

PSCI 2602B  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY  
Tuesday 2:35 – 4:25 pm  
**Blended format (part synchronous, part asynchronous)**

Instructor: Laura Macdonald  
Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Big Blue Button  
[or by appointment]  
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### **Course description, objectives and learning outcomes:**

This course provides an introduction to the study of global political economy (GPE - also known as international political economy [IPE]). The course will help students make sense of some of the tumultuous changes occurring in the world at the current moment, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these problems are a result of the ways in which politics and economics intersect in a dynamic but often messy fashion. In the first part of the course, we will learn about: what GPE is; how the field has evolved over time, and some of the dominant theoretical approaches to understanding the global political economy. In the second half we will delve into some of the key issues addressed in the field including the globalization of production, international finance, labour in the global economy, international trade, development, the global environment, and others.

Students who successfully complete this course should achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the global political economy;
2. Critically evaluate leading theoretical approaches to the study of the GPE;
3. Identify the main features of the global political economy and how they have changed over time;
4. Assess the significance of selected issues in the global political economy.

### **Organization of the Course**

This course will use a mixture of synchronous (on-line discussion on Zoom during the assigned class time on Tuesdays) with a-synchronous (on-line but you will access the content on your own schedule). The course is organized around a combination of weekly lectures, videos and tutorials, as well as a discussion forum for participation by those unable to participate in the synchronous TA sessions. The tutorials provide you with an opportunity to discuss the lectures and reading assignments.

Online attendance in both lectures and tutorial groups is crucial for students to succeed in the course. **It is essential to do the required readings before the lectures and tutorials.** I also advise you to follow international news, especially related to the global economy. While you may find information about these issues from a range of on-line sources, you should make sure you exercise caution with regard to these sources, to ensure that they are credible.

Most weeks we will have a synchronous class on Tuesday between 2:30 and around 4:00 pm. The class will include an online lecture with a powerpoint delivered through Zoom. There will be a Zoom link at the top of the CuLearn page for this course. I will also upload the slides to CuLearn before class. Occasionally I will be uploading videos instead of a synchronous class.

### *Class Etiquette*

As this is an online class the etiquette for participation is slightly different. At the beginning of the lecture I will mute the microphones for all students. If you have a question you can type it out in the shared chat or you can set your status icon to 'raised hand'. (You can change your status by clicking on your name in the participants box.) Once I see your raised hand icon I will make sure you are unmuted so you can ask your question over the microphone. Please keep in mind that it may take some time until I see your question. I will leave time for questions and discussion at the end of the lecture.

### **Evaluation:**

Participation and attendance in tutorials:	15%
First assignment - précis of class reading:	10% (due February 9)
Research essay proposal:	10% (due March 2)
Final research essay:	35% (due April 6)
Take-home exam:	30% (to be held during formal exam period, during a 7 day period set by examination services)

**All assignments will be submitted and graded on CuLearn: they will be due at 11:59 pm on the due date. Your assignments should be submitted in Word. Here is a link to a site where you can download the Microsoft Office suite:**

**<https://carleton.ca/its/ms-offer-students/>**

### **Texts:**

There is one **required** text for this course, which will be available through the Carleton University bookstore (see their website - <https://www.bkstr.com/carletonstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> - for details about how to order on-line):

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams, *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Houndmills, Basingstoke and Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

I strongly urge you to purchase the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of this text as it is substantially revised from the previous edition.

## **Term work:**

### **1) Participation and Attendance:**

The tutorial sessions provide students with the opportunity to raise questions and to discuss with their peers and the T.A. the topics raised in the lecture and the readings. The tutorial groups will take place on Zoom (link to be provided on CULearn site). You should always attend your T.A. group prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that week. You will be evaluated based on your regular participation and willingness to engage in discussions, based on informed and respectful comments, **related to the readings**. Also note that raising good questions is important as making comments. Attendance will be recorded but counts for only 1/3 of your participation grade (i.e. 5% of the 15%). Marks will be deducted if you consistently arrive late or leave early.

As an alternative or supplement to weekly TA group attendance, there will also be an on-line discussion forum. Between week 2 and week 11, the professor will post a weekly question related to the course material. Your posts will be visible to your peers in the course, with the expectation that posts will be tactful, academically oriented and constructive. These posts are due on CuLearn by the Monday of the week following the week in which the question appears (Exception: replies to the question posted the week before the winter break will be due by the following Wednesday).

### **2) Précis assignment (due February 11 at 11:59 pm, worth 10%)**

Each annotation should begin with relevant bibliographic details (author, title, source, publisher, year of publication). The length should be from 250 to 300 words. It should not be in point form and do not use sub-titles. Use paragraphs. It should include the following information:

- Topic of the reading - why is this an interesting and important issue
- Key question or central argument
- Key supporting claims of the author
- Your identification of a strength and/or weakness of the reading

You will write a précis of one of the following readings from weeks 1 to 5 of class.

- Richard Higgott, "Economics, Politics and (International) Political Economy: the need for a balanced diet in an era of globalisation," *New Political Economy*, 4 (1), 1999: 23-36.
- Eric Helleiner, "Economic Liberalism and Its Critics: The past as Prologue?" *Review of International Political Economy*, 10: 4, 685-696.
- Robert W. Cox, "Social forces, states and world orders: beyond international relations theory," *Millennium*, 10:2, 1981.
- Cristina Rojas, "Contesting the colonial logics of the international: Toward a relational politics for the pluriverse," *International Political Sociology* 10, 2016, 369-382

- Susan Strange, "The persistent myth of lost hegemony," *International Organization*, 41:4, 1987, 551-574.

You will be graded on the precision and comprehensiveness of your summary, the insight you show in the discussion of the strength or weakness of the article, and the clarity of your writing.

### 3) Research essay proposal (due March 2 - worth 10%)

You will write a proposal (around 3-4 pages double spaced) on the topic of your final essay. A list of topics/questions for the paper will be posted to CuLearn at the beginning of the term.

The proposal should contain:

- a research question;
- short statement on why this is an interesting and important topic;
- a tentative hypothesis or argument;
- statement on your theoretical approach;
- annotated bibliography - with a paragraph for each source which summarizes the content of the article and indicates how it will be useful for your final paper. You must include a minimum of 4 academic sources.

### 4) Research essay (due April 6 - worth 35%)

You will write a research paper (7-9 pages or 2000 to 2500 words) on a topic related to the course. The assignment will be graded based on the quality of your writing, research and analysis, the organization of the paper, the depth of research on the topic, and the coherence and originality of your argument. The essay should be posted to CuLearn by 11:55 pm on **April 6<sup>th</sup>**.

### 5) Take home exam (Due during formal exam period - worth 30%)

The take home exam will consist of two essay questions. It is designed to evaluate your knowledge of all of the course material. The total length of your exam (with your answers to both questions) should be no more than 10 pages double spaced, Times New Roman. Marks will be deducted if you go over this length. Support your answers with **information** and **analysis** drawn from the course materials.

### Contact Policy

Email is the best way to get in touch with the professor or TA. Students should remember the following things when emailing:

**ALWAYS** use your Carleton email account! Non-Carleton messages don't always get through

**INCLUDE** the subject line "PSCI 2602"

**ADDRESS** emails to the professor or TA (i.e. Dear Dr. Macdonald)

**SIGN OFF** with your first and last name and student number.

Email should be used for brief questions that can be answered quickly. If students want to discuss course material, assignments, or another matter in greater detail, they should see the professor during office hours or make an appointment.

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## Course Schedule

### **Week 1 - January 12 - Course Details and Introduction: What is Global Political Economy?**

- What distinguishes GPE from International Relations, Comparative Political Economy and from International Economics?
- Why is it important to know about GPE?
- What are some of the key debates and issues that currently shape the field?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 2

Richard Higgott, "Economics, Politics and (International) Political Economy: the need for a balanced diet in an era of globalisation," *New Political Economy*, 4 (1), 1999: 23-36.

### **No Tutorial Discussion this week**

### **Week 2: January 19 - Historical Development of the Global Political Economy**

#### **Tutorials start this week**

O'Brien and Williams, Chapters 2 and 3

- How have the relationships between states and markets shifted over time?
- What role did imperialism and colonial conquest play in shaping the contemporary GPE (and domestic political economies)?
- What role have hegemons (especially the UK and US) played in establishing the rules that govern the GPE and what types of resistance did they face?

### **Week 3: January 26 - Theories of GPE I: Economic Nationalism vs. Liberalism**

- What are the basic assumptions of economic nationalist and liberal theorists?
- What are their historical origins?
- What are their differences and similarities?
- What are their limitations and how relevant are they today?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 1, pp. 5-22.

Eric Helleiner, "Economic liberalism and Its critics: The past as prologue? *Review of International Political Economy*, 10: 4, 685-696.

## **Week 4: February 2 - Theories of GPE II: Critical approaches**

- How do critical approaches to GPE differ from the “mainstream” approaches?
- What are their theoretical and historical roots?
- How relevant are these critical approaches today?

Robert W. Cox, “Social forces, states and world orders: beyond international relations theory,” *Millennium*, 10:2, 1981.

Cristina Rojas, “Contesting the colonial logics of the international: Toward a relational politics for the pluriverse,” *International Political Sociology* 10, 2016, 369–382

## **Week 5 - February 9 - Globalization Debate**

### **First assignment due today – précis of course article**

- What is globalization?
- What are the implications of globalization for the roles of states and markets?
- What role has civil society played in responding to globalization?
- What are the implications of the rise of China for the GPE?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 5

Susan Strange, “The persistent myth of lost hegemony,” *International Organization*, 41:4, 1987, 551-574.

### **First assignment due February 11 – précis of course article**

### **WINTER BREAK February 15-19**

## **Week 6: February 23 - Global Trade**

What are the most significant developments in global trade since 1945?

What are the arguments in favour of and against free trade?

What options are available to Canada in the context of challenges to free trade policies?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 6

## **Week 7: March 2 - The Rise of Transnational Production and Transnational Corporations**

### **Research paper outline due this week**

How has global production changed in the last century?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 7

Gary Gereffi, John Humphrey, and Timothy Sturgeon. "The governance of global value chains," *Review of International Political Economy*, 12:1, 2005, 78-104.

### **Week 8: March 9 - Global Finance**

Are the world's monetary and financial systems really global (and multilateral)? Or are they still overwhelmingly reliant on the U.S. and the exercise of American power?  
What are the sources of regular global financial crises?

Mark Blyth on Austerity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go2bVGi0ReE&frags=pl%2Cwn>

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 8

Paola Sabucchi, "Who is in control of the International Monetary System?" *International Affairs*, 8:3, 2010, 665-80.

### **Week 9: March 16 - Gender and the GPE**

What can students of GPE learn from a feminist approach? What does a gendered analysis tell us about the global political economy?  
How does feminist IPE/GPE differ from or draw upon various other GPE theoretical traditions?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 10

Penny Griffin, "Refashioning IPE: What and How Gender Analysis Teaches International (Global) Political Economy," *Review of International Political Economy* 14:4, 719-736, 2007.

### **Week 10: March 23 - Global Division of Labour**

How has the global division of labour changed over time?  
What resources do workers have at their disposal to improve their share of the profits generated by corporations?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 9

Nichola Phillips, "Labour in global production: reflections on Coxian insights in a world of Global Value Chains?" *Globalizations*, 13:5, 2016, 594-607.

### **Week 11: March 30 - Economic Development**

How do we measure development?  
What are the sources of inequality between Global North and Global South?  
What approaches have been proposed to promote development?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 11

Amartya Sen. "Introduction," *Development as Freedom*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 3-11, 1999.

## **Week 12: April 6 - Global Environmental Change**

### **Final research paper due today**

What are the origins of global environmental problems?

What role can be played by the following actors in addressing those environmental problems: states, markets, international organizations, civil societies, individuals?

O'Brien and Williams, Chapter 12

Maria Ivanova, "Good COP, Bad COP: Climate reality after Paris," *Global Policy*, 7: 3, 2016, 411-419.

## **Week 13: April 13 - Governing the Global Economy and Review**

How has global economic governance evolved in theory and practice?

What are some possible scenarios for future global economic governance?

What does the COVID-19 pandemic tell us about governance of the global economy?

O'Brien and Williams Chapter 15

Another reading TBC on COVID-19

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### Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: [https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19\\_Self-declaration.pdf](https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf)

### Academic Accommodations

#### Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the

student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:  
<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

#### Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

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