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Boston College
International Studies Senior Seminar

IN 530 (Cross Listed with SC 530)

Spring Semester 2011

© Dr. Brian J. Gareau

LOCATION: Carney, Room 006
Mondays 3:00-5:20

OFFICE: McGuinn, Room 412

OFFICE PHONE: (617) 552-8148

OFFICE HOURS: To Be Decided

EMAIL: gareau@bc.edu

**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 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:)

**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 others’ 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, so don’t ask to! If it’s late, just keep it for your personal notes. These write-ups will make valuable notes for your exams and potential future work on globalization issues.

**Note:** There are no unexcused absences permitted during the semester. For each absence, your participation and write-up grades will be lowered (e.g., for example, if we have 10 write-ups due this semester, with one absence you will receive a maximum score of 90% on write-ups and participation). The only "excused" absences are those presented to me in writing (a) by a health care practitioner certifying that you had a sound medical reason to be absent from class (and note that the BC Infirmary does not give out such notes) or (b) by your Dean certifying that you had a serious personal reason to be absent from class. Job interviews do not count as a legitimate absence, but rather a conscious choice you make to miss class. Don’t ask me for an exemption from this rule.
ASSESSMENT
All grades in IN/SC 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.

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.

### Table 1. Grade Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2. Student Work & Percentage of Grade Earned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team-led Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Reading Summaries</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
ORGANIZATION OF THE CLASS BY WEEK

WEEK ONE: Monday 10 September
Theme: Course overview: Syllabus, readings, assignments, and expectations. Assign seminar leaders.

WEEK TWO: Monday 17 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

Seminar Leaders: __________________________________________________________
WEEK THREE: MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

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) Sen, A. “How to Judge Globalism.” The American Prospect.

Seminar Leaders: _______________________________________________________

WEEK FOUR: MONDAY 1 October


Read:
- Cohen and Kennedy, Chapter 8, Uneven Development: The Victims
- (VISTA) Marx, K. (1867) “So-Called Primitive Accumulation.” In Capital. Selections
- Held & McGrew Ch. 4, “Global Insecurities: Military threats and Environmental Catastrophe.”

ReORIENTation?: A global shift back to Eastern Hegemony?

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

Seminar Leaders: _______________________________________________________
WEEK FIVE: MONDAY 8 OCTOBER
Columbus Day  No Classes

WEEK SIX: MONDAY 15 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 movements.

Read:

- Cohen and Kenney, Chapter 5: Nationhood and Nation-states
- (Vista) Smith, David A. Trade, Unequal Exchange, Global Commodity Chains. In Handbook of World-Systems Analysis.
- Held & McGrew Chapters 1 and 3

Seminar Leaders: _______________________________________________________.

WEEK SEVEN: MONDAY 22 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 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
- (Vista) Cohn, Samuel, O’Connorian Models of Peripheral Development, In Handbook of World-Systems Analysis.

Seminar Leaders: _______________________________________________________.

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WEEK EIGHT: MONDAY 29 October
Midterm Exam Due Today


Read:

- Held & McGrew Ch. 5 “A New World Economic Order?: Global Markets and State Power”

Seminar Leaders: ________________________________________________________

WEEK NINE: MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER
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.”

Recommended:
- Gareau, ‘Definition of Free Trade.’

- Film: Maquilopolis
  - Neoliberalism in Action (Hayek, Milton Friedman), the decline of Keynesianism, the decline of socialism
  - Internationalization of Finance Capital.
  - The Financial Crisis of NAFTA

Seminar Leaders: ________________________________________________________
WEEK TEN: 12 November

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

Read:

- Shnayerson, A Convenient Untruth. Vanity Fair.

Recommended:


Seminar Leaders: ________________________________
**WEEK ELEVEN: MONDAY 19 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
- (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*

Seminar Leaders: ________________________________________________________

**WEEK TWELVE: 26 November**

*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

Seminar Leaders: ________________________________________________________
**WEEK THIRTEEN: 3 December**

Theme: *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:
- Harvey, David *The New Imperialism*
  - Entire book
  - Read efficiently! Don’t get bogged down trying to understand every word. Use the Write-up guide to help you tackle this book.

Seminar Leaders: ________________________________

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**WEEK FOURTEEN 10 DECEMBER**

- **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***