

## **Sociology 324: Global Capitalism**

Monica Prasad

Winter 2017

TuTh 11-12:20 AM, Kresge 2-380

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OH: Tu 2-4 PM and by appt.

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TA: Lantian

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OH: M 1:30-2:30 PM and by appt.

Plaza Cafe (Main Library)

This course is an introduction to the literature on the sociology of global capitalism, meant to whet your appetite rather than to provide comprehensive coverage. We will cover five topics: neoliberalism (the attempt to reduce the role of government in the economy), development (the attempt to engineer economic growth in underdeveloped countries), the welfare state (programs in developed countries to mitigate the effects of unrestrained market capitalism), communism (particularly what communism looked like on the ground), and industrialization (particularly why Europe industrialized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and other countries such as China did not).

### **Required Books (available at Norris Bookstore and on reserve at the library)**

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism

Jack Goldstone, Why Europe?

David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege

### **Course Requirements**

Two exams, each 30% of the final grade. Each exam will consist of one section of short identifications, and one section of short essay questions (you will be given four questions and asked to write on two of them).

One 8-10pp. paper, 30% of the final grade. Papers must contain:

- A clear and interesting thesis.
- Logic and evidence in support of that thesis.
- Good organization.
- Writing that is free of typographical and grammatical errors.

We will distribute a list of suggested topics, but students are also free to come up with their own topics.

Class participation, 10% of the final grade:

- discussion question on the readings on Canvas (Discussion Board → “Discussion Questions for [date]”) by midnight the day before class
- class attendance
- participation in one group presentation on one of the supplementary readings (NOTE: the presentations should summarize and analyze the reading, relate it to

the required course texts, and present two or three concepts from the reading for possible inclusion on the short identification portion of the relevant exam)

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to Northwestern University's academic integrity policy. Plagiarism is taken very seriously. Any student found to have plagiarized material will be reported to the dean's office, and will fail the course. You are responsible for knowing and following the rules on academic integrity. The Provost's Office has a guide here: <http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html>

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

*Thursday, January 5*

Introduction to course

*Tuesday, January 10: Neoliberalism*

David Harvey, Brief History of Neoliberalism, introduction, chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-63)

*Thursday, January 12: Neoliberalism*

David Harvey, Brief History of Neoliberalism, chs. 3-4 (pp. 64-119)

*Tuesday, January 17: Neoliberalism*

David Harvey, Brief History of Neoliberalism, chs. 5-7 (pp. 120-206)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Greta Krippner, Capitalizing on Crisis

Presentation of supplementary reading: Isaac Martin, The Permanent Tax Revolt

*Thursday, January 19: Development*

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place, chs. 1-2 (pp. 3-47)

*Tuesday, January 24: Development*

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place, chs. 3-5 (pp. 51-126)

*Thursday, January 26: Development*

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place, chs. 6,9, epilogue (pp. 127-157, 222-254)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Peter Evans, Embedded Autonomy

Presentation of supplementary reading: Ho-Fung Hung, The China Boom

*Tuesday, January 31*

### **Exam 1: Neoliberalism and Development**

*Thursday, February 2: The Welfare State*

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, introduction, chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-54)

*Tuesday, February 7: The Welfare State*

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, chs. 3, 5 (pp.55-78, 105-138)

*Thursday, February 9: The Welfare State*

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, ch 6, 8 (pp. 144-161, 191-217)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation

Presentation of supplementary reading: Friedrich Hayek, The Road to Serfdom

*Tuesday, February 14: Communism*

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege, selections from introduction, selections from ch. 3 (pp. 1-4, 150-210)

*Thursday, February 16: Communism*

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege, intro to part II + ch 4 (pp. 211-282)

*Tuesday, February 21: Communism*

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege, ch. 6, 8 (324-366, 408-443)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Marx (page numbers refer to Robert C. Tucker, The Marx-Engels Reader, second edition): “Wage Labour and Capital” (203-217), “The Grundrisse Section G” (278-290), selections from Capital volume 1 parts I&II (pp.302-343)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Slavenka Drakulic, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed

*Thursday, February 23: Industrialization*

Jack Goldstone, Why Europe?, introduction and chs. 1-3 (pp.1-51)

*Tuesday, February 28: Industrialization*

Jack Goldstone, Why Europe?, chs. 4-6 (pp. 52-119)

*Thursday, March 2: Industrialization*

Jack Goldstone, Why Europe?, chs. 7-8, conclusion (pp. 120-176)

Presentation of supplementary reading: Kenneth Pomeranz, The Great Divergence

Presentation of supplementary reading: Joel Mokyr, A Culture of Growth

*Tuesday, March 7*

**Exam 2: The Welfare State, Communism, Industrialization**

**Final Paper due: March 15 11AM.** Please submit on **Canvas** (Assignments→final paper). Hard copies are not necessary.