

POLS 389

Fall 2016

SEMINAR: TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Markets and Power:

Top Down or Bottom Up Perspectives on International Political Economy

Wednesdays 1:00-3:30, BSB 1171

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Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 2-3, Wed. 3:30-4:00 and by appointment

Office: BSB 1122A

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Required Readings:

°E.P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism" in
Past and Present, No. 38, (Dec., 1967), pp. 56-97

*David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

*Timothy Mitchell, *The Rule of Experts* (University of California Press, 2002)

°Timothy Mitchell, "The work of economics: how a discipline makes its world" in
European Journal of Sociology, Vol. 46, No. 2 (2005), pp. 297-320

•*Globalization at the Crossroads* (documentary film available online)

<http://www.freetochoose.tv/program.php?id=globalization>

*James Ferguson, *Give a Man a Fish* (Duke University Press, 2015)

*Anna Tsing, *Friction* (Princeton University Press, 2005)

Availability:

°Journal articles are available through the Daley Library.

*Books are available from the UIC Bookstore and the UIC Daley Library.

•Films available electronically thorough the Blackboard course site.

Course Description:

What is it like to live in a global world? We take for granted that much of our experience (from ideology to technology) may be universal. But in fact our relationships to institutions, markets, and the environment are very different depending on where we are located in terms of both social and physical geographies, and that local specificity helps determine relations of power and knowledge for individuals, communities, and states. This course examines how international policies of governance, when applied to individual states and societies, often involve tensions between foreign institutions and forms of expertise, and local knowledge and experience. Who wins and loses in these struggles over economic development and democratic accountability? Why are some policies assumed to be "common sense" despite their problematic outcomes, while others are dismissed as "backward" or "irrational" despite their possible success?

Our readings will take us from an overview analysis of the contemporary international economic system, to in-depth case studies of how this system is applied in states that are considered to be on the periphery of the global market system. All of the authors we will read are making major theoretical contributions to contemporary arguments on global and local power relations, even as they are providing detailed empirical analyses of specific national examples.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is required; two unexcused absences will lower your grade. Students are expected to do all **assigned readings, be prepared** to discuss them in class, and to **participate** in class discussions. All responsible contributions to discussion are welcome. You are expected to behave with **academic integrity**: you can check the university policy on this at: <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/catalog/GR.shtml#qa>

-All students will be required to submit a **weekly 1-2 page critical response** to the week's reading, the day before the reading is discussed. These papers must be left in the box on my office door (BSB 1122A) by 5pm on each Tuesday before the Wednesday class: you must submit an electronic copy AND a paper copy.

-Beginning September 7 all students will be required select a week's reading assignment and to work together in **small groups of 3/4 to give a classroom presentation on that week's reading**; the group will also assist in leading class discussion that week. For that week, the group members do not need to submit a critical response paper before class, but must submit their presentation notes during/after class (everyone else must submit a critical response paper as usual). All students will be expected to give two of these presentations during the semester, depending on class size.

-**Three 5-7 page critical analysis papers** on assigned topics are also required; these papers will build on the critical response papers you have already written. Grades will be calculated on the following basis: class participation 10%; critical response papers and presentations 30%; three longer papers worth 20% each.

Extra Credit: There will be opportunities throughout the semester to receive extra credit by attending selected, recommended events, and writing and submitting a 1-2 page description of the event you attended. Events may include special lectures, museum events, film festival screenings, student organization activities, etc. If you are aware of an event which you think would qualify for extra credit, please bring it to the attention of the professor!

Students with disabilities must inform the instructor of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

Students must notify the instructor within the first ten days of the semester of the specific dates on which they are requesting an absence for religious observance.

Course Schedule:

W Aug. 24 Introduction

Global Capitalism as “Neoliberalism”: What does it mean?

W Aug. 31 °Thompson, “Time...”

W Sept. 7 •Harvey, pp. 1-86 (Introduction & Chapters 1-3: “Freedom’s Just Another Word...” “The Construction of Consent;” “The Neoliberal State”)

W Sept. 14 •Harvey, pp. 87-206 (Chapters 4-7: “Uneven Geographical Developments;” “Neoliberalism ‘with Chinese Characteristics’;” “Neoliberalism on Trial;” “Freedom’s Prospect”)

W Sept. 21 **NO CLASS/Paper Due Friday September 23**

Looking at the Evidence: Whose version? (Egypt)

W Sept. 28 •Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, Chapter 3, pp. 80-119, “The Character of Calculability;”

W Oct. 5 Mitchell, Chapter 5, pp. 153-178, “Nobody Listens to a Poor Man;”

W Oct. 12 Mitchell, Chapter 9, pp. 272-303, “Dreamland”

Evaluating the Evidence: Whose version? (Peru)

W Oct. 19 •*Globalization at the Crossroads*

<http://www.freetochoose.tv/program.php?id=globalization>

°Mitchell, “The Work of Economics”

W Oct. 26 **NO CLASS/Paper Due Monday, October 31**

Alternative Policies: Politics of Distribution (South Africa)

W Nov. 2 Ferguson, pp. 1-117

W Nov. 9 Ferguson, pp. 118-216

Alternative Perspectives: Environments of Land and People (Indonesia)

W Nov. 16 Tsing, pp. 1-120

W Nov. 23 Tsing, pp. 121-272

W Nov. 30 Course Conclusion

Final Paper Due during Finals Week