in on time would get a mark of 19/35 if handed in one day late). Weekends count as 2 days. In the interest of fairness to all students, there will be **no exceptions** to this unless you have arranged *in advance* for an extension. Papers submitted after deadlines (including excused late papers) will be marked, but comments will not be provided. **Late penalties are real and damaging, so plan ahead to have your work in on time!**

Electronic devices policy

Research has shown that the use of laptops or phones for note taking in large lectures distracts students from listening to the lecture and prevents students from absorbing material compared to hand written notes. Please do not use laptops, tablets or phones during the lecture. You will learn more by listening and writing relatively sparse notes by hand. I will post links to my Prezis after the lecture. Exceptions are made for any student that has an SAS accommodation.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be

deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

2J03 Specific Rules and Regulations Summary

1. **If you have an SAS accommodation, meet with the professor** at the beginning of term or as soon as it is granted to discuss the mechanics of the accommodation.
2. **If you are falling behind on your work or are experiencing difficulties, consult with your TA immediately.** We are unable to help you if things are brought to our attention a week after you miss the deadline.
3. **You only have two chances to write the Quiz.** Since they are a week apart, an MSAF will only cover missing one attempt.
4. As stated in the syllabus, **essays will not be accepted unless a prior proposal on the same topic has been submitted.** No exceptions.
5. **You must hand in the essay proposal at least 4 weeks before the essay.** Otherwise we are unable to provide you with feedback, which defeats the purpose of writing a proposal. No exceptions.
6. **Students are required to simultaneously hand in both hard and electronic copies.** An exception may be made if a student has an objection to their work being put into Turnitin, and communicates this to their TA and the course professor prior to the due date of the paper.
7. **There are NO make up assignments for missed tutorials, quiz, proposal or essay.** You have been set clear tasks and will be evaluated on your ability to complete those tasks in a timely manner and the quality of work you hand in. Failure to complete those tasks on time results in grade penalties. You are no longer in high school.
8. **To gain TA participation marks, students must hand in a hard copy of their weekly paragraph in person at their scheduled TA class.** Late paragraphs or e-mailed paragraphs will not be accepted.