

POLI 17: U.S. AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

<https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/44053>

University of California, Santa Cruz - Summer Session 1, 2021 - Tues/Thurs 2pm-4.30pm¹

GSI: Mark Howard

Email: mrhoward@ucsc.edu

Office Hours: Tu/Th 1-2pm ([Zoom Link](#))

I. COURSE OVERVIEW

This course explores the changing U.S. relationship with the global economy in the context of globalization. In doing so it also aims to trace the diverse political meanings that the world economy has for us as individuals living in America. In thereby tracking the political relays between the global and the personal, the course seeks to come to terms with how foreign policy debates relate both to macro shifts in global political economy and to micro shifts in the processes of individual identity formation amidst globalization. This makes it possible to reframe traditional debates in international relations about inter-state politics by theorizing them in relation to so-called neoliberalization and associated forms of biopolitics. Particular attention is paid in this way to how personal hopes, fears and views about the world are associated with neoliberal practices of self-making through self-investment, self-responsibilization, and self-blame. The goal is to explore how these forms of subjectivity and self-making that are increasingly dominant amidst globalization change the ways in which we understand how the world economy relates to ‘us’ as individuals, including how we variously present ourselves in response as responsible, resilient, resistant, reactionary or revolting subjects. Along the way, the ‘U.S.’ in the course title is thereby re-examined in terms of how globalization changes ‘us’ as inhabitants of America and as citizens of an increasingly integrated but also still deeply divided, dangerous and precarious world.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- demonstrate a working knowledge of the key concepts, theories and historical narratives surrounding globalization, particularly as they relate to discourse, commodities, labor, money, law, governance, space, and health;
- read, interpret, and critique complex material relating to the politics of economics in an international or global context;

¹ Our first meeting on 6/22/21 (only) will begin at 1pm and will include a live lecture. There will be no office hours this day.

POLI 17 – US and the World Economy (Syllabus - Summer Session 1, 2021)

- draw upon a working knowledge of general facts about the actors, institutions, and postwar history of the politics of economics as it relates to globalization and neoliberalism;
- evaluate and synthesize diverse materials in order to form oral and written arguments about how global political economic trends inform and shape their personal choices and everyday life;
- collaborate with other students in order to prepare short presentations, and to communicate their findings to a broader group through various means;
- engage knowledgeably with others about the politics of resilience, resistance & reaction under the forces of globalization and neoliberalism.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There are six key components to this course: assigned readings and videos, lectures, discussion boards, quizzes, section participation, and writing assignments.

a) Readings and Assigned Videos:

Our primary readings for the course will be taken from *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*, available on Canvas and authored by our very own Professor Matt Sparke.

The textbook is foundational to the course and constitutes the essential pre-requisite knowledge you will need to possess coming into the bi-weekly lectures and sections. It is therefore essential that you complete the assigned bi-weekly readings *prior* to lecture/section. If you like to read, and to discuss what you read with your fellows, you are likely to succeed in the class.

Occasionally, there will be a second (shorter) reading, though I have tried to keep this to a minimum. Wherever possible, I have made additional readings optional, or replaced them with an informational (and occasionally humorous) video.

You will be asked to read around 50 pages in preparation for each lecture/section (~100 pages per week). I recognize that this is not insignificant, and also that the material will occasionally be dense and challenging, employing technical terminology and abstract ideas that can be difficult to grasp at first. It therefore requires that you practice “slow reading,” which takes time, concentration, patience, and reflection *before* watching the lecture and attending discussion. I assure you this will be deeply rewarding in the long term. If you have taken these steps and are still having difficulty engaging in the course materials, arrange to visit me in office hours.

You are not required to buy any texts for this course. All material will be made available to you through Canvas.

b) Lectures:

POLI 17 – US and the World Economy (Syllabus - Summer Session 1, 2021)

Except for our first meeting (Tuesday 6/22/21), all lectures will be prerecorded and uploaded to Canvas for you to watch prior to our scheduled meeting. Lectures will be anywhere between 60 and 90 minutes in length and will be posted a minimum of 24 hours before our meeting.

c) Discussion Boards:

Students are required to be active participants on the Canvas discussion boards. I expect each student submit a minimum of 1-2 posts to the relevant discussion board prior to every meeting. This is to help you prepare for our discussion and writing assignments. Posts are due no later than 11.59pm the day before we meet.

d) In-Class Quizzes

Towards the middle of each meeting, between around 3pm and 3.15pm, all students will complete a short online quiz based on the reading material for that session. This is to ensure students keep up with the reading assignments (which are cumulative) and do not fall behind in the very short time we are together. There will be around 7-10 multiple-choice questions per quiz.

e) Section Participation:

Our discussion sections will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2pm and 4.30pm. The only exception to this is our first meeting on Tuesday 6/22/21, when there will be a combined lecture and discussion section and we will meet from **1pm** to 4.30pm. If in doubt, please refer to the schedule of meetings and assignments below.

All meetings will be held over Zoom (links below), and **attendance at all sessions is mandatory**. The only acceptable absences are those due to extenuating circumstances, and you may be asked to provide documentation. Scheduled absences should be requested and approved well in advance of our meeting. More than two **unexplained** absences may result in a FAIL for the class overall. In short: stay in communication with me as much as is possible!

Discussion section work is the primary vehicle by which you will achieve the learning outcomes laid out for the course. Our time will include a brief Q&A regarding the assigned readings and lecture materials, followed by group work in which you will be asked to complete activities related to the course materials and your own writing assignment for that week. The final hour of our meeting will be dedicated to actually writing these assignments, and I will be available throughout to support you if you have any questions or run into difficulty.

f) Writing Assignments:

This course has two assessed writing components.

First, there are biweekly installments of the ‘World Economy and Me’ essay, that you will write in the final hour of class each time we meet. These will be 1-2 pages (250-500 words) in length

and will prompt you to connect your personal experiences to the assigned readings and/or video for that topic.

Second, at the end of the course you will bring all of your individual installments together to rework them into a coherent ‘World Economy and Me’ essay of around 12-15 pages (2500-3000 words). This will require significant thought and editing – merely ‘patching’ together all your previous essays will not suffice.

A detailed guide to the World Economy and Me writing assignments can be found here: <https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/44053/files/folder/unfiled?preview=4088963>

IV. GRADING

Your overall grade for the class will be broken down as follows:

- Discussion Boards (10%)
- Biweekly In-Class Quizzes (20%)
- Section Participation (20%)
- World Economy and Me In-Class Writing (20%)
- World Economy and Me Final Essay (30%)
- Extra credit: being actively engaged in the political world, bringing relevant articles and sources to class and discussing them with your classmates

Grading Scale:

A+ (97-100); A (93-96); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83) C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D (60-69); F <60

Grade Appeals:

Requests for grade re-assessments on essays may be made *after* 72 hours, but *before* 5 days after it was handed back (no exceptions). This will allow you to think about the evaluation of your work and compose a justification for the request, but it also ensures that such issues do not surface at the end of the summer. If you feel that your work has been incorrectly evaluated, you must explain in writing why the grade is inaccurate, highlighting, *specifically*, how you directly addressed the points in question, but were not given credit. Appropriate justifications must focus on the work itself and *not* what grade is needed to pass (or what you typically make on assignments in other courses). The written explanation must be to the original assignment and should be submitted to me during the period allowed (after 72 hours, but before 10 days). The entire assignment will be re-graded, and I reserve the right to adjust the grade **either up or down**, depending on the quality of the work that has been brought to my attention. Computational errors (i.e. - simple addition) of your grade should, on the other hand, be brought to my attention for adjustment immediately after the work is handed back to you.

V. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

(All assignments and materials are available on [Canvas](#) under ‘Modules’)

WEEK 1

SESSION 1.1 (Tues 6/22 1pm-4.30pm): INTRODUCTION

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/99879057841?pwd=U1VOQzRJNEFIR2tFeUIrTFNjRkdmQT09>

How are globalization and Globalization distinct? What are some of the economic, political, legal, and ecological implications of globalization as interconnection versus Globalization as political speech? What kinds of global connections can be identified in our everyday lives?

Essential Pre-work:

- Read ‘Preface’ and ‘Globalization’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. xi-xvi, 1-25

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 1.1 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 1.1: Global Ties (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Read ‘What is neoliberalism?’ by Matt Sparke

SESSION 1.2 (Thur 6/24 2pm-4.30pm) – DISCOURSE AND NEOLIBERALIZATION

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/98800642192?pwd=RC9QdGIWSU1TYzINajVJekVrb0ttQT09>

What is the difference between dominant and dissident discourse? What kinds of myths pervade the dominant discourse of globalization, and how do they relate to what is really happening in the world? Are there alternatives to neoliberalism?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Discourse’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 27-56
- Read: Christina Scharff ‘The Psychic Life of Neoliberalism’ pp. 107-119
- Watch: Lecture 1.2 Discourse and Neoliberalization
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Discourse’ (*before 6/24*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 1.2 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 1.2: Discourse (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Watch: Bo Burnham, ‘How the World Works’
- Watch: Thomas Friedman lecture ‘The World is Flat 3.0’
- Watch: ‘Inequality in the US’
- Watch: ‘The Data Behind Wealth Inequality’
- Watch ‘Capitalism and Inequality: Capital in the 21st Century’

WEEK 2

SESSION 2.1 (Tues 6/29 2pm-4.30pm) – COMMODITIES

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/92042362980?pwd=RlNEcVU0WHRndnVVd3Q4WXNQaXFhUT09>

What is a commodity? What types of commodity chains are there and how do they differ? What kinds of relationships exist between commodities, world trade, and global interdependency? How do TNCs (trans-national corporations) play a role in determining the trajectory of globalization?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Commodities’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 57-98
- Watch: Mike Mena on Illana Gershon’s “I’m not a businessman, I’m a business, man...”
- Watch: Lecture 2.1 Commodities and Commodification
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Commodities’ (*before 6/29*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 2.1 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 2.1: Personal Branding (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Watch: ‘Global Shipping Routes’
- Watch: No Logo with Naomi Klein
- Watch: Ananya Roy on ‘Whether we can shop to end poverty’
- Read: Ilana Gerson ‘You are just like Coca-Cola’ in *Down and Out in the New Economy*

SESSION 2.2 (Thur 7/1 2pm-4.30pm) – LABOR

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/91798997266?pwd=ZzM2WnA3L0Npd3FvR2VHOXdLMXBKZz09>

How has postwar globalization disrupted global labor practices and organization? What is downward harmonization and how does it affect workers around the globe? What does the concept of Fordism reveal about the history of labor and globalization? How might organized labor respond effectively to the changes brought about by globalization? Why has the relationship between workers who produce commodities and consumers who buy them changed?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Labor’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 99-138
- Read: Melinda Cooper ‘All in the Family Debt’
<http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality/melinda-cooper-all-family-debt>
- Watch: TEDx with Guy Standing “What is the precariat?”
- Watch: Lecture 2.3 Labor and Precarity
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Labor’ (*before 7/1*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 2.2 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 2.2: Precarity and Solidarity (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Read: ‘Under Neoliberalism You Can Become Your Own Tyrannical Boss’ in *Jacobin*

WEEK 3

SESSION 3.1 (Tues 7/6 2pm-4.30pm) – MONEY

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/99050818450?pwd=VmcydDh3WXNVU1lXM1hlVlpleGZ5Zz09>

What does the rise of global finance have to do with globalization and neoliberalism? Is Bretton Woods dead, or is it still alive and kicking? How did moving from the gold standard to floating exchange rates change the world? How does debt relate to discipline, and in what ways does it affect everyday life for people around the globe?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Money’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 139-179
- Watch: ‘You are not a loan’ Renegade Inc. with Andrew Ross
- Watch: ‘Student Debt’. *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*
- Watch: Lecture 3.1 Money, Finance, and Debt
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Money, Finance, Debt’ (*before 7/6*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 3.1 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 3.1: Debt and Austerity (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Watch: ‘The National Debt’. *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (**highly recommended**)
- Watch: ‘Student Loans’. *Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj*
- Read: David Graeber ‘Debt: The First 5000 Years’ (article)
- Read: Andrew Ross ‘You Are Not A Loan’
- Watch: David Harvey on the crises of global capitalism
- Read: How to understand your FICO score

SESSION 3.2 (Thurs 7/8 2pm-4.30pm) – LAW

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/95431665941?pwd=R1JMaDVtSFU0NWJJeHRWVNIQ3BXQT09>

How does commercial law relate to transnational law? What role do institutions such as the WTO (World Trade Organization) play in this relationship? What is judicial globalization and how is it transforming national and international law?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Law’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 181-225
- Watch: Lecture 3.2 Legal Globalization
- Watch: Jessica Whyte ‘The Morals of the Market’ (first 50 minutes only)
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Legal Globalization’ (*before 7/8*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 3.2 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 3.2: Regulating and Deregulating Lives (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Watch: Jessica Whyte ‘The Morals of the Market’ (whole lecture and discussion)

WEEK 4

SESSION 4.1 (Tues 7/13 2pm-4.30pm) – GOVERNANCE

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/94365122217?pwd=Mk1ML3A1QzFuRjBkSE1kYUtZMWEwUT09>

What is global governance? Are we seeing the decline and end of the nation-state? How do neoliberal policies enforce global market discipline? What role do the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank play in global governance and discipline? Do NGOs have a positive role to play in future global governance?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Governance’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 227-277
- Watch: Lecture 4.1 Market Rule, IGOs, and the end of the nation-state
- Watch: Mike Mena on Ilana Gershon ‘Breaking Up Is Hard To Do: Media Switching and Media Ideologies’
- Watch: ‘The Interconnected World’ on the IMF
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Governance’ (*before 7/13*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 4.1 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 4.1: Market Forces and Personal Life (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Read: Ilana Gershon ‘Unfriend my Heart’
- Watch: Black Mirror on the dystopian future of social credit scoring
- Read: Social credit scoring as governmentality: A Chinese example (CBS News)
- Read: ‘Life Inside China’s Social Credit Laboratory’ in *Foreign Policy*

SESSION 4.2 (Thurs 7/15 2pm-4.30pm) – SPACE

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/96742863843?pwd=cnJOZjV4VkRQcVFxY2FIeFZCSDFjUT09>

How has globalization led to and intensified uneven global development? How can we best conceptualize the relationship between geopolitics and geoeconomics? What is the relationship between speculative and spectacular urbanism? In what ways do enclaves and slums demonstrate some of the myths of globalization and neoliberalism? Why does deterritorialization often occur in conjunction with reterritorialization?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Space’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 279-336
- Watch: Lecture 4.2 Uneven Development
- Read: POLI 17 Globalization and Me Mapping Guide
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Space’ (*before 7/15*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 4.2 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 4.2: Google Mapping My Global Life (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Watch: David Harvey ‘The Right to the City and Urban Resistance’

WEEK 5

SESSION 5.1 (Tues 7/20 2pm-4.30pm) – HEALTH

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/95542322518?pwd=STdNUDFtRGM5Nm5HdEVuTVhyb2h1dz09>

How does inequality relate to global health outcomes? Are improved health and biological citizenship outcomes for some dependent on the sub-citizenship and exploitation of others? How are forms of body-counting associated with personal health-risk management tied to population scale forms of life and death body-counting in poorer contexts?

Essential Pre-work

- Read: ‘Health’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 337-388
- Watch: Lecture 5.1 Globalized health and personal investment
- Watch: ‘Marketing to Doctors’. *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*
- Watch: ‘The Quantified Self’. TEDx with Gary Wolf.
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Health’ (*before 7/20*)

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 5.1 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 5.1: Health and the Market (3.30-4.30pm)

Optional/Recommended:

- Read: Deborah Lupton ‘Understanding the Human Machine’

SESSION 5.2 (Thurs 7/22 2pm-4.30pm) – RESPONSES AND CONCLUSION

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/99003986359?pwd=ZzFPMkU3ZERmN05ubmlOYWdHdE5xUT09>

How do you see your own response to globalization and neoliberalization? What does it mean to be a good global citizen? How might individual responsibility translate into collective responsibility?

Essential Pre-work (no lecture)

- Read: ‘Responses’ in *Introducing Globalization*. pp. 389-416

- Watch: ‘The Dirty Secret of Capitalism’ TED Talk with Nick Hanauer
- Post: Contribute to the discussion board ‘Responses’ (*before 7/22*)
- Read: All of your own World Economy and Me Essays

In-class Graded Assignments:

- Reading Quiz 5.2 (3pm)
- Essay: World Economy and Me 5.2: Responses (3.30-4.30pm)

FINAL WORLD ECONOMY AND ME PAPER DUE SATURDAY JULY 24th 5pm

Important Summer Session Remote 2021 Deadlines:

Session 1:

Drop: Monday, June 28

Request for “W”: Friday, July 9

Session 2:

Drop: Monday, August 2

Request for “W”: Friday, August 13

8-Week:

Drop: Monday, July 5

Request for “W”: Friday, July 23

10-Week:

Drop: Monday, July 5

Request for “W”: Friday, July 23

Summer is unique. **You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment.** You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including ‘change of grade option’ (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html>

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Title IX:

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC

POLI 17 – US and the World Economy (Syllabus - Summer Session 1, 2021)

Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.