

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Winter 2021

Instructor: Szu-Yun Hsu
Email: hsus8@mcmaster.ca
Lecture: Available on Avenue

Office: KTH 522
Office Hours: On Zoom by appointment

Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts	3
Class Format.....	3
Course Evaluation – Overview	4
Course Evaluation – Details	4
Participation (40%)	4
Critical Discussion Paper (25%)	5
Final Exam (35%)	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	5
Week 1 (Jan 11)	5
Week 2 (Jan 18)	5
Week 3 (Jan 25)	5
Week 4 (Feb 1).....	6
Week 5 (Feb 8).....	6
Week 6 (Feb 15) Reading Week	6
Week 7 (Feb 22).....	6
Week 8 (Mar 1).....	6
Week 9 (Mar 8).....	6
Week 10 (Mar 15).....	6
Week 11 (Mar 22).....	7
Week 12 (Mar 29).....	7
Week 13 (Apr 5).....	7
Week 14 (Apr 12) Reflection Week.....	7
Course Policies	8

Submission of Assignments.....	8
Grades.....	8
Late Assignments	8
Absences, Missed Work, Illness	8
Courses with an On-Line Element	8
Online Proctoring.....	9
Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection	9
Copyright and Recording	9
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)	9
Academic Integrity Statement.....	10
Conduct Expectations.....	10
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	10
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy	11
Course Modification	11
Extreme Circumstances.....	11
2J03 Specific Rules and Regulations Summary.....	12
Disclaimer	12

Course Description

This course focuses upon the relationship between economics and politics on a global scale. First, the course considers the evolution of the global political economy (GPE) through several historical eras (1400-1800s, 19th and 20th centuries) that laid the foundation for the contemporary political-economic order. Second, it focuses on the key dimensions of the global political economy such as trade, production, global finance, development, environment, gender, labour, and security. Lastly, it explores the dynamics of the current moment including emerging economies, crisis, resistance, and the prospect of global governance.

In addition, students will develop an appreciation of the key theoretical approaches to understanding the global political economy. As a second year course, this is a survey of a large topic. The subject of each week's lectures could easily be expanded into their own courses. 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.

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

This course uses the following textbook as the primary material. It will also include several additional readings that will be available on Avenue to Learn.

Robert O'Brien, R & Williams, M. (2020). *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*, 6th Edition. New York: Palgrave.

Class Format

This course is delivered through a weekly package that consists of asynchronous online lectures (available on Avenue to Learn), synchronous tutorials, and a textbook website [here](#).

Each week's online lecture includes a synthesis of the reading material and additional information that advances your knowledge of the week's topic. Please note that online lectures will be released on the Saturdays before the official start of the week (e.g. The online lecture for Week 1 will be released on January 9).

Tutorials are an essential part of the course that are designed to strengthen your understanding of that week's material through virtual discussions with the teaching assistant (TA) and your classmates on both guided and open questions.

The textbook website provides additional learning resources such as podcasts and videos, useful apps, self-test quiz questions, and sample exam questions.

The midterm and final exams will be based upon lectures and readings. Since this is a survey course, material is covered very quickly. If you do not do the weekly readings and watch online lectures as scheduled, you will have problems following the course content, miss the chance to clarify questions in the tutorial section, and will be too overwhelmed to write a successful exam.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Participation – 40%, due throughout the term
2. Critical Discussion Paper – 25%, due 11:59 PM (EST), April 4
3. Final Exam – 35%, due 11:59 PM (EST), April 21

Course Evaluation – Details

Participation (40%)

Students are expected to participate consistently in their respective tutorial groups. In the tutorial, you will be guided by the TA to discuss questions related to ideas and concepts presented in lectures and readings. Marks for your participation will be based upon your weekly response (30%) and tutorial engagement (10%). Participation constitutes 40% of your final mark, and therefore it will be unlikely for you to succeed in the course if you are unable to participate consistently.

- Weekly response (30%): Each week you are expected to produce a response that 1) identifies the most important insights you have learned from the course material of the week and 2) provides a minimum of 2 question prompts for discussion (excluding Week 1 and 6). Your response should **NOT** be a summary of the reading(s). It should be 300-350 words in length and should be posted on the Discussion Forum under the module of the corresponding week on Avenue to Learn by 6PM (EST) of the day prior to your tutorial section. Among the 11 responses, only the top 10 will count towards your final grade. Each response is worth 3% of the final grade. You get one free class, so MSAFs do not apply for this assignment. **No late responses will be accepted.**
- Tutorial engagement (10%): Your attendance and active participation in the tutorial section defines your tutorial engagement. Your overall performance will be evaluated and graded by your TA.

Critical Discussion Paper (25%)

For the critical discussion paper, you will be provided with three sets of questions in which you select ONE set to work on. The paper should be 2,500-3,000 words (excluding footnote and bibliography) and should be properly referenced. The questions and detailed guidance will be released on March 15, after which you will have 3 weeks to complete the task. Your paper must be submitted to the designated folder on Avenue to Learn by 11:59 PM (EST), April 4. A late penalty of 1 final mark per day will be applied to late submission to a maximum of 5 days, after which your paper will not be accepted and a mark of 0 will be recorded. Weekends count as 2 days.

Final Exam (35%)

The final exam will be a take-home exam. It will consist of different types of questions such as multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions, and you will be given a week to complete it. Some of the questions will be based on the sample questions on the textbook website. The exam questions will be released on Avenue to Learn at 00:00 AM (EST) on Thursday, April 15, and the completed exam should be submitted on Avenue to Learn by 11:59 PM (EST) on Wednesday, April 21. To excel in the exam, you will have to draw on both lecture notes and reading materials to demonstrate your comprehensive understanding and critical engagement.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Jan 11)

Course Introduction

What is GPE? Theories and Methods

Readings: Ch1&2

Notes: No weekly response; tutorial sections proceed as scheduled.

Week 2 (Jan 18)

Asia, Africa, and European Expansionism

Readings: Ch3

Notes: Week 2 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 3 (Jan 25)

Imperialism and War

Readings: Ch4

Notes: Week 3 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 4 (Feb 1)

Post-War Political Economy

Readings: Ch5;

Lavigne, M (1999). *The Economics of Transition: From Socialist Economy to Market Economy*, 2nd Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (Ch1, Ch3)

Notes: Week 4 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 5 (Feb 8)

International Trade

Readings: Ch6

Notes: Week 5 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 6 (Feb 15) Reading Week

Week 7 (Feb 22)

Transnational Production

Readings: Ch7

Notes: Week 7 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 8 (Mar 1)

Global Division of Labour

Readings: Ch9

Gender

Readings: Ch10

Notes: Week 8 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 9 (Mar 8)

Economic Development

Readings: Ch11

Notes: Week 9 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 10 (Mar 15)

Globalization and Finance

Readings: Ch8

Notes: Week 10 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 11 (Mar 22)

Neoliberalism

Readings: Steger, M. B., & Roy, R. K. (2010). *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Ch1)

Environment

Readings: Ch12

Notes: Week 11 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 12 (Mar 29)

Security

Readings: Ch14

The Emerging Economies

Readings: Breslin, S. (2013). *China and the Global Political Economy*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. (Ch3)

Notes: Week 12 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section; Critical Discussion Paper due 11:59 PM (EST), April 4.

Week 13 (Apr 5)

Crisis, Resistance, and Global Governance

Readings: Ch15

Notes: Week 13 response due 6PM (EST) on the day prior to your tutorial section.

Week 14 (Apr 12) Reflection Week

Notes: No online lectures or tutorial sections this week.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All the course assignments, including weekly responses and the Critical Discussion Paper, should be submitted to the designated space on Avenue to Learn.

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

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 20/25 handed in on time would get a mark of 19/25 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 SAS and have arranged in advance for an extension. 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”.

Courses with an On-Line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, 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 a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

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 details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

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. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

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. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

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 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. Your TA is your first point of contact if you have questions about the course. Please allow 48 hours for the responses. One student should not send more than one email a day to the TA.
2. If you have an SAS accommodation, communicate with the course instructor at hsus8@mcmaster.ca at the beginning of term or as soon as it is granted to discuss the mechanics of the accommodation.
3. MSAF does not apply to any assignments in the course.
4. If you are falling behind on your work or are experiencing difficulties, consult with your TA immediately. We are unable to help you if things are brought to our attention after you miss the deadline.
5. There are NO makeup assignments for missed weekly responses, tutorials, and Critical Discussion Paper. 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.

Disclaimer

The Course Outline is subject to change prior to the start of classes.