

## 2J03 GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY Winter 2020

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### Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts .....	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview .....	4
Course Evaluation – Details .....	4
Tutorial Participation (15%), due throughout the term .....	4
Mid Term Quiz (10%), due 3 Feb.....	4
Research Essay Proposal (5%), due in Tutorial Week of Feb. 10 .....	4
Research Essay (35%), due in Tutorial Week of 16 March .....	5
Final Exam (35%), due during exam period.....	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings .....	5
Week 1: 6, 8 January 2020.....	5
Week 2: 13, 15 Jan.....	5
Week 3: 20, 22 Jan.....	5
Week 4: 27, 29 Jan.....	5
Week 5: 3, 5 February .....	5
Week 6: 10, 12 February .....	6
Week 7: 17, 19 February .....	6
Week 8: 24, 26 February .....	6
Week 9: 2, 4 March.....	6
Week 10: 9, 11 March.....	6
Week 11: 16, 18 March.....	6
Week 12: 23, 25 March.....	6
Week 13: 30 March, 1 April .....	7

Week 14: 6 April .....	7
Tutorial Discussion Questions .....	8
Week of Jan. 20: Approaches .....	8
Week of Jan. 27: World Economy .....	8
Week of Feb. 3: Trade.....	8
Week of Feb. 10: Production .....	8
Week of Feb. 17 Reading Week.....	8
Week of Feb. 24 Finance .....	8
Week of March 2 Finance continued .....	8
Week of March 9 Labour and Gender .....	8
Week of March 16 Development .....	8
Week of March 23 The Environment .....	8
Week of March 30 Ideas / Security / Governance / Exam Prep.....	8
2J03 Weekly Paragraphs .....	9
2J03 Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography.....	10
2J03 Research Paper.....	11
Course Policies .....	12
Grades.....	12
Late Assignments .....	12
Electronic devices policy.....	12
Avenue to Learn .....	12
Turnitin.com.....	13
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO) .....	13
University Policies .....	13
Academic Integrity Statement.....	13
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	14
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy .....	14
Course Modification .....	14
2J03 Specific Rules and Regulations Summary.....	15

## **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, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 (political ecology) and a third year and a graduate course on an element of week 12 (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* 5<sup>th</sup> 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 10
4. Research Essay - 35%, Week of 16 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 3 Feb.**

40 question multiple choice quiz based on material in Chapters 1 – 6.  
(**Make up** 26 Feb, KTH 503, 10:30, Chapters 1-8)

#### **Research Essay Proposal (5%), due in Tutorial Week of Feb. 10**

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 16 March**

Essay to be handed in **tutorial** the week of 16<sup>th</sup> of March. Please note that papers **must** be submitted in hard copy at your weekly tutorial. **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.

### **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

#### **Week 1: 6, 8 January 2020**

**6 Jan. – Course Introduction**

**8 Jan. – What is GPE?**

#### **Week 2: 13, 15 Jan**

**13 Jan. – GPE Theories I**

Readings: Chapters 1&2

**15 Jan. – GPE Theories II**

#### **Week 3: 20, 22 Jan**

**20 Jan. – European expansionism**

Readings: Chapter 3

**22 Jan. – Industrial Revolution / Imperialism/ Post 1945**

Readings: Chapters 4-5

#### **Week 4: 27, 29 Jan**

**27 Jan. – International Trade Basics**

Readings: Chapter 6

**29 Jan – International Trade: Key Issues**

#### **Week 5: 3, 5 February**

**3 Feb. – Multiple Choice Quiz in Class**

**5 Feb. – Transnational Production: The Basics**

Readings: Chapter 7

**Week 6: 10, 12 February**

**Feb. 10 – Transnational Production: Key Issues**

**Feb. 12 – Global Finance: The Basics**

Readings: Chapter 8

**Notes: Essay proposal due in tutorial this week.**

**Week 7: 17, 19 February**

**Reading Week**

**Week 8: 24, 26 February**

**24 Feb. – Global Finance: Key Issues**

**26 Feb. – Global Finance: Credit, Debt and Austerity**

**Note: Make up Quiz in KTH 503.**

**Week 9: 2, 4 March**

**2 March – Division of Labour**

Readings: Chapter 9

**4 March – Gender**

Readings: Chapter 10

**Week 10: 9, 11 March**

**9 March – Development: The Basics**

Readings: Chapter 11

**11 March – Development: Key Issues**

**Week 11: 16, 18 March**

**16 March – Environment: The Basics**

Readings: Chapter 12

**18 March – Environment: Key Issues**

**Notes: Essays due this week.**

**Week 12: 23, 25 March**

**23 March – Ideas and Technology**

Readings: Chapter 13

**25 March – Open Class**

**Week 13: 30 March, 1 April**

**30 March – security**

Readings: Chapter 14

**4 April –Governance**

Readings: Chapter 15

**Week 14: 6 April**

**6 April – Exam Review**

## Tutorial Discussion Questions

### **Week of Jan. 20: Approaches**

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

### **Week of Jan. 27: World Economy**

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

### **Week of Feb. 3: Trade**

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

### **Week of Feb. 10: 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. 17 Reading Week**

### **Week of Feb. 24 Finance**

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

### **Week of March 2 Finance continued**

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

### **Week of March 9 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 16 Development**

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

### **Week of March 23 The Environment**

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

### **Week of March 30 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 contain 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 your tutorial because they are intended to prepare you for tutorial discussion. No paragraphs will be accepted following the tutorial.

## **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](#). Two helpful journals are *Review of International Political Economy* and *New Political Economy*. For the books, read the introduction and / or conclusion to get a general idea of what it is about. For articles you can use the abstracts. You need 5 **academic** journal articles and 5 books.

DUE: In tutorial week of February 10 (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 16<sup>th</sup> 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:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
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](#).

### **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests

### **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](mailto: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.** 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.** Failure to do so means we are unable to provide you with feedback, defeating the purpose of writing a proposal. We will not accept essays lacking a previous 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.
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.

Last revised 19 November 2019