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**POL 3322.2**  
**Global Political Economy**  
**Course Outline**  
**January- April 2007**

**Professor: Shelly Whitman**  
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**POL 3322.2**  
**Global Political Economy**

**A. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main objectives of the course are to familiarize students with the nature of the Global Political Economy; in particular, the various schools of thought that have dominated it and their relative utility. Specifically, the course will explore the relationship between the state and the market, the interface between the state system and the capitalist world economy, the key actors in the global political economy, their role, significance and impact. It will also explore the meaning and significance of globalization and how it is redefining the Global Political Economy. The course shall explore global issues such as human rights, poverty and security in light of the Global Political Economy.

**B. SYNOPSIS**

The course unpacks and problematizes International Political Economy as a discipline, the main actors in it, and the theoretical debates that have characterized it since its inception as well as how the forces of globalization are redefining and reshaping the discipline of the Global Political Economy.

**C. Pedagogy**

This course shall be taught through traditional lectures and assigned readings. However, class presentations and participation is an essential part of the course. There may also be guest speakers and audio-visual presentations to compliment the course material.

**D. Readings**

The required textbook for the course is: Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) Theodore H. Cohen.

Various readings will be assigned throughout the course and made available by the lecturer in due course.

**E. Course Topics**

**1. Introduction to Global Political Economy**

**Reading:** Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice p. 3-18.

**2. Theories of Global Political Economy**

**Readings:** William Tabb "Capital, Class and the State in Global Political Economy," *Globalizations*, Vol. 2, No. 1, May 2005.

Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice, p. 63-107.

### 3. Foreign Debt

Readings: Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice, p. 181- 212.

Anastascia Nesvetailova, "United in Debt: Towards a Global Crisis of Debt-Driven Finance," *Science and Society*, Vol. 69, No. 3, July 2005, pp. 396-419.

### 4. Trade Relations on a global scale

Readings: Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice, p. 221- 257

David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, Introduction to International Political Economy (New Jersey, Prentice Hall: 2005) p.117-139. *on reserve at library*

### 5. The Global Political Economy of Oil

Readings: Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice , p. 313 – 353

David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, Introduction to International Political Economy (New Jersey, Prentice Hall: 2005) pp. 403 – 419 . *on reserve at the library*

### 6. Human Rights and the Global Political Economy

Readings: see Human Rights Watch Report on China-Africa Summit at: [http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/11/02/china14498\\_txt.htm](http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/11/02/china14498_txt.htm)

See "Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises with Regard to Human Rights," U.N. Doc. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/12/Rev.2 (2003) at: <http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/links/norms-Aug2003.html> .

### 7. International Development

Readings: Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice, p. 363 – 398 .

Ian Taylor, "Globalisation Studies and the Developing World: Making International Political Economy Truly Global," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 7, 2005, pp. 1025-1042.

### 8. The Future of North-South Relations and GPE

Readings: Theodore H. Cohen, Global Political Economy: theory and practice, p. 411-429.

Doug Stokes, "The Heart of Empire? Theorising US Empire in an Era of Transnational Capitalism," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2005, pp. 217-236.

## **F. Evaluation**

This course shall be evaluated in the following manner:

### **1. Research Paper - 40%**

The topics for this paper will be discussed in the second week of class. The paper shall be no longer than 10 pages in length, double spaced, properly formatted and referenced. The due date for the paper will be March 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **2. Class Attendance and Participation – 20%**

Students are expected to participate in discussion during class time. This involves preparation via the readings as well as active involvement in the class. Opportunities will be given for group discussion.

You may then **choose one of the following options:**

### **3. Class Presentation – 40%**

This presentation will be 20 minutes long and can be done in groups of two. Your presentation will be on a topic not directly covered during class time. Originality, research and level of interest generated by the class questions are all part of the marks provided for the presentation.

**Or**

### **Mid-term Test – 40%**

This test will be a take home test given in early April.

**You will be required to sign up for which option you shall choose from the above. These options shall be discussed in the second week of classes. The deadline for signing up shall be January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## **G. Expectations**

Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions. In addition, students are required to read recommended materials. All assignments must be completed on the due dates given. Plagiarism shall not be tolerated.

Any problems you may have should be discussed with the course lecturer, Shelly Whitman. My office can be found in MN 519, office hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 12-1pm. Should these hours not be convenient for you please contact me by e-mail at [swhitman71@yahoo.com](mailto:swhitman71@yahoo.com) or [shelly.whitman@smu.ca](mailto:shelly.whitman@smu.ca).

Please consult your SMUport accounts regularly for announcements, files, and news that will be provided for the course.

