Political Economy Doctoral Seminar  (Winter 2009)  
PECO 6000

Wednesday 8:30 to 11:30. Room 308 Southam Hall

Instructors:

Cristina Rojas  
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Tuesday and Wednesday 11:30 to 2:30  
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Simon Dalby  
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Wednesdays 12:00 – 13:00  
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Guest Instructors: Profs. Rianne Mahon, Laura Macdonald, Dominique Marshall

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 political economy approaches and main 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.

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 8th.

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 5th to April 2nd. 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 reading.
Course Outline

Part I – Introduction

Week 1 January 7th Introduction

The first part of the course focuses on general themes – introductions to varieties of political economy. Dalby and Rojas are responsible for selecting the readings and initiating the discussion with the exception of week 3, for which we have invited Professors Mahon, MacDonald and Marshall 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; colonialism. In this class we will begin the process of selecting which concepts we would like to focus on and then come to subsequent sessions with some suggested readings.

Week 2 January 14 Intellectual Autobiographies

Students are asked to come to class each prepared to do a 10 minute (maximum) presentation of their intellectual autobiography. How you came to study what you do, what influences your thinking, why you selected the topic for your planned dissertation etc. is what this focuses on.

Part II – Theoretical Traditions

Week 3 January 21 Canadian Political Economy (Mahon, McDonald and Marshall)


Tom Naylor, "The rise and fall of the third commercial empire of the St Lawrence" in Capitalism and the National Question in Canada. G. Teeple ed U of T Press 1972

Heather Jon Maroney and Meg Luxton, From Feminism and Political Economy to Feminist Political Economy in Feminism and Political Economy: Women's Work, Women's Struggles, edited by H J Maroney and M Luxton, Methuen, 1987


Joyce Green's "Decolonization and Recolonization in Canada" from the same volume (on Aboriginal Peoples and CPE)

Week 4 January 28 International Political Economy (Simon)


Week 5 February 4 Political Economy of the Environment (Simon)


Week 6 February 11 Political economies in a globalized world (Cristina)


Week 7 February 25 Interpreting Political Economies (Cristina)


Part III: Core and Contested Concepts

Week 8 March 4
Week 9 March 11
Week 10 March 18
Week 11 March 25
Week 12 April 1