Institute of Political Economy
PECO 5000 THEORIES OF POLITICAL ECONOMY
Seminar meetings: Tuesday 11:35-2:25
Room number: 1524 Dunton Tower

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:00 to 5:00
Office: 1504 Dunton Tower
If your need a special appointment please send me an email.

Seminar Description
This seminar examines both foundational and contemporary theoretical perspectives of political economy including liberalism, Marxism, post-structuralism, feminism and post-colonial theories. Contending views of the dynamics governing economic, political and cultural transformations in the modern era, and of modernity itself, will be explored. What light do these theories shed on processes of socioeconomic change and the complex relationship between the economic, the cultural, and the political? How ought we to identify the collective actors engaged in making these changes, the sites of their interaction, and the processes through which collective identities are constituted? What are the bases of both identity formation and oppression? Do concepts like ‘capitalism’, ‘modernity’ and ‘humanity’ still constitute the central organising principles for understanding political economy in a plurality of worlds? How does political economy help to make sense of the multiple crises of modernity, capitalism and civilization and what alternatives to these crises are envisioned?

The seminar takes a historical approach to these questions, and we will be reminded throughout of voices and alternatives silenced by the discipline. This approach gives us a chance to reflect on answers to the present crisis.

Seminar Requirements
• Attend all seminar meetings, being prepared to discuss the reading for that week. This is a reading-intensive seminar, and keeping up is an absolute requirement. Always bring the texts, and your notes on the text(s), to the meeting.
• Response papers and seminar presentations: Once during the semester, you will prepare a short seminar paper on the readings for that week. Your paper should demonstrate familiarity with the texts from the required texts for the week and with at least one text from previous reads. Please distribute copies of your paper to the seminar via email by 5pm on the Friday preceding the seminar meeting, and be prepared to talk about it with the seminar. The response paper is a concise (~2,500 words) and well-written set of thoughtful reflections that demonstrates a rich understanding of the reading material. It is neither a summary of readings nor a "book report" on the text. It may be focused narrowly on a particular theoretical point, a concept or it may be an exploratory paper that applies the theory to a subject that interests you.

The response paper will be chosen in advance according to the class schedule. On the

1 The structure of this seminar is based on the outline of Prof. Justine Paulson.
occasion of your scheduled paper, you will draw from your paper (and other background reading as necessary) to make a ~10 min. presentation to the seminar on the week's text(s).

- **Read through and consider your peers' papers before the seminar meets.** Come to each seminar with at least two prepared questions. One question for the presenter and one general question about the readings. Send by email the questions to the rest of the class by 5 p.m. on Monday, the day before the seminar.

- **Final essay:**

  At the end of the seminar, you will be required to write an essay of approximately 3500 words that must deal with some aspect of the theoretical debates examined in this course. This does not mean that you must pick one of the topics identified in the course outline; in fact, I would encourage you to use the opportunity to begin to formulate the research question you hope to explore in your MA thesis or research essay. I would be glad to help you in this. The essay is due on December 10th and is worth 30% of your final grade. An outline of the paper is due on November 3rd and is worth 10% of the final grade.

**Assessment:**

- Response paper 35% (30% written paper + 5% presentation)
- Participation 25% (general contribution to the seminar)
- Final paper 40% (10% to the outline + 30% to the final version of the paper).

Papers and presentations will receive letter grades according to the following scheme:

- **A:** Outstanding, highly insightful work; demonstrates fluency with the theory and a very high level of engagement with the text(s).
- **B:** Good insights; ability to understand and engage with the text(s) is apparent, although the work may be uneven, unsustained, or there may be one or more significant oversights
- **C:** Level of engagement with the material and overall quality of work falls below expectations. It is given when a piece of work reflects a poor grasp of theory, an inability to develop a basic argument, and/or poor research skills. **At the graduate level, a final grade of less than B-at the end of the term is considered a failure.**

Grades will be averaged at the end of the term using the 12-point system.

**Late Work:** Late work will not be accepted except in extraordinary circumstances (and must be cleared with the professor at least one week in advance).

**There can be no rescheduling of presentations after the second week of the seminar. Please plan accordingly.**

**Paper standards:** Seminar papers should be typed, proofread, and written in a standard font. They should also be consistent in their use of a citation method. I personally prefer Chicago, but APA is also common around here. Proper in-text or footnoted citations of the texts are important, but a bibliography is not required, except when other sources (beyond required and suggested texts) are used.

**Academic honesty:** Please see the end of the course outline for the University's policies
about plagiarism. Note that academic honesty is crucial in the environment of a small graduate seminar, and I take it very seriously, without consideration of extraneous circumstances.

**Cell phones:** Cell phones should be off for the duration of the seminar.

**Questions:** Questions about the course material that don't come up in seminar are best handled in office hours, rather than over email. **Please do not hesitate to schedule an appointment!** If it is impractical or impossible to schedule an appointment, then you are encouraged to email me your question and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Email turnaround time:** I check my email at least once a day, but I am not perpetually connected to mobile devices nor to the internet. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours to requests to schedule a meeting. Other emailed questions may take longer, depending on their content and complexity.

If you are unable to meet with me, please don't hesitate to meet with each other. (The course material provides lots to chew on and work through collectively – even over a meal, a pint, coffee, or tea.).

**Required and Suggested Reading**

See outline of seminar meetings, below. All these texts are available in the library, online (some internet sources are listed with the outline), via the library (e.g., all the journal articles), or in local bookstores.

The list of required and suggested texts is extensive, but nevertheless incomplete. If you think we're not covering enough feminism, regulation theory, world-systems perspectives, critical race theory, Marx, Foucault, classical theory, regional and comparative studies, development theory, uneven development theory, theories of class, political economy of citizenship, etc., you're right to think so! Such is the unfortunate nature of survey courses. As the seminar is currently structured, each week's set of texts is centred on either a particular lens through which to view political economy or an object of political economic enquiry; I hope you will not think of these as discrete units, but will rather allow them to build on and influence each other throughout the seminar.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
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<td>September 15</td>
<td>LIBERAL THEORIES</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>MARXIST APPROACHES</td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES</td>
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<td>October 6</td>
<td>KEYNES AND STRUCTURALIST</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>NEO-INSTITUTIONALISM</td>
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<td>October 20</td>
<td>NEO-LIBERAL AND POST-NEOLIBERAL</td>
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<td>October 27</td>
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SEPTEMBER 8 INTRODUCTION


*Further readings. Basic bibliography*


SEPTEMBER 15 LIBERAL THEORIES


*Further readings. Basic bibliography*


SEPTEMBER 22 MARXIST APPROACHES


Further readings. Basic bibliography


MARX, K. *Capital, A Critique of Political Economy: Volume II and III*.


SEPTEMBER 29 SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACHES


Further readings. Basic bibliography


OCTOBER 6 KEYNES AND STRUCTURALISM


Further readings. Basic bibliography

LIBRARY, HB199.R6 c.6, Floor 4 Books

KAY, C. “The structuralist school of development.” In *Latin American Theories of development

KAY, C. and GWYNE, R.N. “Relevance of Structuralist and Dependency Theories in the Neoliberal
Period: A Latin American Perspective”, In: *Critical Perspective on Globalization and
Neoliberalism in the Developing Countries.* R.L. Harris and M.J. Seid (Eds). The Netherlands:
Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden. 49-70.

Yifu Lin, Justin. New Structural Economics. A framework for re-thinking development.

**OCTOBER 13 NEO-INSTITUTIONALISM**

HALL, P. and TAYLOR. Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. *Political

HALL, P.A. SOSKISE, D. Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative
Advantage, Oxford Scholarship online. 2001. 1-56


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**

Institutional Economics and Third World Development,* John Harris, J. Hunter and Colin

and the World Bank,* CambridgeUniversity Press, Chapter 1, pp 1-27

**OCTOBER 20 NEO-LIBERALISM AND POST NEOLIBERALISM**

1-55, 108-37, and 161-90.

GORE, C. The Rise and Fall of the Washington Consensus as a Paradigm for Developing


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**


**NOVEMBER 3 POST-STRUCTURALISM**


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**


**NOVEMBER 10 POSTCOLONIAL THEORIES**


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**


NOVEMBER 17 FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES


Further readings. Basic bibliography


NOVEMBER 24 ‘MATERIALIST TURN’ IN POLITICAL ECONOMY


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**

LATOUR, B *We Have Never Been Modern*. Harvard University Press, 13-27.


**DECEMBER 1ST POLITICAL ECONOMY OF RESOURCE EXTRACTION**


**Further readings. Basic bibliography**


Academic Regulations and Accommodations
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here:
http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv.html

Requests for Academic Accommodations
For Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-
ordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.

For Religious Obligations:
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event.

Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures, please refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Graduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?
1. All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management.
Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs.

2. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism.

3. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

**Important Information**
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- Course-related email should always be from your Carleton account.