



**Institute of Political Economy
Doctoral Seminar (Winter 2015)
PECO 6000
11:35 - 2:25 Wednesdays
Room DT 1524**

Instructors:

Susan Braedley, Social Work

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Introduction:

This seminar, the core course for the Collaborative PhD Program with a Specialization in Political Economy, is designed to promote advanced and critical thinking on the political economy tradition and its future. A primary goal is to encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary reading, thinking and discussion regarding political economy approaches and core concepts. The course is also designed to help guide students regarding the range of theoretical alternatives that may be of use in developing their own doctoral research.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

This course is designed to allow you to:

- develop an enjoyment and appreciation for critical political economy frameworks and theories
- engage with epistemological debates in order to explore knowing and knowledge creation as contested processes
- make connections between critical political economy approaches and topics from a variety of disciplinary and inter-disciplinary perspectives
- think through the role of the critical political economist in analysis and politics

- develop an understanding of the history and contemporary trajectories of political economy, in order to consider the future of political economy research and analysis
- enhance your skills in theorization, dialogue and critique
- learn about and apply political economy theories and analytic tools that can support you in understanding, evaluating and developing your research and that of others.
- enhance your critical reading, writing, research and speaking skills, while also developing your collaboration, facilitation and other group skills.

Learning Outcomes

You will be expected to:

- Develop and practice skills in critical reading, writing, research and thinking
- Draft, present and write a research paper
- Learn about and refine academic facilitation and presentation skills
- Expand your knowledge of epistemologies, theories and approaches as they apply to political economy research

Participation

This course is conducted as a seminar. You will come to class with copies of and notes on the week's readings and be prepared to contribute to class discussions. Students and faculty will take turns leading the class discussion by summarizing the main themes of the readings and bringing forward discussion questions. The class will include visits from other faculty or guests whose experience and knowledge will support our learning together.

Students must attend classes, be in class on time and stay for the duration of the class. At the doctoral level, a high degree of professionalism and collegiality is expected.

Use of computer technologies (laptops, netbooks, smart phones) in the classroom is encouraged if it augments academic learning. Receipt and response to text and voice electronic communication in the classroom should be restricted to family and work emergencies and not used for social purposes. The production of recordings of classroom interactions is expressly prohibited unless authorized and approved by the instructor and by all class participants. The use of such recordings is subject to guidelines for ethical professional use.

Unauthorized web posting of such recordings constitutes a serious violation of members' privacy and confidentiality rights. Unless given permission by the Department or the instructors, students are not authorized to speak on behalf of the department. Moreover, students should not give the

impression that they can speak on behalf of the department. Students must not share information that is explicitly confidential about the department or confidential information about their professors or other students.

Course Readings:

Students are expected to read their email regularly and check CuLearn, as change and additions in the readings and the schedule will be announced weekly.

Evaluation:

1. **Class participation** will also represent a major element of evaluation. This is an advanced seminar class in which regular, active and critical participation is expected from every member of the class. All students should show that they have done the readings and have reflected upon them. Students are expected to be respectful of other seminar participants.
2. Presentation of a selection from the readings, to be negotiated with the class. These presentations are limited to 10 minutes. Each presentation should address the main argument, points of insight and contentious issues in the assigned reading. A brief paper addressing these points, no longer than 3 pages, must be submitted to both faculty instructors one week in advance.
3. Oral presentation of the work of one of your colleagues, including constructive and supportive commentary that focuses on points for discussion. Your colleague will provide you with their work in writing no later than one week prior to the presentation.
4. Oral response to the presentation of your work by a colleague. This is your opportunity to present aspects of your thinking and work that your colleague may have missed, as well as the chance to address the points of discussion.
5. A review paper. Participants may satisfy the written element of the course requirements in a variety of ways:
 - a) A review paper based on the impact of Political Economy on their discipline;
 - b) A review paper based on the impact of their discipline on Political Economy;
 - c) A review paper based on their thesis proposal;
 - d) A research paper based on their thesis research;
 - e) Another topic negotiated with the course instructors.

Papers will normally be about 7000 words in length (double-spaced, in 12 point) and demonstrate a command of the literature and original thinking in the domain of political economy. **A proposal for your paper, which will be no more than 4 pages, double-spaced, is due Feb. 3.** This will allow for feedback from the instructors and will be graded as part of the total review paper. Final papers will be due to both instructors by April 7th.

Evaluation Component	Grade Weight	Due Dates
Class Participation	20%	

Presentation of Readings	10%	As Assigned
Paper on Readings	10%	As Assigned
Presentation of colleague's work	10%	As Assigned
Proposal and Review Paper	50%	Proposal: Feb. 11th Final Paper: April 8th

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1 - January 7

Introduction and Intellectual Autobiographies

Students and faculty will come to class each prepared to do a 10 minute presentation of their intellectual autobiography. In this informal presentation, you should discuss what formative experiences led you to come to study what you do, what influences your thinking, why you selected the topic for your planned dissertation, etc. The instructors will also participate! Laura MacDonald, Director of the Institute, will join this session.

Administrative tasks will include a review of this syllabus and shared decision-making regarding assignment dates.

Week 2 - January 14 - Questioning Canadian Political Economy

Required Reading:

Mel Watkins. 2007. "Staples Redux" *Studies in Political Economy* 79.

Paul Kellogg. 2005. "Kari Levitt and the Long Detour of Canadian Political Economy" *Studies in Political Economy* 76.

Frances Abele and Daiva Stasilius. "Canada as a 'White Settler Colony': What about Natives and Immigrants?" in Wallace Clement & Glen Williams, *The New Canadian Political Economy* (McGill-Queen's, 1989).

Meg Luxton. (2006). Feminist political economy in Canada and the politics of social reproduction. *Social Reproduction: Feminist Political Economy Challenges Neo-liberalism*: 11-44.

Week 3 - January 21 - Classics of Political Economy

Guest Participant: Justin Paulson, Sociology/Anthropology

Required Reading:

Heilbroner 55-157 (emphasis on Smith; skim pp. 106-157 for flavour)

Marx, chapters 1, 4, 7, and 10 of *Capital* (excerpts from the Tucker compilation are fine (302-336, 344-376)

Recommended Reading:

Therborn, chapter 2 of *Science, Class, and Society*, "The Economy and the Economics of Capitalism"

Arrighi, chapter 2 of *Adam Smith in Beijing*, "The Historical Sociology of Adam Smith"

Week 4 - January 28 - Social Reproduction (with a focus on food)

Required Reading:

Please listen to Antonella Picchio's on-line lecture (1hr 20 min):

<http://journals.kent.ac.uk/index.php/feministsatlaw/article/view/47/125>

Strauss, K. (2013), Unfree Again: Social Reproduction, Flexible Labour Markets and the Resurgence of Gang Labour in the UK. *Antipode*, 45: 180–197. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.00997.x

McMichael, P. (2009). " Food sovereignty, social reproduction and the agrarian question." Iny A. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Cristóbal Kay (eds) Peasants and globalization: political economy, rural transformation and the agrarian question chapter 12, pp 288-.

Recommended Reading:

Spike Petersen. (2002) Rewriting (Global) Political Economy as Reproductive, Productive and Virtual (Foucauldian) Economies *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 4(1): 1-30.

Antonella Picchio. (1992) Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Social Reproduction: the political economy of the labour market* Cambridge University Press. 1-29

Glenn, E. N. (1992). "From servitude to service work: Historical continuities in the racial division of paid reproductive labor." *Signs* 18(1): 1-43.

Week 5 - Feb 4 - - The Political Economy of Sex and Sexuality

Guest Participant: Dan Irving

Required Reading:

Gayle Rubin. (1975). "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex" In Rayna R. Reiter (ed.), *Toward an Anthropology of Women*. Monthly Review Press. 157-210. <http://philpapers.org/rec/RUBTTI>

Irving, Dan (2008) Normalizing Transgressions: Legitimizing the Transsexual Body as Productive, *Radical History Review* 100 (Winter 2008)pp. 32-59

Pope, Cynthia (2005). The Political Economy of Desire: Geographies of Female Sex Work in Havana, Cuba. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 6(2), 99-118.

Recommended Reading:

Gayle Rubin. (2011). 'Thinking sex: notes for a radical theory of the politics of sexuality' and 'Blood Under the Bridge: Reflections on 'Thinking Sex','' Chapters 5 and 8 of *Deviations: A Gayle Rubin Reader*. Duke University Press: Durham & London [pp 137-181 & pp 194-223].

Week 6 - Feb. 11 - Political Economy of Class

This class will be reorganized or rescheduled to include Meg Luxton

Proposal for final paper is due today

Required Reading:

Rob Nixon. (2011). *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, Mass.:Harvard University Press, "Preface" "Introduction" pp. ix-xiii, 1-44.

Phillips, Leigh "The Political Economy of Ebola" *Jacobin Magazine* 2014
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/08/the-political-economy-of-ebola/>

Robb, James " The Naked Class Politics of Ebola" *Climate and Capitalism* Nov.9, 2014
http://climateandcapitalism.com/2014/11/09/naked-class-politics-ebola/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+climateandcapitalism%2FpEtD+%28Climate+and+Capitalism%29

Feb 18th — WINTER BREAK

Week 7 - Feb. 25 Political Economy of the Global South/Development

Guest Participant: TBA

Required Reading:

Colin Leys. (1996). "The Rise and Fall of Development Theory," in *The Rise and Fall of Development Theory*, Nairobi: EAEP and Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 3-44.

Recommended Reading:

Fernando Ignacio Leiva, *Latin American Neostructuralism: The Contradictions of Post-Neoliberal Development*, University of Minnesota Press, 2008, pp. 1-41.

Week 8 - Mar 4 -- International Political Economy and the Economic Crisis
Guest Participant: Randall Germain

Required Reading:

Robert Cox, 'Civil Society at the Turn of the Millennium: prospects for an alternative world order,' Review of International Studies, Vol. 25, no. 1 (1999): 3-28.

Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States, and World Orders," in Robert Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and its Critics*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1986, pp. 204-

Randall Germain 'Robert W. Cox and the Idea of History: political economy as philosophy' (in press)

Recommended Reading:

Benjamin J. Cohen, "The Transatlantic Divide: Why are American and British IPE so Different?" *Review of International Political Economy*, 14:2 2007: 197-219.

Penny Griffin, "Refashioning IPE: What and how gender analysis teaches international (global) political economy," *Review of International Political Economy*, 14:4 2007 719-736.

Mar 5 - 16th Annual Institute of Political Economy Graduate Student Conference:
"Transcending Academic Boundaries: Political Economy Across the Disciplines"

* Note: You are expected to attend at least part of the conference

Week 9 - March 11 - Political Economy of Social Movements
Guest Participant: TBD

Required Reading:

Peter Dauvergne & Genevieve LeBaron. (2014). *Protest Inc.: The Corporatization of Activism (Polity)*, chapters 1 and 2, pp.1-54

Joshua Bloom and Waldo E. Martin Jr. (2014) *Black Against Empire: The History and Politics of the Black Panther Party*. University of California Press Introduction and Chapter 2

Week 10 - Mar 18 - - 'Canadian' Political Economy Redux

Required Reading:

Glen Coulthard. (2014). *Red Skin, White Masks* (University of Minnesota), excerpts.

Nandita Sharma & Cynthia Wright. “Decolonizing Resistance, Challenging Colonial States” (2008/2009) 35:3 Social Justice 120. <http://nanditasharma.net/writings/sharma-decolonizing-resistance.pdf> (in Response to: Bonita Lawrence & Enakshi Dua. “Decolonizing Antiracism” (2005) 32:4 Social Justice 120.)

Recommended Reading:

Greg Albo and Jane Jenson. (1989). A contested concept: the relative autonomy of the state, in Clement and Williams The New Canadian Political Economy.

Todd Gordon. (2006). “Canada, Empire and Indigenous People in the Americas” (2006) Socialist Studies 47. <http://www.socialiststudies.com/index.php/sss/article/viewArticle/36>

Student Presentations on Each Other’s Work and Responses

Mar 20 — ‘More than Getting By’

* Note: You are expected to attend at least part of the mini-conference, if not the entire day

Week 11 - Mar 25 - Student Presentations Continued

Week 12 - Apr 1 - Student Presentations Continued