Political Economy Doctoral Seminar (Winter 2010)
PECO 6000
Fridays 10:00 to 1:00. Room Loeb A 820

1. Instructor:

Dominique Marshall
Office hours:
Tuesday 9:00 to 10:00
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Guest Instructors: Professors Wallace Clement, Randall Germain, Cristina Rojas and Simon Dalby

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.

2. Schedule:

I. Introductions

Week 1. 8 January  Introduction and Intellectual autobiographies

Students are asked to come to class each prepared to do a 10 minute 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.

II. Theoretical Traditions

Students are expected to read their WEB-CT account regularly, as change and additions in the readings and the schedule will be announced weekly.

The readings will be posted on WEB-CT when possible, or placed on Reserve in the Library. Occasionally, copies will also be placed in the Political Economy Students' Lounge (Room Loeb A 831)

Week 2. 15 January  Canadian Political Economy, with Wallace Clement


**Week 3. 22 January  International Political Economy, with Randall Germain**


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 4. 29 January  Families and generations**

Readings to be announced

*Discussion on the selection of core concepts*

**Week 5. 5 February  States, rights and citizenship**

Readings to be announced

* Proposals for papers due*

**Week 6. 12 February  De-Colonial approaches to PE, with Cristina Rojas**


Escobar, Arturo 2008. “Development”. In Territories of Difference. Place,


19 February No class. Winter Break

Week 7. 26 February Environment, with S. Dalby

Read first:


Andrew Baldwin “Carbon Nullius and Racial Rule” Antipode 41(2) 2009. 231-255.


III. Core and Contested Concepts

*The themes and names of discussion leaders will be determined later by on January 29.

Week 8. 5 March

Week 9. 12 March

Week 10. 19 March

Week 11. 26 March

*First drafts of papers are due

IV. Presentation of Papers

* The schedule and names of speakers will be determined later

5 April (in place of April 2 holiday) Week 12

9 April Week 13

*Final versions of papers are due on April 13.
3. Assignments:

Supplementary instructions for the writing and the presentation of assignments will be regularly posted on WEB-CT and announced in seminars. If you miss one class, a weekly email to all students will help you keep informed of the announcements and activities of that week.

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.

-Proposals for the papers, of two to three pages, will be due on February 5. Their mark will count for 10% of the final mark. They aim at establishing the topic, the general approach and an initial bibliography.

-Papers will be due on April 13. The presentation offers an opportunity to students to receive the seminar’s feedback on their draft. The first drafts will be due on March 26. The mark of the final papers will count for 50% of the final mark.

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. The mark for the participation will count for 25% of the final mark. It will be based on the pertinence and the depth of students’ interventions, the rigour of their understanding, the collegiality of their engagement with their peers’ concerns, the clarity of their expression, the openness of their reflection,

In addition to regular seminar participation, students will make two formal presentations in the weeks from March 5th to April 5th. This will take the form of individual précis and commentaries on particular readings 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. The marks for these presentations, and for the ability to help the ensuing discussions, will count for 15% of the final mark. Students will hand in an outline of their presentation on the day, in order to help the evaluation of this exercise.

In both cases, students will receive a written evaluation, explaining the strengths and weaknesses of their contributions.

Marking Scheme
-Proposal: 10%  
-Final paper: 50%  
-Class participation: 25%  
-Two oral presentations on core concepts, including outlines of the presentations: 15%