Political Economy Doctoral Seminar  (Winter 2008)
PECO 6000

Instructors:

Rianne Mahon
Office hours:
Wednesdays 12:00-2:00
A817 Loeb Building
rmahon@ccs.carleton.ca
613-520-2600 x 8858

Simon Dalby
Office hours:
Thursdays 12:00 – 13:00
B450B Loeb Building
simon_dalby@carleton.ca
613-520-2600 x 8741

This seminar is the core course for the Collaborative PhD Program with a Specialization in Political Economy. The seminar 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 the political economy approach. 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.

Evaluation:

Participants may satisfy the written element of the course requirements in a variety of ways:

1) A review paper based on the impact of Political Economy on their discipline;
2) A review paper based on the impact of their discipline on Political Economy;
3) A review paper based on their thesis proposal;
4) A research paper based on their thesis research;
5) Another topic negotiated with the course instructors;

Papers will normally be about 7000 words (double-spaced) in length and demonstrate a command of the literature and original thinking in the domain of political economy. Papers will be due to both instructors April 7th.

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.

In addition to regular seminar participation, students will make two formal presentations in the weeks March 6th to April 3rd. This could take the form of individual précis and commentaries on particular readings or team leadership of a class based on reading previously determined by the class. The selected articles are meant to be read in advance and will provide the basis for conversation. Consequently, introductions are limited to 10 minutes. Each presentation should address the main argument, points of insight and contentious issues in the assigned readings.
Course Outline

Part I – Introduction

Week 1 January 10  Introduction

The first part of the course focuses on general themes – introductions to varieties of political economy. Dalby and Mahon are responsible for selecting the readings and initiating the discussion with the exception of week 3, for which we have invited Professor Clement to lead a discussion of Canadian political economy. The second part will focus on “core and contested concepts”. There are a range of possible candidates. Some examples are 1) classical concepts – capitalism, production and (social) reproduction, class, state, uneven development and the international division of labour, gender; 2) more recent concepts – race and racialisation; intersectionality; space-territory-place and scale, hegemony and governmentality; imperialism/empire/globalization. In this class we will select which concepts we would like to focus on and then come to the next class (or send to Dalby and Mahon before the next class) with some suggested readings.

Week 2 January 17  Intellectual Autobiographies

Students are asked to come to class each prepared to do a 10 minute (maximum) presentation of their intellectual autobiography. If there are fewer than 10 in the class, Dalby and Mahon will do the same. Otherwise, they will do their autobiographies as part of the first class they lead.

Part II – Theoretical Traditions

Week 3 January 24 Canadian Political Economy (Wallace Clement)


Week 4 January 31 Comparative Political Economy: Welfare Regimes (Rianne)


or


Week 5 February 7 Feminist Political Economy (Rianne)

Joan Acker, Class Questions, Feminist Answers Rowman and Littlefield, 2006, chapters 2 and 3


Week 6 February 14 International Political Economy (Simon)


Richard Higgott and Matthew Watson "All at Sea in a Barbed Wire Canoe: Professor Cohen’s Transatlantic Voyage in IPE" Review of International Political Economy 15:1 2008: 1–17


Week 7 February 28 Political Economy of the Environment (Simon)


Topics Readings and Presentations for part 2 of 6000

(Simon’s 11 Feb 2008 version)

1. Hegemony, governmentality and the state:


* Antonio Gramsci, The Prison Notebooks, History of the Subaltern class: methodological criteria (542-55) and the problem of leadership (55-84); the (short) Function of Piedmont (3 pages); The political party (147-157 and “some theoretical and practical aspects of economism” (158-168).


2. Space, territory, place, scale, borders:

* Henri Lefebvre, “Space and the State” from State/Space: A Reader


(Sarah) Helga Leitner and Eric Sheppard “The Spatiality of Contentious Politics: More than a Politics of Scale” from Leviathan Unbound Roger Keil and Rianne Mahon eds (in process)


3. governance of bodies: labour, gender, racialisation


* Karl Marx, 'The Detail Labourer and His Implements' and 'The Factory' in Capital Vol. 1: 339 - 42 and 418-27

(Alda) Marcel Mauss ‘Techniques of the Body’, Economy and Society 2: (1972) 70 - 87


* Robyn Longhurst, (1997) (Dis)embodied geographies, Progress in Human Geography: 21; 486


(Rianne) “Masculinity, identity and labour market change: some reflections on the implications of thinking relationally about difference and the politics of inclusion” Geografiska Annaler 2004


4. class in a globalising context


(Simon) Hardt and Negri’s Multitude? (Chapter 2.1 "Dangerous Classes" 103-157)

(Sarah) Nancy Ettlinger "Precarity Unbound" Alternatives 32(3) 2007 319-340

(Leah) Kees van Der Pijl "The History of Class Struggle: From Original Accumulation to Neoliberalism" Monthly Review V. 49(1)

* Mann, Arrighi, moore Wendt, Pijl and Robinson "Transnational Class Formation Thesis. A symposium" Science and Society Vol 65 no 4


5 states, transnational governance and the political economy of terrorism


* Ronnie Lipschutz "Power, Politics and Global Civil Society" Millennium 33, 3 (2005)

(Rianne) Bill Carroll Corporate Power in a Globalizing World 2004 Chapter 1.

Part III: Core and Contested Concepts

Week 8 March 6 (Simon Absent and Rianne would need to schedule class for the 3rd or early on the 4th)

Week 9 March 13

Week 10 March 20

Week 11 March 27

Week 12 April 3