

## **POLSCI 2J03: GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

### **Summer 2020**

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**Lecture:** Mon and Wed. 06:30-09:30

**Room:** Online class

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## **Course Description**

This course focuses upon the relationship between economics and politics on a global scale. It considers the evolution of the global political economy through several historical eras (1400-1800s, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries) and key frameworks (trade, production, finance, development, environment, gender, labour, ideas, security and governance). Students will also develop an appreciation of the key theoretical approaches to understanding the global political economy. The primary objectives are to inspire an informed interest in world affairs and to equip students to succeed in upper-year and graduate international political economy / international relations courses. The written assignment is designed to develop student research skills.

As a second year course, this is a survey of a large topic. The subject of each week's lessons could easily be expanded into other undergraduate courses. For example, a fourth year seminar course on *global political ecology*, a third year course on global climate change, and a graduate course on *political economy of climate change* can be linked to *critical theories* of global political economy. In addition to getting an overview of global political economy, please pick a particular area that you are interested in and be prepared to learn more about that through your essay and outside reading. The exam will be structured so that you can demonstrate what you have learned about every area of the course.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand how history has shaped the GPE
- Be familiar with the major theoretical approaches to GPE
- Understand the main structures of the GPE
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of one particular facet of the GPE

## **Required Materials and Texts**

Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics* 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (New York: Palgrave 2020). (remember, this is an electronic book; printed versions have not been published yet).

There are earlier editions of this text, but they will be missing recent developments. The book has a [companion website](#) which has information such as PowerPoint slides, podcasts and videos, flashcards, information on useful apps, a glossary and multiple choice quizzes on each chapter. Please, see Avenue to Learn for the companion website.

## **Course Format**

We will have 12 lessons in this online course. The lessons are divided as follows:

- Lesson 1: What is GPE? The theories of GPE
- Lesson 2: Methods of studying GPE
- Lesson 3: History: Asia, Africa and European expansion
- Lesson 4: History: Imperialism, World War I and II, and Post-1945
- Lesson 5: International Trade
- Lesson 6: Transnational Production
- Lesson 7: Global Finance
- Lesson 8: Division of Labour
- Lesson 9: Gender and GPE
- Lesson 10: Economic Development
- Lesson 11: Environment and Climate Change
- Lesson 12: Knowledge/Ideas

This course is designed as a package which contains a course textbook, course website, PowerPoint slides, lectures notes and pre-recorded videos/audios on each lesson. The five elements complement each other. If you take each element seriously you will do much better in the course. You must buy the textbook. The PowerPoint slides, lectures notes and videos/audios on each lesson will be uploaded on the Avenue on each Monday and Wednesday during the class hours (between 6:30 and 9:30). As the videos/audios are pre-recorded, you can watch/listen to it anytime convenient for you. So, you do not have to attend any online classes but must check Avenue to Learn for all these resources. The course website provides additional tools such as a self-test quiz questions to give you a sense of how much you are understanding, links to international organizations and NGOs, useful apps, links to videos with useful or funny information on GPE, and mock exam questions. The final exam will be based upon all these.

*If you do not do the reading, you will be overwhelmed by the material, making it difficult to write reflexive journal and a successful online final exam.*

### **Course Evaluation – Overview**

These should be submitted to the Avenue

1. Reflexive Journal- 30%, due throughout the term
2. Research Proposal – 5%, due first week of July
3. Research Essay - 30%, due last week of July
4. Online Final Exam – 35%, due August 5

## **Course Evaluation – Details**

### **Reflexive Journal- 30%, due throughout the term**

You will write 300 words (approx.) report on your thoughts of each lesson and submit it in the specific folder on the Avenue. We will have two lessons per week and so, two reports are due in a week.

The report is not just a summary of the lesson. It will cover: (a) what are the key concepts you have learned from this lesson? (b) what is the most interesting thing you have learned in this lesson, (c) is there anything that was not covered in the lesson? (d) how do you think that it can be covered? (d) write some real world example that is related to each week's lesson (the examples should not be copied from the textbook and you do not need to write examples if you write reports on first two lessons).

There will be 12 lessons and you are required to submit 10 reports. So, you can skip two lessons. Each report consists of three marks and so, ten reports consist of 30 marks. The evaluation of the report will be based on whether your report has covered all the points mentioned above.

**DUE:** Two reports per week (throughout the term: from June 22 to August 7)

**LENGTH:** 300 words (each), 10 in total.

**WEIGHTING:** 30% of final grade

### **Research Proposal - 5%, due in July 1<sup>st</sup> week**

You will submit 600-words (excluding bibliography) research proposal and annotated bibliography to the Avenue to Learn by July 1<sup>st</sup> week. *NOTE: Final essays will not be accepted unless a previous research proposal has been submitted.* Final essay must be based upon research proposal. There are NO exceptions to this requirement.

Is there any guideline for writing the research proposal? Yes. As soon as you get the textbook, flip through the table of contents and chapters to see if there is a topic that interests you. You may wish to pursue one of the subjects mentioned in the boxes. Take a look at the online bibliography for suggestions about articles and books in the field. One of the links to the international organizations or NGOs or one of the videos may stimulate your thinking.

A good proposal communicates to the reader in as much detail as possible the problem that you are interested in and the line of investigation that you intend to pursue. The clearer you make this to the reader, the more help I can give to you, and the better your final paper will be. There are several areas your proposal needs to cover.

1. You must have a title for your proposed research (it means, you must give a name of your research)
2. As background, briefly describe the *general area of investigation*, the topic you intend to pursue. It often helps the reader understand your personal interest in this topic so you may want to describe this briefly.
3. Pose your *central research question* (with a question mark “?”). This should be a single sentence focusing on a single issue, contradiction, puzzle or dilemma. Usually your question should be a “why” or a “how” question as opposed to a “what” question.
4. Explain how the proposed topic is related to the subject matter of the course. Indicate how and where it links into the textbook. This is essential! Failure to do this will result in a grade of 0/5!!!
5. Describe your proposed line of inquiry. What do you need to find out in order to be able to answer the question? List any secondary questions that you need to answer to move toward answering your main question. Describe your plan for finding evidence.
6. Provide an annotated bibliography which includes the main or most important sources relevant to your topic. This is like a regular bibliography, but it also includes short summaries of the article/book (2 sentences) and why it would be useful for your project. An easy way to find articles and abstracts is to use one of the library’s an online database such as [ProQuest Political Science](#). Two helpful journals are *Review of International Political Economy* and *New Political Economy*. For the books, read the introduction and / or conclusion to get a general idea of what it is about. For articles you can use the abstracts. You need 5 academic journal articles and 5 books.

**DUE:** July 1<sup>st</sup> week

**LENGTH:** 600 words + annotated bibliography

**WEIGHTING:** 5% of final grade

**Research Essay- 30%, due in July’s last week**

You will submit the 3500 words (excluding bibliography) research essay to the Avenue to Learn by July’s last week.

Guideline for writing the research essay? The purpose of the research paper is to communicate to others what you have learned. The topic of your paper must follow the research/paper proposal that you have submitted in earlier, as modified by the comments you received and any discussions you have had with your me subsequently. It must reflect one of the themes from the course.

Your paper should include:

1. A title of your research.
2. An introduction which contains: description of the intellectual problem you are investigating; a thesis statement in the introduction which sets out your argument; a brief description of the plan or parts of the paper.
3. The body of the paper which develops your argument. It offers an interpretation of the evidence you have uncovered. It weighs evidence in favour and against your particular argument.
4. A conclusion which discusses of the implications of your argument and suggests new research questions that arise from your paper
5. Bibliography (not annotated!)

Papers must be properly referenced following a major style such as APA, MLA or Chicago Manual of Style. For more information see the ['Citation and Style Guides'](#) tab.

**DUE:** July last week

**LENGTH:** 3500 words + bibliography

**WEIGHTING:** 30% of final grade

### **Online Final Exam-35%, August 5**

The exam will be designed to determine what you have learned over the course. It has been scheduled for August 5, 2020, from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. I will post the questions of the final exams on the Avenue on August 5, 2020, at 12:25 pm. You have to write the answers to the questions from your home. You can see the textbook, PowerPoint slides, lecture notes and videos/audios while you will be writing the exam. You have to submit the exam to the specific folders in the Assignment section on the Avenue by 4:30 pm on August 5, 2020. So, you will have more than four hours to write the answers and submit them. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. So, check internet connections and the status of your computer before the exam. If you do not have computers and if you do not have an internet connection, please, inform me by August 1, 2020. If you have SAS accommodation, please, contact me at the beginning of this spring/summer term.

Format of the final exam is currently under preparation. You can think of the following questions while preparing for the exam.

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the primary approaches to global political economy? (Lesson 1 and 2)
2. What accounts for the different patterns of interaction between Europeans and non-Europeans from 1400-1900? (Lesson 3 and 4)
3. What are the most significant developments in international trade in the post - 1945 era? Why have they occurred? (Lesson 5)
4. How has international production changed in the last 50 years and what are some of the implications of these changes? (Lesson 6)
5. What impact does the global financial structure have on states, corporations, and citizens? (Lesson 7)
6. What is the relevance of the division of labour concept for global political economy? (Lesson 8)
7. What is the relevance of a gendered analysis of global political economy? (Lesson 9)
8. What are the most promising options for countries that wish to develop? (Lesson 10)
9. What attention should be given to environmental factors in the study of global political economy? (Lesson 11)

**DUE:** August 5

**LENGTH:** N/A

**WEIGHTING:** 35% of final grade

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **Week 1: 22, 24 June 2020**

**22 June – Lesson 1: What is GPE? The theories of GPE.**

Readings: Chapter 1



**24 June – Lesson 2: Methods of studying GPE.**

Readings: Chapters 2

**Week 2: 29 June, 1 July**

**29 June – Lesson 3: History: Asia, Africa and European expansion**

Readings: Chapters 3

**1 July – National Holiday**

**Notes: Essay proposal due this week.**

**Week 3: 6, 8 July**

**6 July – Lesson 4: History: Imperialism, World War I and II, Post-1945**

Readings: Chapter 4 and 5

**8 July. – Lesson 5: International Trade**

Readings: Chapter 6

**Week 4: 13, 15 July**

**13 July – Lesson 6: Transnational Production**

Readings: Chapters 7

**15 July – Lesson 7: Global Finance**

Readings: Chapter 8

**Week 5: 20, 22 July**

**20 July – Lesson 8: Division of Labour**

Readings: Chapter 9

**22 July – Lesson 9: Gender and GPE**

Readings: Chapter 10

**Week 6: 27, 29 July**

**27 July – Lesson 10: Economic Development**

Readings: Chapter 11

**29 July – Lesson 11: Environment and Climate Change**

Readings: Chapter 12

**Notes: Essays due this week.**

## Week 7: 3, 5 August

### 3 August – Lesson 12: Knowledge/Ideas

Readings: Chapter 13

### 5 August – Final Exam

## Course Policies

### Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

### Late Assignments

[Insert policy on late assignments] Late papers will be accepted subject to a late penalty of 1 mark per day to a maximum of 5 days, after which they will not be accepted and a mark of 0 will be recorded. (One mark per day means that an assignment worth 20/35 handed in on time would get a mark of 19/35 if handed in one day late). Weekends count as 2 days. In the interest of fairness to all students, there will be **no exceptions** to this unless you have arranged in advance for an extension. Papers submitted after deadlines (including excused late papers) will be marked, but comments will not be provided. **Late penalties are real and damaging, so plan ahead to have your work in on time!**

### Absences, Missed Work, Illness

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Students also should communicate with the instructor at [tabasn@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tabasn@mcmaster.ca) regarding this in advance of due dates.

## **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **Turnitin.com**

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

## **Copyright and Recording**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## **Conduct Expectations**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms

## **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

### **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Extreme Circumstances**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## **2J03 Specific Rules and Regulations Summary**

1. **If you have an SAS accommodation, communicate with the course instructor at [tabasn@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tabasn@mcmaster.ca)** at the beginning of term or as soon as it is granted to discuss the mechanics of the accommodation.
2. **If you are falling behind on your work or are experiencing difficulties, consult with the course instructor immediately.** We are unable to help you if things are brought to our attention a week after you miss the deadline.
3. As stated in the syllabus, **essays will not be accepted unless a prior proposal on the same topic has been submitted.** No exceptions.
4. **All the papers must be submitted in the specific folders on the Avenue to Learn.**
5. **There are NO makeup assignments for missed proposal or essay.** You have been set clear tasks and will be evaluated on your ability to complete those tasks in a timely manner and the quality of work you hand in. Failure to complete those tasks on time results in grade penalties.
6. **Students should wait for 48 hours to receive responses of their emails to the instructor. One student should not send more than one email a day to their instructor.**

Nowrin Tabassum

Last revised June 1, 2020