Political Economy Doctoral Seminar (Winter 2013)
PECO 6000
2:30 - 5:30 Wednesdays, DT 1524

Instructors:

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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.

Course Readings:

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

The readings will be placed in the Political Economy Students’ Lounge when not available on-line (Room: DT 1505A).

There is one recommended text:


The book has been ordered at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue (near Bank in the Glebe) (http://octopusbooks.ca/content/about-us).

Note: Octopus requests that you come equipped with the instructors’ names as well as the course code.
**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

- Class participation and attendance: 20%
- Essay Proposal (due **February 27th**): 10%
- Final essay (due by **April 10th**): 40%
- Oral presentation on your final paper: 20%
- Comment on colleague’s presentation: 10%

**Course Schedule:**

**I. Introduction**

**Week 1 - 9 January**  **Introduction and Intellectual autobiographies**

*Students and faculty will come to class each prepared to do a 10-minute presentation of their intellectual autobiography. In this informal presentation, you should discuss what formative experiences led you to come to study what you do, what influences your thinking, why you selected the topic for your planned dissertation, etc. The instructors will also participate!*

*Laura MacDonald, Director of the Institute, will join this session.*

**II. Theoretical Traditions**

**Week 2 - 16 January**  **Classics of Political Economy**

**Guest participant: Justin Paulson, Department of Sociology**

**Required reading:**

- Heilbroner 55-157 (emphasis on Smith; skim pp. 106-157 for flavour)
- Marx, chapters 1, 4, 7, and 10 of *Capital* (excerpts from the Tucker compilation are fine, pp. 302-336, 344-376)

**Suggested additional readings:**

- Goran Therborn, chapter 2 of *Science, Class, and Society*, "The Economy and the Economics of Capitalism"
- Giovanni Arrighi, chapter 2 of *Adam Smith in Beijing*, "The Historical Sociology of Adam Smith"
Week 3 - 23 January –Feminist Political Economy (Hugh and Cristina)


Suggested additional readings


Week 4 - 30 – Comparative Political Economy (Hugh and Cristina)


Suggested additional readings


Week 5 – 6 February - The Current Crisis

**Guest participant: Manfred Bienefeld, School of Public Policy and Administration**


*The Economist* (2008) “Regulators need to counterbalance the cycle, not accentuate it”, May 15th (print edition)

Week 6 - 13 February – Political Economy Otherwise (Cristina)


Suggested additional readings


20 February – No class (Winter Break)

Week 7 – 27 February – Governing the International Political Economy (Cristina)

Essay Proposal due today


Suggested Additional Readings


Week 8–6 March - Canadian Political Economy (Hugh)


III. Presentation of Papers

*The schedule and names of speakers will be determined later. Note that speakers must assign an appropriate background reading for the date of their presentation and make it available in advance to the rest of the class.*

Week 9 – March 13

Week 10 – March 20

Week 11 – March 27
Week 12 – April 3

IV. Wrap-up

Week 13 - April 10 (Hugh)

Final essay due today

*A social event will follow the last class

Assignments:

All papers should be posted to Web-CT. Supplementary instructions for the writing and the presentation of assignments will be regularly posted on WEB-CT and announced in seminars.

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, Times New Roman) in length and will 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 6. They aim at establishing the topic, the general approach and an initial bibliography. The proposals will be returned, with feedback, but will not be graded.

Final papers will be due on April 10th. The presentation in class offers an opportunity to students to receive the seminar’s feedback on their draft. For those who wish, first drafts will be due on March 27th, and will be returned with feedback by April 3rd. The mark on 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 20% 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, and the openness of their reflection.

In addition to regular seminar participation, students will make one formal presentation in the weeks from March 8th to March 29th, based on their final research paper. The marks for these presentations, and for the ability to help lead the ensuing discussions, will count for 20% of the final mark. An outline of your paper, including your research question, main argument, theoretical perspective, and outline of the content, will be due to the instructors and your discussant one week before your presentation.

As well, each student will serve as discussant on one of their colleague’s presentation. This commentary, which will help launch discussion, and provide supportive suggestions, will last about 8-10 minutes, and will be worth 10% of your final grade.