# POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GLOBAL SOCIAL CHANGE

# Sociology 281

# Winter 2011

# Thursdays, 12:10 to 3:00.

# Sociology Conference Room.

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# This course serves as an introduction to the Political Economy and Global Social Change research cluster in the department of sociology at the University of California, Riverside. As such, the course surveys the field of political economy, beginning with the classic theorists in order to trace how they led to the development of sociology as a scientific discipline and how their ideas guide the evolution of political economy in general. Emphasis will be giving to comparing the classic perspectives on the historical evolution of the economy, society and the relation between them. Subsequently, we explore readings in various substantive areas that are relevant to today’s global economy and the social change that led to it over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries. We begin the second phase of the course with surveys of classic readings on the world-systems perspective, the developmental state, and labor and labor movements. Subsequently, we focus on the latter part of the 20th century “globalization” period to understand the relationship between globalization and gender, production networks and economic development, and close with a discussion of institutions as both the hand-maiden and stop-gap to global transformation.

In addition to consuming the knowledge presented over the course of the seminar, you should become familiar with the relevant questions being asked in today’s intellectual climate in order to develop your own research agenda. As such, a major component of the course is the development and/or continuation of an empirical research project in the field of political economy and global social change, as described below.

# SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

# Seminar participants are required to read and reflect upon all of the weekly readings that are not listed as “suggested.” Suggested readings will supplement the required readings, and should provide further reading to those who are interested in a week’s particular topic. However, seminar participants will not be required to demonstrate knowledge of suggested readings for the purpose of evaluation.

# Seminar participants will be evaluated on the basis of in-class participation, weekly reaction papers and a final project.

**IN CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Seminar participants are required to participate in 2 – 3 formal presentations over the course of the quarter. These presentations will consist of summarizing readings for that week, facilitating critical discussion of the material, and providing an outline of the presentation to all seminar participants **no later than the Tuesday before class, at noon**. Moreover, seminar participants are required to complete the weekly readings and come prepared with questions and comments to contribute to classroom discussion. I will keep track of participation outside of the formal presentations, and together they will account for 30 percent of the final grade.

**WEEKLY REACTION PAPERS**

Seminar participants are required to complete weekly reaction papers to the readings covered during the week. These papers will respond to questions I hand out the previous week, and are not to exceed two pages, double-spaced, with 12-point font, due at the beginning of class. While I strongly encourage seminar participants to answer each week’s questions, I will use the best four grades as the basis for assigning points for this category. Weekly reaction papers are worth 30 percent of the final grade.

**FINAL PROJECT**

There are two options for fulfilling the final project requirement, which is worth 40 percent of the final grade.

1. Seminar participants may write a research proposal on an empirical topic related to the subject matter at hand. Research proposals must have the following elements: they must be related to the course material, they must include a sufficient review of the relevant literature that leads to explicit empirical questions, they must include a discussion of data collection and methods of analysis that are appropriate to the empirical questions, and they must conclude with a timeline for completion and a discussion of the expected results.
2. Advanced seminar participants may work on ongoing research in consultation with me. These projects must have a clear relationship to course topics, must have a clear empirical component that includes both data and methods, and must be approved prior to the sixth week of class.

Both options for fulfilling the final project will culminate in a 15-minute *in class* power-point presentation during finals week.

# The readings that follow are available in the bookstore, on reserve at the library and, in the case of journal articles, online. I will distribute a few of the readings in class the week before they are assigned. Readings are subject to change with a reasonable amount of notice.

# Week 1-2: Classic Political Economy and It’s Critique.

*Week 1 (you need to read this before the first day of class)* **[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Adam Smith. [1776] 2003. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Bantam Classics. pp 9-32, 122-148, 163-187, 481-487 568-593 (suggested, 614-659) **(104)**

*Week 2: Reaction paper due January 13th.*

David Ricardo. [1817] 2004. *The Principals of Political Economy and Taxation*. New York: Dover. pp. 5-18 (18-32 suggested), 48-51, 77-93, 175-181, 192-199, 201-214, **(58)**

Karl Marx (Robert Tucker Ed). 1978. The Marx and Engels Reader. London: Norton. pp. 344-364, 376-390,403-407 417-438, 450-465 **(74)**

# Week 3: Classic Sociological Political Economy after Marx, Reaction papers due on Jan 20[[2]](#footnote-2)

Weber, Max. [1904-1905] 2002. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.* Roxbury: Los Angeles. Chapter 1-2; First section of Chapter 4 before “Calvinism,” and Chapter 5. **(61)**

Block, Fred. 2003. “Karl Polanyi and the Writing of *The Great Transformation*.” *Theory and Society* 32(3): 275-306

Polanyi, Karl. [1944] 2001. *The Great Transformation*. Beacon Press. pp 116-217 (Chapter 10-17), Fred Block’s introduction is highly recommended. **(101)**.

# Week 4: The World-Systems Perspective, reaction papers for Week 4 due on January 27[[3]](#footnote-3)

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. “The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16:387-415. **(28)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_. 1974. “Dependence in an Interdependent World: The Limited Possibilities for Transformation in the Capitalist World Economy.” *African Studies Review* 17(1): 1-26. **(25)**

Peter Evans. 1979. “Beyond Core and Periphery: A Comment on the World System Approach to the Study of Development.” *Sociological Inquiry* 49(4)15-20. **(5)**

# Christopher Chase-Dunn and Richard Rubinson. 1977. “Toward a Structural Perspective on the World-System.” *Politics and Society* 7(4): 453-476. (23)

O’hearn, Denis. 1994**.** “Innovation and the world-system hierarchy: British subjugation of the Irish cotton industry, 1780-1830.” *American Journal of Sociology* 100(3): 587-621. **(34)**

# Week 5 The State, Reaction papers due Feb 3[[4]](#footnote-4)

Evans, Peter. 1985. “Transnational Linkags and the Economic Role of the State: An Analysis of Developing and Industrialized Nations in the Post-World War II Period.” Pp 192-226 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **(34)**

Wade, Robert. 1990. “States, Markets and Industrial Policy.” Pp 8-33 in *Governing the Market*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. **(25)**

O’Riain, Sean. 2003. “States and Markets in an Era of Globalization.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 26:187-213 **(26)**

Fred Block, “Swimming Against the Current: The Rise of a Hidden Developmental

State in the United States” *Politics & Society* 2008 36: 169-206 **(37)**

# Week 6, November 18th: Labor and Labor Movements, reaction papers due on Feb 10.[[5]](#footnote-5)

Kay, Tamara. 2005. “Labor Transnationalism and Global Governance: The Impact of NAFTA on Transnational Labor Relationships in North America.” *American Journal of Sociology* 111(3): 715-56.

Silver, Beverly. 2003. *Forces of Labor: Workers Movements and Globalization since 1870*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Week 7 Globalization and Gender, Reaction papers due Feb 17th**

Parrenas, Rhacel Salazar. 2001. *Servants of Globalization*. Stanford: Stanford U Press

**Week 8 Globalization, Production Networks and Economic Development: Reaction papers due on Feb 24** [[6]](#footnote-6)

Robinson, William I. 2002. “Remapping Development in Light of Globalisation: From a Territorial to a Social Cartography.” *Third World Quarterly* 23(6): 1047-1071 **(24)**

Gereffi, Gary and Miguel Korzeniweicz. 1994. *Commodity Chains and Global Capitalism*. Westport: Praeger Press. Pp 1-14, 93-123. **(43)**

Mahutga, Matthew C. 2011. “When Do Value Chains Go Global? A Theory of the Spatialization of Global Value Chains.” *Global Networks*: In Press. (25)

Jennifer Bair and Gary Gereffi. 2001. “Local Clusters in Global Chains: The Causes and Consequences of Export Dynamism in Torreon’s Blue Jeans Industry.” *World Development* 29(11): 1885-1903. (18)

Schrank, Andrew. 2004. “Ready-to-Wear Development? Foreign Investment, Technology Transfer, and Learning by Watching in the Apparel Trade” *Social Forces* 83(1): 123-156. (23)

**Week 9 Globalization and Economic Organization: Convergence or Persistent Diversity? Reaction Papers due March 3rd.**

Whitley, Richard. 1996. “Business Systems and Global Commodity Chains: Competing or Compliementary Forms of Economic Organization? *Competition and Change* 1: 411-25.

Gereffi, Gary 1996. “Global Commodity Chains: New Forms of Coordination and Control Among Nations and Firms in International Industries.” *Competition and Change* 1(1): 427-439.

Boyer, Robert, 1996: “The Convergence Hypothesis Revisited: Globalization but Still the

Century of Nations?” Pp 29-59 in Suzanne Berger and Ronald Dore (eds.), *National Diversity and Global Capitalism.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press

Kenworthy, Lane. 1997. “Globalization and Economic Convergence.” *Competition and Change* 2: 1-64

Herrigel, Gary, and Volker Wittke, 2005: “Varieties of Vertical Disintegration: The Global Trend toward Heterogeneous Supply Relations and the Reproduction of Difference in US and German Manufacturing” Pp 277-311 in Glenn Morgan, Richard Whitley, and Eli Moen (eds.), *Changing Capitalisms? Internationalization, Institutional Change, and Systems of* *Economic Organization.* Oxford: Oxford University Press

**Week 10 Perspectives on Institutional Processes: Development and Global Social Change: Reaction papers doe March 10 [[7]](#footnote-7)**

Evans, Peter. 2005. ‘The Challenges of the ‘Institutional Turn’: New Interdisciplinary

Opportunities in Development Theory’, in Victor Nee and Richard Sweberg (eds),

*The Economic Sociology of Capitalist Institutions.* Princeton: Princeton University

Press, pp. 90-116

Evans, Peter. 2004. “Development as Institutional Change: The Pitfalls of Monocropping and the Potentials of Deliberation.” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 38(4): 30-52.

Meyer, John W., John Boli, George Thomas and Francisco O Ramirez. 1997. “World Society and the Nation-State.” *American Journal of Sociology* 103(1): 144-81.

Beckfield, Jason. 2010. “The Social Structure of the World-Polity” *American Journal of Sociology.* 115(4): 1018-68

Wade, Robert. 2003. “What Strategies are viable for developing countries today? The World Trade Organization and the Shrinking of Development Space.” *Review of International Political Economy* 10(4): 621-644

**Week 11 final project due in class on March 17th.**

1. Suggested reading: Arrighi, Giovani. 2008. “The Historical Sociology of Adam Smith,” Chp 2 in *Adam Smith and Beijing*. London: Verso [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Suggested reading: Wright, Erik Olin. 2002. “The Shadow of Exploitation in Weber’s Class Analysis.” *American Sociological Review* 67(6): 832-53.

Polanyi, Karl. 1957. “The economy as instituted process” Pp. 239-270 in *Trade and Market in the Early Empires: Economies in History and Theory*.

Margaret R. Somers and Fred Block. 2005. “From Poverty to Perversity: Ideas, Markets, and Institutions over 200 Years of Welfare Debate.” *American Sociological Review* 70(2): 260-287. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Suggested reading: Chase-Dunn, Christopher. 1998. Global Formation: Structures of the World-Economy. Cambridge: Rowman and Littlefield. Revised Edition Pp 13-47; 201-255 (88). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Suggested reading: Evans, Peter. 1995. Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation. Princeton: Princeton Press

Evans, Peter. 1979. Dependent Development. Princeton: Princeton Press [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Suggested reading: Moghadam, Valentine M. 200b. “Gender and Globalization: Female Labor and Women’s Mobilization,” pp 241-268 in Christopher Chase-Dunn and Salvatore Babones (Eds) Global Social Change. Baltimore: John’s Hopkins Press.

Western, Bruce. 1997. Between Class and Market: Postwar Unionization in the Capitalist Democracies. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Alderson, Arthur S. 1999. “Explaining Deindustrialization: Globalization, Failure or Success?” American Sociological Review 64(5): 701-21.

Bonacich, Edna and Jake Wilson. 2007. Getting the Goods: Ports, Labor, and the Logistics Revolution. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Wood, Adrian 1994. North-South Trade, Employment and Inequality: Changing Fortunes in a Skill-Driven World. New York: Oxford University Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Suggested Reading: Dicken, Peter. 2007. *Global Shift*. New York: Guilford, especially chapters 2, 7, 9-10, 14-19.

Gereffi, Gary. 1989. "Rethinking Development Theory: Insights from East Asia and Latin America." *Sociological Forum* 4(4): 505-533

Frobel, Folker, Jurgen Heinrichs and Otto Kreye. 1980. *The New International Division of Labour*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1-48, 365-391, 403-406

Bair, Jennifer. 2005. “Global Capitalism and Commodity Chains: Looking Back, Going Forward.” *Competition and Change* 9(2): 153-180. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Evan Schofer and John Meyer. 2005.  “The World-Wide Expansion of Higher Education in the Twentieth Century.”  *American Sociological Review* 70:898-920.

Beckfield, Jason. 2008. “The Dual World Polity: Fragmentation and Integration in the Network of Intergovernmental Organizations.” *Social Problems* 55(3): 419–442.

Meyer, John. 2007 “Globalization: Theory and Trends.” *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 48(4): 261-273.

Boli, John and George Thomas. 1997. “World Culture in the World Polity : A Century of International Non-Governmental Organization.” *American Sociological Review* 62(2): 171-90. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)