

*SPL 507: Economic Globalization, Neoliberalism and Social Policy*



Fall 2016

Fridays btw. 14:00-17:00 @ NFB 204

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Office Hours: By appointment.

While contemporary economic globalization and globalization of neoliberalism are two concepts that have been embedded in different worldviews, both are employed in capturing global and interlinked on-going changes in the world economic order in the aftermath of late 1970s. Parallel to these changes, dominant paradigms of social policy and development have been undergoing a significant transformation. We have been recently witnessing quite important political and economic events including subprime mortgage crisis in the U.S., Panama leaks, Greece debt crisis and Brexit, which reveal what neoliberal globalization has produced so far. Against this background, this course addresses the following questions: What are the defining characteristics of neoliberalism? How do neoliberal ideas travel? What are the new challenges that neoliberalism pose to our societies? How and to what extent do social policies change in the age of neoliberalism? What is the new social policy and development paradigm today? The course is designed to create an intellectual platform where we can discuss the welfare implications of neoliberalism as an ideology, a policy framework and a policy practice. The course will start with a discussion on the concepts of economic globalization and neoliberalism. Then it will explore the new discourses and roles of international organizations in social policy and development. Following this, the course will focus on the project of European Union and discuss if and to what extent the EU has been successful in putting together a social model in the age of neoliberalism. After investigating the changes in the relationship between state and economy and the new form that the state takes today, the course will invite students to discover the selected building blocks of neoliberal globalization: financialization, free trade and individualization of previously socialized risks. Last weeks of the course are dedicated to class discussions on two big questions of our age: Is capitalism still compatible with democracy? Is our economic growth-based model of social progress sustainable?

## Organization of classes

I will lecture around 40-50 minutes in the beginning of the class to set the scene. After Q & A session following the lecture, we will give a short break. After the break, we will have a discussion session where each student is expected to contribute. Discussions will be based upon questions that you will come up with after engaging with assigned readings.

## Requirements

I expect you to **read each week's assignments** before the class and to engage with each week's readings in written form prior to classes. I call these written engagements with the assigned readings "**memos**". Memos should be written on at least **one of the assigned readings** of each week. In these memos, I expect you to summarize the main argument of one of the assigned readings, write what you find most thought-provoking (including criticisms and/or appraisals) in the reading and come up with a couple of discussion questions that you would like to discuss in the class. Average length of these memos should be around 250 words only. Longer memos are not better memos. I expect you to send them to me by email until each Wednesday night (12:00 at the latest). On Thursdays, I will compile them into one document, write some additional comments on them and send to all participants of the class. I expect you to go over this document before coming to class. Fulfilling these two requirements on time are key to ensure the quality of discussions among us. Late memos are not accepted, as it will not be useful in facilitating class discussion anymore. Even if you will not be attending one particular class for some reason, you are still expected to hand in a memo on time. Failing to hand in memos will affect your grade. I will read these memos, but will not grade them for "quality". Memos will constitute 44 per cent of your final grade (4 points for each\*11 memos in total).

**Class participation** (not attendance, but participation to discussions) will constitute 16 per cent of your final grade.

**Take-home final** will constitute 40 per cent of your final grade.

23 Sept.	Introduction
30 Sept.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> Globalization and neoliberalism: An introduction</p> <p>David Harvey, <i>A Brief History of Neoliberalism</i>, pp. 1-63</p> <p>Adam Tickell and Jamie Peck, <i>Remaking the Global Economy: Economic-geographical Perspectives</i>, pp. 163-182.</p>
7 Oct.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> International organizations and their approach to the Global South</p> <p>Joseph Stiglitz, <i>Globalization and its Discontents</i>, pp. 3-52</p> <p>Bob Deacon, <i>Global Social Policy &amp; Governance</i>, pp. 24-62.</p>
14 Oct.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> European Union: A social model?</p> <p>Fritz W. Scharpf, <i>The European Social Model</i>, pp. 645-670.</p> <p>James A. Caporaso and Sidney Tarrow, <i>Polanyi in Brussels: Supranational Institutions and The Transnational Embedding of Markets</i>, pp. 593-620.</p>
28 Oct.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> How does the state look like today?</p> <p>Bob Jessop, "Towards a Schumpeterian workfare state? Preliminary remarks on post-Fordist political economy," pp. 7-39.</p> <p>Philip G. Cerny, "The competition state today: from raison d'État to raison du Monde," pp. 5-21.</p>
4 Nov.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> One of the building blocks of neoliberalism: Financialization</p> <p>Andrew Glyn, <i>Capitalism Unleashed: Finance, Globalization, and Welfare</i>, pp. 50-76.</p> <p>Natascha Van der Zwan, "Making sense of financialization." pp. 99-129.</p>
11 Nov.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> What happened to the state's capacity to tax the rich?</p> <p>Philipp Genschel, <i>Globalization, Tax Competition and the Welfare State</i>, pp. 245-275.</p> <p>Vito Tanzi, "Globalization and the future of social protection," pp. 116-127.</p>

18 Nov.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> What happened to working classes?</p> <p>Guy Standing, <i>The Precariat</i>, pp. 1-89.</p>
25 Nov.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> What happened to industrial relations?</p> <p>Anita Chan, "Racing to the bottom: international trade without a social clause." pp. 1011-1028.</p> <p>Tim Bartley, "Institutional Emergence in an Era of Globalization: The Rise of Transnational Private Regulation of Labor and Environmental Conditions," pp. 297-351.</p>
2 Dec.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> What happened to social protection systems?</p> <p>Jacob S. Hacker, <i>Privatizing Risk without Privatizing the Welfare State: The Hidden Politics of Social Policy Retrenchment in the United States</i>, pp. 243-260.</p> <p>Marek Naczyk and Bruno Palier. "Feed the Beast: Finance Capitalism and the Spread of Pension Privatisation in Europe," pp. 1-29.</p>
9 Dec.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> Is capitalism still compatible with democracy?</p> <p>Wolfgang Streeck, <i>Buying Time: The Delayed Crisis of Democratic Capitalism</i>, pp. 165-190.</p>
16 Dec.	<p><b>Lecture theme:</b> Rethinking our economic growth-based model of welfare</p> <p>Naomi Klein, <i>This Changes Everything</i>, pp. 32-146.</p> <p>Barbara Muraca, "Towards a fair degrowth-society: Justice and the right to a 'good life' beyond growth," pp. 535-545.</p>