

Boston College
International Studies Senior Seminar

SC 530 (Cross Listed with IN 530)

Fall Semester 2010

© Dr. Brian J. Gareau

LOCATION: TBA

Tuesdays 3:00-5:20

OFFICE: McGuinn, Room 412

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If you want to receive credit for this course towards your sociology major or minor, you MUST register for the SC version of the course, not the IN version

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed primarily for seniors majoring or minoring in International Studies. During the semester, I hope the course will accomplish four goals:

- 1) to provide the group with a common vocabulary for analyzing the current international environment - politically, economically, socially and environmentally;
- 2) to encourage participants to think about future global relationships in an informed and constructive way;
- 3) to prepare students to write carefully on current topics relating to International Studies; and
- 4) to exchange views, debate, question, research - all in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

REQUIREMENTS

Please print out and read the assigned readings for the day they are due, so that we may have a complete discussion with maximum participation each week. Class participation counts for 20% of your grade.

There are two major writing assignments: First, a 6-8 pp. paper (due November 2nd) in which I will ask you to answer some questions relating to the readings. This paper counts for 15% of your grade. Second, your Final Paper in International Studies, which is due by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 in my mailbox. We shall be conferring about topics and lengths of these papers.

FOUR BOOKS (All four books will be held on Reserve at the O'Neill Library. Books may be taken out for 2 hours in the library and can be renewed if no one is waiting.):

- Held, D. and A. McGrew (2002). *Globalization/Anti-Globalization*, Polity Press.
- Cohen, R. and P. Kennedy (2007). *Global Sociology*, 2nd Edition, NYU Press (9781403948458)
- Chew, Sing C. (2007). *The Recurring Dark Ages: Ecological Stress, Climate Changes, and System Transformation*, AltaMira Press (12:978-0-7591-0452-5)

- William R. Polk (2006) *Understanding Iraq, The Whole Sweep of Iraqi History from Genghis Khan's Mongols to the Ottoman Turks to the British Mandate to the American Occupation*, Harper Perennial (13:978-0-06-076469-2)

ELECTRONIC READINGS:

Course readings are available to view online, download, and print on Blackboard Vista.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION:

IN 530 is a seminar-format class that combines lecture with group discussion. Students’ final grade will depend, in part, on the quality of their participation in class discussion. Obviously, adequate participation requires regular attendance. You must be respectful of other’s viewpoints, experiences, orientation, etc. when discussing the concepts in this class. Debate is inevitable and useful, but be respectful. If you are not, you will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Each of you will be expected to keep abreast of the reading, **prepare and make a presentation on materials from at least one of the scheduled sections.** We have a good deal of material to cover, so the success of the seminar depends on **the active participation of everyone.** During the first meeting we shall organize ourselves and generate a schedule of presentations.

You must come prepared with a two-page write-up on the day’s reading every class. Make notes, comments, questions, and critiques of the readings. Readings should be studied before the class for which they are assigned. These assignments count for your attendance, and you may not turn them in late or in absentia from the class. These write-ups will make valuable notes for your exams and potential future work on globalization issues.

ASSESSMENT

All grades in IN 530 are based on the percentages shown in Table 1.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSOCIATED GRADES.

Students are responsible for the work listed in Table 2.

TABLE 2. STUDENT WORK & PERCENTAGE OF GRADE EARNED

Midterm Paper	15%
Final Paper	25%
Team-led Discussion	20%
Daily Reading Summaries	20%
In-class Participation	20%

TABLE 1. GRADE SCALE

Letter Grade	% Range
A	93-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-90
B	83-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-80
C	73-78
C-	70-73
D+	67-70
D	63-67
D-	60-63
F	<60

You must come prepared with a one to two-page write-up on the day's reading every class.

General Outline:

1. In the first paragraph, provide the general thread of argument, ideas, concepts, and/or themes that run through the readings for the week.
2. In the body of the paper, discuss in detail **some** of the key concepts and arguments. Discuss the readings in an integrative way; put the current readings in conversation with previous readings. **Dig deep into the readings**; do not provide a superficial summary. Rather, **engage with the reading** by giving a critical review of what you choose to focus on.
3. Then, give your view on some of these concepts. Which concepts/arguments make sense to you? Which do not? Use readings from previous weeks to support your claims.
4. This assignment will take some time to master, but it is a valuable skill, so work hard at it.
5. Readings should be studied **before** the class for which they are assigned. These assignments also count for your attendance, and you may not turn them in late or in absentia from the class. These write-ups will make valuable notes for your exams and potential future work on environmental issues.

Students are also required to **lead the discussion** with a 10-15 minute formal presentation at least twice.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CLASS BY WEEK

WEEK ONE: Tuesday 7 September

Theme: Course overview: Syllabus, readings, assignments, and expectations. Assign seminar leaders.

WEEK TWO: 14 September

Theme: Historical Sociology and social change in geographical space. What are large-scale processes of societal change? Capitalism, Imperialism, Industrialization, Democratization, Human Rights and Social Movements. Definitions of social power, authority and legitimacy. Definitions of the state. The formation of the division of labor. Social structures, agency, cultural systems as explanations of permanence.

Read:

- Cohen, R. and P. Kennedy (2007). Global Sociology, NYU Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 16:
 - The Making of Global Sociology
 - Thinking Globally
 - Global Religions
- (VISTA) Heilbroner, R., & Thurow, L. (1998 2nd ed.). Economics Explained: everything you need to know about how the economy works and where it is going. New York: Touchstone. Chapters 1, 2.

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK THREE: 21 September

Theme: Why the West? Understanding the Development of Capitalism: Before Western Hegemony: Bureaucratic Centralism in China, Empires as compared to decentralized Feudalism in Western Europe. What explains the fragmented organization of Western European national states? Royals, Landed Aristocrats, the Church, Townspeople, Peasants in transition to early capitalism.

Read:

- (VISTA) Temple, The West's Debt to China.
- (VISTA) Pye, The Powers That Be.
- (VISTA) Chanda, Sailing into Oblivion.
- (VISTA) Stokes, G. (2001). "Why the West? The Unsettled Question of Europe's Ascendancy." *Lingua Franca* 11 (8 November 2001).
- (Vista) Brenner, Robert (1987) *Feudalism. New Palgrave Marxian Economics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK FOUR: 28 September

Theme: The Modern World System- Making sense of colonialism and inequality in the modern world. How and why did Northwest Europe come to dominate the world? How did colonial rule change colonized societies? What are some of the explanations for the transition from Feudalism to Capitalism in Europe? Rise of nation-states, mercantilism, and colonialism.

Read:

- Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 8, Uneven Development: The Victims
- (VISTA) Marx, K. (1867) "So-Called Primitive Accumulation." In *Capital*. Selections
- (VISTA) Goldfrank, Walter L. "Paradigm Regained? The Rules of Wallerstein's World-System Method," *Journal of World Systems Research*, 11(2): 150-195.
- Held & McGrew Ch. 4, "Global Insecurities: Military threats and Environmental Catastrophe."

ReORIENTation?: A global shift back to Eastern Hegemony?

- Video: "Is Wal-Mart Good for America?" PBS 2004.

Recommended:

- (Vista) Andersen, Perry. *Lineages of the Absolutist State*. Verso. Selections

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK FIVE: 5 October

Theme: Capitalism and English "Industrial Revolution". Social divisions of Labor. Why was England the "First Industrial" nation-state? Preconditions, politics, culture, protectionism, and innovative technology; Explaining the first industrial revolution; The Enlightenment, Classical liberalism and "possessive" individualism; Adam Smith's "invisible hand"; Ricardian Competitive Advantage; Social movements: capital vs. labor; class analysis, working classes as social movement.

Read:

- (VISTA) Hobsbawm, E. J. (1968). Industry and Empire. New York: Pantheon. Chapters 1 and 2.
- Cohen and Kenney, Chapter 5: Nationhood and Nation-states
- Held & McGrew Chapters 1 and 3

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK SIX: 12 October

MIDTERM QUESTIONS HANDED OUT TODAY

Theme: Globalization: From State-centered Development to Neoliberalism. The Rise and Decline of State-Centered Development 1945-71; Fordism, Keynesianism and the Bretton Woods Institutions; Crisis of Keynesian Welfare State; Shift to NeoLiberalism.

Read:

- Cohen and Kennedy, Chapters 3 and 4:
 - Modernity and the Evolution of World Society
 - The Changing World of Work
- Held and McGrew, Globalization/Anti-Globalization, Chapters 6-8, 10, and 11

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK SEVEN: 19 October

Midterm Exam Due Today

Theme: What progress has been made since World War II? The Origins of the Third World Debt Crisis; IMF and Global Regulation through "Structural Adjustment" and "Conditionality." The Crisis of Global Finance: 1997-9.

Read:

- (VISTA) Gibson and Tsakalotos (1992) The International Debt Crisis. From Hewitt and others (Eds.) Industrialization and Development, Oxford University Press.
- Held & McGrew Ch. 5 "A New World Economic Order?: Global Markets and State Power"

Video: Commanding Heights Disc 1: The Battle of ideas

- Competing Ideologies and methods of governing the economy: Keynesian Reformism, Hayekian Liberalism, and Marxist-Leninist Socialism

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK EIGHT: 26 October

Theme: Free Trade, Neoliberalism, and International Trade Agreements: The Case of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Is the World 'Flat'?

Read:

- Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 7: Corporate Power and Social Responsibility
- (Vista) Hitchens, Christopher (2009) The Revenge of Karl Marx. *Atlantic Monthly*.
- (Vista) Taibbi, Matt (2005; 2009) "Flathead" and "Flat N All That."
- (Vista) McCarthy, James (2004) Privatizing Conditions of Production: Trade Agreements and Environmental Governance, *Geoforum* 35: 275-283.
- (Vista) Malkin (2009) Nafta's Promise, Unfulfilled. *New York Times*.

Video: Commanding Heights, Disc 3: The New Rules of the Game

- Neoliberalism in Action (Hayek, Milton Friedman), the decline of Keynesianism, the decline of socialism
- Internationalization of Finance Capital.
- The Financial Crisis of NAFTA, and South-East Asia

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK NINE: 2 November

Theme: *Neoliberalism, Privatization, Entrepreneurism, Climate Change, and Critics of “Environmental Kuznets Curve” Solutions*

Read:

- (Vista) Cowan, Richard (2009) US Congress Begins Drive for Climate Change Bill. *Commondreams.org*.
- (Vista) Manibot, George (2009) The Failed State of U.S. Climate Change Policy. *Commondreams.org*.
- (Vista) Friedman, Thomas (2009). Show Us the Ball. *New York Times*. 8 April. (Vista)
- (Vista) Nisbet, Matthew C. (2009). Tom Friedman: Time to Switch the Climate Change Frame. *New York Times*. 8 April.
- (Vista) Tierney, Richard (2009). Use Energy, Get Rich, and Save the Planet. *New York Times*. 21 April.

Read:

- (Vista) Boykoff, Max and Jules Boykoff (2004) Balance as Bias: Global Warming and the US Prestige Press. *Global Environmental Change*. 14: 125-136.
- (Vista) Jorgenson, Andrew (2009). The Transnational Organization of Production, the Scale of Degradation, and Ecoefficiency: A Study of Carbon Dioxide Emissions in Less-Developed Countries. *Human Ecology Review*. 16(1): 64-74.

Recommended:

- (Vista) Hamilton, Clive (2009) Nordhaus’ Carbon Tax: An Excuse to Do Nothing? 4 May.
- Friedman, Thomas (2009). Moore’s Law and the Law of More. *New York Times*. 26 April.
- (Vista) Jackson, Tim (2009) [*Prosperity Without Growth? The Transition to a Sustainable Economy*](#). UK Sustainable Development Commission.
- (Vista) York, Richard (2008). De-Carbonization in Former Soviet Republics, 1992-2000: The Ecological Consequences of De-Modernization. *Social Problems*. 55(3) 370-390.

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK TEN: 9 November

Theme: Environmental history: What does the past tell us about our present global environmental problems? Global civil society: Unity in a global problem? Understanding the contemporary environmental crisis through an understanding of long-range natural and cultural changes.

Read:

- Cohen and Kennedy Chapter 18 and Chapter 20
 - Global Civil Society
 - Towards a Sustainable Future: The Green Movement
- Chew, Sing *The Recurring Dark Ages*
 - Chapters 1, 2, and 3
 - System Crisis
 - Nature and Culture
 - Ecological Crisis and System Transformation

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WEEK ELEVEN: 16 November

Theme: Environmental history, cont.

Read:

- Chew, Sing *The Recurring Dark Ages*
 - Chapters 4, 5, and 6
 - Intensification of Natural and Social Systems Relations
 - A Period of Darkness
 - From the Past to the Future: Whither System Transformation?

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK TWELVE: 23 November

Them: A Clash of Civilizations or a Recurring Theme in Globalization? What have we Learned and How Can We Apply it to Current Global Issues?

Read:

- Cohen and Kenney Chapter 21 and Chapter 22
 - Identities and Belonging
 - Contested Futures
- Polk, William R. *Understanding Iraq*
 - First ½

Seminar Leaders: _____

WEEK THIRTEEN: 30 November

FINAL QUESTIONS HANDED OUT

RECURRING THEMES OF GLOBALIZATION, CONT.

- Polk, William R. *Understanding Iraq*, Second ½
- Held & McGrew Chapter 12 “Testing Cosmopolitan Social Democracy: The Challenge of 9/11 and Global Economic Governance”

WEEK FOURTEEN: 7 December

- Wrap-up

For Those Interested: Further Readings on Globalization:

- Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press.
- Bauman, Zygmunt. 1998. *Globalization*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Beck, Ulrich. 2000. *What is Globalization?* Translated by P. Camiller. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Broad, Robin. 2002. *Global Backlash: Citizen Initiatives for a Just World Economy*. Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Cox, Kevin. 1997. "Spaces of Globalization: Reasserting the Power of the Local." New York: The Guilford Press.
- Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2000. *Empire*. Harvard: Harvard University Press.
- Harvey, David. 2003. *The New Imperialism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kaldor, Mary. 2003. *Global Civil Society: An Answer to War*. Malden, MA: Polity.
- Lechner, Frank and John Boli. 2000. *The Globalization Reader*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.
- Roberts, J. Timmons and Nikki Demetria Thanos. 2003. *Trouble in Paradise: Globalization and Environmental Crises in Latin America*. New York: Routledge.
- Robinson, William I. 2001. "Social Theory and Globalization: The Rise of a Transnational State." *Theory and Society* 30:157-200.
- Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2002. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Yearly, S. 1996. *Sociology, Environmentalism, Globalization: Reinventing the Globe*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.