

Sociology 324: Global Capitalism

Monica Prasad

Winter 2019

TuTh 2-3:20 PM

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Office Hours: sign up online through my

[department webpage](#)

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TA: Qi Song

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-5:30 pm

Unicorn Cafe (1723 Sherman Ave).

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 explore four 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), and communism (particularly what communism looked like on the ground).

Required Books (available at Norris Bookstore; on reserve at the library)

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place (available online through library website)

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism (available online through library website)

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege (available online through library website)

Greta Krippner, Capitalizing on Crisis

Course Requirements

Two exams, each 25% 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 essay questions and asked to write on two of them).

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

- An original thesis (an argument).
- 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.

Presentation on one of the supplementary readings, 10% of the final grade. The presentation should summarize and analyze/critique the book, relate it to the course themes, and present one or two concepts from the reading for possible inclusion on the short identification portion of the relevant exam. For some books, group presentations are allowed. Each *student* should plan to speak for 10 minutes; thus a group presentation with four students would run 40 minutes. Sign up at the following link [clickable version of link available on the syllabus on Canvas]:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xg06VESxMOK5calX5nN_7pZNT4EzARW8GlqBw_0TsAg/edit?usp=sharing).

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 class discussion

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 Readings

Tuesday, January 8: Introduction to Course; Neoliberalism

Thursday, January 10: Neoliberalism

Greta Krippner, Capitalizing on Crisis, chapters 1-2, pp. 1-57

Tuesday, January 15: Neoliberalism

Greta Krippner, Capitalizing on Crisis, chapters 3-4, pp. 58-105

Thursday, January 17: Neoliberalism

Greta Krippner, Capitalizing on Crisis, chapters 5-6, pp. 106-150

Tuesday, January 22: Development

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

Thursday, January 24: Development

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

Tuesday, January 29: Development

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place, chs. 6-7 (pp. 127-192)

Thursday, January 31: Development

Vivek Chibber, Locked in Place, chs. 8-9, epilogue (pp. 193-254)

Tuesday, February 5:

Exam 1: Neoliberalism, Development

Thursday, February 7: The Welfare State

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

Tuesday, February 12: The Welfare State

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, chs. 3-4 (pp. 55-104)

Thursday, February 14: The Welfare State

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, ch 5-6 (pp. 105-161)

Tuesday, February 19: The Welfare State

Gøsta Esping-Andersen, Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism, ch 7-9, (pp. 162-229)

Thursday, February 21: Communism

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege, selections from introduction, ch.1 (pp. 1-4, 49-87)

Tuesday, February 26: Communism

Gail Kligman and Katherine Verdery, Peasants Under Siege, ch. 3 (pp. 150-210)

Thursday, February 28: Communism

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

Tuesday, March 5: Communism

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

Thursday, March 7:

Exam 2: The Welfare State, Communism

Final Paper due: March 18 11AM. Please email a copy to m-prasad@northwestern.edu and QiSong2022@u.northwestern.edu. Hard copies are not necessary.