

## Boston College

### International Studies Senior Seminar

#### IN 530 (Cross Listed with SC 530)

Spring Semester 2011

© Dr. Brian J. Gareau

**LOCATION:** Haley House Conference, Room 102

Mondays 5:00-7:20

**OFFICE:** McGuinn, Room 412

**OFFICE PHONE:** (617) 552-8148

**OFFICE HOURS:** To Be Decided

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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\*\*

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is designed primarily for seniors majoring in International Studies and Sociology seniors interested in globalization issues/debates. 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 15% of your final grade.

There are two major writing assignments: First, a 6-8 pp. Midterm Paper in which I will ask you to answer some questions relating to the readings. Second, your Final Paper in International Studies, which is due at the beginning of the final class. We shall be conferring about topics and lengths of these final papers.

**FOUR REQUIRED BOOKS** (All four books are sold at the campus bookstore, and 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.
- Arrighi, G. *Adam Smith in Beijing*. 2007. Verso Press.
- Harvey, D. *The New Imperialism*. 2003. Oxford University Press.

### 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 during at least two 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/SC 530 are based on the percentages shown 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	20%
Final Paper	25%
Team-led Discussion	20%
Daily Reading Summaries	20%
In-class Participation	15%

**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.

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: Monday 23 January**

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

**WEEK TWO: Monday 30 January**

*Theme: Historical Sociology and social change. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY

*Theme: Why the West? 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) Sen, A. "How to Judge Globalism." *The American Prospect*.
- (Vista) Brenner, Robert (1987) Feudalism. *New Palgrave Marxian Economics*. London: Palgrave Macmillan

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK FOUR: MONDAY 13 February

*Theme: The Modern World System- Making sense of colonialism and inequality in the modern world. How and why did northwestern 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) Hitchens, Christopher (2009) The Revenge of Karl Marx. *Atlantic Monthly*.
- (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: MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY

*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 movements.*

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
- (VISTA) McMichael, P. Decolonization and Development. *From Development and Social Change*.
- Held & McGrew Chapters 1 and 3

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK SIX: MONDAY 27 February

### 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 Neo-liberalism.*

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: MONDAY 5 March

*Spring Break- No Class*

## WEEK EIGHT: MONDAY 12 MARCH

### 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.
  - (VISTA) McMichael, P. From National Development to Globalization. *From Development and Social Change*.
  - 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 NINE: MONDAY 19 MARCH

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

Read:

- Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 7: Corporate Power and Social Responsibility
  - (Vista) Friedman, Thomas. "It's a Flat World, After All."
  - (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*.
- Recommended:
- Gareau, 'Definition of Free Trade.'

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 TEN: 26 March

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

Read:

- (Vista) Monbiot, George (2009) The Failed State of U.S. Climate Change Policy. *Commondreams.org*.
- (Vista) Tierney, Richard (2009). Use Energy, Get Rich, and Save the Planet. *New York Times*. 21 April.
- Shnayerson, A Convenient Untruth. *Vanity Fair*.
- (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 ELEVEN: 2 April

*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
- (Vista) Mann, C. Chapter 1, “A View from Above,” and Chapter 6, “Cotton and Maize” In *1491*
- (Vista) Gareau, B.J. Definitions of “Ecological Imperialism” and “Domination of Nature”
- (Vista) Foster, Chapters 4 and 5 *The Vulnerable Planet*
- (Vista) Moore, J. Silver, Ecology, and the Origins of the Modern World Chapter 6, In Hornborg, McNeill and Martinez-Alier (eds) *Rethinking Environmental History*

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK TWELVE: 9 April

*Theme: Environmental history, cont.*

Read:

- (Vista) Chew, Sing *The Recurring Dark Ages*
  - Chapters 1, and 6
    - System Crisis
    - Nature and Culture
    - Ecological Crisis and System Transformation
- (Vista) Thompson, W.R. Climate, Water, and Political-Economic Crises in Ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. Chapter 11, In Hornborg and Crumley (eds) *The World System and the Earth System: Global Socioenvironmental Change and Sustainability Since the Neolithic*.

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK THIRTEEN: 16 April

### *Patriot's Day- No Classes*

## WEEK FOURTEEN: 23 April

*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 or Chapter 22
  - Identities and Belonging
  - or
  - Contested Futures
- Harvey, David *The New Imperialism*
  - Entire book
  - You have two weeks to take advantage of completing Harvey and starting on Arrighi. Please use this time expediently!

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

## WEEK FIFTEEN: 30 April

### • FINAL QUESTIONS HANDED OUT

*Theme: Recurring themes of Globalization, cont. Back to the beginning? China as the new capitalist epicenter?*

Read:

- Arrighi, *Adam Smith in Beijing*
  - Entire book
  - This is a long book! Prepare well in advance!

**Seminar Leaders:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Final Papers Due at time of examination noted in the schedule of exams\*\*\***

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## For Those Interested: Further Readings on Globalization: (Jomo 2007)

- 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.
- Jomo, Kwame Sundaram. 2007. "Flat World, Big Gaps: Economic Liberalization, Globalization and Inequality." Zed Books.
- 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.
- Park, Jacob, Ken Conca, and Matthias Finger. 2008. *The Crisis of Global Environmental Governance: Towards a New Political Economy of Sustainability*. London: Routledge.
- 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, Steven. 1996. *Sociology, Environmentalism, Globalization: Reinventing the Globe*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.