

Diaspora & Transnational Studies

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DTS2000H1 Graduate Topics Global Capitalism

Instructor

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Office hours

Course description

This seminar explores approaches to the study of global industrial capitalism. An economic system for distributing goods through markets, capitalism is also a cultural and political formation and a system of social relations. The expansion of industrial capitalism, from the eighteenth century to the present moment of global crisis, has had a paradoxical effect. Industrialization has vastly – although unevenly – increased wealth and standards of living for many. And yet, the mass migration, rapid movement of goods and capital, and global supply chains that support global capitalism have also displaced and dispossessed many millions. The seminar explores this paradox in historical perspective, with readings from a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Evaluation

Assignment	Key date	Percentage of total mark
Class participation	On-going	20%
Reading responses	On-going	50%
Final paper	8 April 2022	30%

Assignments and evaluation

Participation – 20%, throughout term

I expect every student enrolled in the seminar to contribute to the weekly discussion. Participation includes both presence and preparation. That means that I expect everyone to attend the seminar weekly, to read the assigned readings and to contribute in a constructive, respectful, and well-prepared way to the discussion. I am not taking marks off for the occasional missed meeting due to unforeseen illness, etc. – you are adults, and graduate students, and I am not interested in hectoring you about your attendance. If you are not regularly or chronically absent, and if you make a good-faith effort to attend, that is enough for me, especially as we lurch through a public-health crisis. Moreover, I am not counting individual interventions into the discussions – I am looking for quality

over quantity. I also expect you to be courteous, respectful, and intellectually generous with each other in conversation. I

Reading responses – 50%, five responses, throughout term

During the term, by the end of the day on the Tuesday before the seminar meeting, you will submit a response of about 500 words on Quercus related to the coming week's readings. In other words, if you choose to write a response on the reading for, say, Week 3, you must submit your response before the end of the day on Tuesday just before our Week 3 meeting. I will not read or mark late submissions. You are welcome to write every week, but I will count the 5 best marks on your reading-responses toward your final mark. These responses can engage with a question raised in the readings or explore an individual reading more closely. I may draw on questions raised in the responses in the seminar.

Final paper – 30%, due 8 April 2022

For the final research paper, you will choose a topic or theme related to the study of global capitalism, very broadly defined, and use it to develop an argument. The paper can be original research, a book review or literature review, or a reflection on one or more themes in the course. I am happy to discuss possible themes and arguments, read outlines (although not drafts) and suggest sources.

Your essay should be from 10 to 15 double-spaced pages long, exclusive of any bibliography. I prefer that you format your essays in 12-point Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins. Please use Chicago Manual for footnotes; with CM, there is no need for an additional bibliography.

I will apply a sliding scale of penalties to late papers. For the first seven days, I will subtract 1% per day. After that initial week, I will assess a penalty of 5% per day. If you require a longer extension, you must contact me immediately. If you do not get in touch regarding an extension before the essay is due, I will not consider waiving penalties.

Submission of assignments

Please submit all assignments **through Quercus**.

Email

If you have a simple question about a reading or an assignment, one that I can answer in a few lines, it is likely that I will be able to give you a reply over email. If I cannot answer your question briefly, I'll reply and invite you to book a digital meeting where we can discuss your questions at greater length. I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours.

Please note: All email must be sent from your university account. I will not reply to messages from personal accounts.

Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating

honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your U of T degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Please be advised that Instructors and Teaching Assistants are required to report any instance of suspected academic dishonesty to the Employment Relations Program Office. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying/ altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Signing attendance reports on behalf of other students.

Please read the University of Toronto's policies on student plagiarism and conduct yourselves accordingly. Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate University authorities. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Weekly topics and readings

Week 1: Capitalism in the neoliberal era

James Vernon, "Heathrow and the Making of Neoliberal Britain," *Past & Present* 252, no. 1 (August 1, 2021): 213–47.

Daniel T. Rodgers, "The Uses and Abuses of 'Neoliberalism,'" *Dissent Magazine*, 2018, <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/uses-and-abuses-neoliberalism-debate>.

Week 2: Precarious labour

Nell Irvin Painter, *Standing at Armageddon: A Grassroots History of the Progressive Era* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2008), Chapter 2, 36-71.

Saskia Sassen, *Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2014), Introduction and Chapter 3, 1-11, 117-148.

Guy Standing, *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016), Chapters 1 and 4, 1-30 and 105-134.

Week 3: Silence and structure

Paul Farmer, "An Anthropology of Structural Violence," *Current Anthropology* 45, no. 3 (June 1, 2004): 305–25.

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1995), Chapter 3, 70-107.

Christina Sharpe, *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2016), Chapter 1, 1-24.

Week 4: Land and power

Amartya Sen, *Poverty and Famines: An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*, Reprint edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), Chapters, 1-5, 1-51.

Tariq Omar Ali, *A Local History of Global Capital: Jute and Peasant Life in the Bengal Delta* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018), Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4, 1-36 and 94-107.

Donald Worster, *Dust Bowl: The Southern Plains in the 1930s*, 25th Anniversary edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), Introduction and Part Four, 3-8 and 139-180.

Week 5: Moral economies before and after

Chris Otter, *Diet for a Large Planet: Industrial Britain, Food Systems, and World Ecology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020), Chapter 2, 48-71.

E. P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past & Present*, no. 50 (1971): 76–136.

Week 6: Immigration and labour

Mae M. Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*, Revised edition (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014), Part II, 91-166.

Heidi Bohaker and Franca Iacovetta, "Making Aboriginal People 'Immigrants Too': A Comparison of Citizenship Programs for Newcomers and Indigenous Peoples in Postwar Canada, 1940s–1960s," *The Canadian Historical Review* 90, no. 3 (September 16, 2009): 427–61.

Week 7: Seeing like a State

James Vernon, *Hunger: A Modern History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2009), Chapters 1-4, 1-117.

James Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1999), Part 1, 9-84.

Week 8: Deindustrialisation and despair

Victor Tan Chen, *Cut Loose: Jobless and Hopeless in an Unfair Economy* (Oakland: University of California Press, 2015), Chapter 2, 37-80.

Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (New York: Crown, 2016), Prologue and Chapters 1 to 3, 1-52.

Week 9: Gentrification and crisis

Catherine Jheon, "We Bought a Crack House," *Toronto Life*, May 29, 2017, <https://torontolife.com/real-estate/parkdale-reno-hell/>.

Cedric Johnson, "Introduction: The Neoliberal Deluge," in *The Neoliberal Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, Late Capitalism, and the Remaking of New Orleans*, ed. Cedric Johnson (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011), xvii–l.

Orrin H. Pilkey and Keith C. Pilkey, *Sea Level Rise: A Slow Tsunami on America's Shores* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019), Chapter 1 and 10, 1-14 and 121-135

Week 10: Ethnography and power

Christina Sharpe, "Black Life, Annotated," *The New Inquiry*, August 8, 2014, <https://thenewinquiry.com/black-life-annotated/>.

Rosalind Fredericks, *Garbage Citizenship: Vital Infrastructures of Labor in Dakar, Senegal* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2018), Chapter 2, 60-96.

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (New York: Picador, 2011), Part III, 121-192.

Week 11: Regulation and precarious labour

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth-Century America* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2011), Chapter 3, 91-136.

LaShawn Harris, "Sex Work and the Underground Economy," in *City of Workers, City of Struggle: How Labor Movements Changed New York*, ed. Joshua B. Freeman (New York: Columbia University Press, 2019), 96–105.

Week 12: Tradition and Reaction

James C. Scott, *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2017), Introduction and Chapter 2, 1-36 and 68-92.

Thomas Carlyle, "The Present Time," in *Latter-Day Pamphlets [1850]*, Thomas Carlyle's Collected Works (London: Chapman and Hall, 1870), 3–58.

Douglas S. Massey, "The Age of Extremes: Concentrated Affluence and Poverty in the Twenty-First Century," *Demography* 33, no. 4 (November 1, 1996): 395–412.

