

GEOPOLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION
MDG5195A
MICHAEL J. CHOSSUDOVSKY
FALL 2008

Course schedule: Wednesday 11:30 – 14:30
Course location: Desmarais 10161
Office hours: TBA
Office: Desmarais 10162
Telephone: (613) 562-5800 ext. 1415
E-mail: chosso@uottawa.ca

This course focuses on the structure of the global economy and its relationship to broad geopolitical and strategic issues.

The first part of the course will take the form of lectures complemented by classroom discussion on specific economic, geopolitical and strategic issues.

The second part of the course organized as a seminar will be based on students' presentations, debate on specific topics including country case studies (For details see below).

An internet version of this course outline will be available at the following web address:
<http://www.courseweb.uottawa.ca/MDG5195A/index.html>

The web-based course outline will provide access to online readings, documentation and reference material. The web-based version of the course outline should be used as a research tool. It will be updated periodically.

PART I

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction will provide an overview of fundamental economic and geopolitical processes. War and Globalization. The New World Order. The Military Agenda. The Middle East War and the Petroleum Economy. US Foreign Policy. The Debt Crisis. Macroeconomic Reform, The process of Worldwide Impoverishment. Financial Markets, the Nature of the Economic Crisis. The Global War on Terrorism, National Security.

Readings: Globalization of Poverty, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2,

World Maps

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world_maps/world_physical_2004.pdf

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world_maps/world_pol_2004.pdf

http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world_maps/world_political_ref01.pdf

Interactive maps

<http://www.citypopulation.de/cities.html>

<http://www.citypopulation.de/WorldPop.html>

World Population (1950-2050)

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/idb/>

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/popclockworld.html>

2. GLOBAL POVERTY AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY

Economic and social disparities between countries. Social polarisation and the concentration of wealth. The distribution of World income, crisis of the global economy, the globalization of poverty.

Readings: Globalization of Poverty, Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2.

Distribution of Income:

Distribution of World Income (Excel) also in word format
See also IMF source: Chart on Global Income distribution

World Bank Development Indicators

<http://www.worldbank.org/data/maps/images/gni-capita.gif>
http://www.worldbank.org/data/countryclass/classgroups.htm#Low_incomeWorld

Bank Country Tables

<http://www.worldbank.org/data/databytopic/GNIPC.pdf>

The Distribution of wealth
Forbes magazine "The Club of Billionaires"
The Richest Americans
The World's Billionaires
Southeast Asia's 40 Riches

3. GLOBAL TRADE AND PRODUCTION

Evolution of the post-war economic system, Delocation, relocation, the Cheap Labor economy, Third World assembly lines, the role of China in global industrial production, Plant closures in the developed countries, the Globalization of Unemployment, unequal exchange, the restructuring of consumption, Worldwide oversupply, global poverty.

Readings: Globalization of Poverty, chapters 5.

Other Selected articles on related issues, see for instance The prison industry in the United States: big business or a new form of slavery? by Vicky Pelaez,

It's Official: The Crash of the U.S. Economy has begun, by Richard C. Cook, contains analysis of delocation.

The loss of manufacturing jobs in Canada, Canada. The Crisis in Manufacturing Jobs: Struggling for Answers, by Labour Committee, Socialist Project

General information on wages, labor conditions, etc:

ILO (International Labor Organization):

home page:
<http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm>

<http://laborsta.ilo.org/default.html>, provides general information on wages, labor costs and working conditions including tables by country.

ILO report on Export Processing Zones

ILO data base on Export Processing Zones

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/themes/epz/epz-db.pdf>

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/dialogue/sector/themes/epz.htm>

Sweat Shops:

<http://www.sweatshopwatch.org/>, provides important data on wages and working conditions in a number of countries

Asia Monitor Research Centre:

AMRC: Labor conditions at http://www.amrc.org.hk/asian_labour_networks Country

Case Studies of EPZ

Honduras:

60-70 cents an hour http://www.ca-c.com/zip_internacional/exist_labor.html specialised labor, \$150-250 a month, engineers à \$500-600 a month

Publicity for investors in low wage assembly activities:

(Central America: business consultants):

http://www.ca-bc.com/zip_internacional/affecting_laws.html

China:

Shanghai specialized labor USD70-80/a month at FENGPU INDUSTRIAL PARK; <http://www.fengpu.com/en/index.htm>, the EPZ no longer provides details on wages.

Maquila solidarity:

<http://www.maquilasolidarity.org/> (information on wages)

NB The information on wages from these sites is not always reliable

4. THE INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

The Bretton Woods institutions and their historical evolution. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, the World Trade Organization (WTO) The United Nations system, international creditor institutions, Paris and London Clubs.

Readings: Globalization of Poverty, Chapter 3, Lecture notes on the World Bank

<http://www.courseweb.uottawa.ca/ECO2521/worldbank.html>,

"Democratic Transition" at the World Bank. by Michel Chossudovsky

United Nations:

<http://www.unsystem.org/en/frames.alphabetic.index.en.htm>

chart <http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart.html>

IMF

<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

World Bank

<http://www.worldbank.org/>

WTO

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm

WTO basic texts and agreements: http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm

Third World Network: Critical Perspective on the WTO: <http://www.twinside.org.sg/trade.htm>

5 DEBT AND MACROECONOMIC REFORM

Macroeconomic Reform, Structural Adjustment, the Process of External Indebtedness, Policy Based Lending, Deregulation, Privatization, The Role of the State, Currency Devaluation, Austerity Measures, Free Trade, Case Studies of Indebted Developing Countries. .

Readings Globalization of Poverty, Ch. 3, see country studies including chapters 10-14.

6. THE WAR ECONOMY

The New World Order, The Homeland Security State, Washington's Military Agenda, The Middle East War, the New Cold War, The Military Industrial Complex, the structure of military spending, civilian versus war economy, crisis of the civilian economy, the broad impacts of the war economy on employment and social programs.

Readings: Lecture Notes: The War Economy

New Undeclared Arms Race, <http://globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO503A.html> ,

Spiraling US Defense Spending, latest figures:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2008/defense.html>

The Project for a New American Century (PNAC):

<http://www.newamericancentury.org/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf>

100 Companies Receiving The Largest Dollar Volume Of Prime Contract Awards - Fiscal Year 2004: <http://www.dior.whs.mil/peidhome/procstat/p01/fy2004/top100.htm>

Military procurement statistics: <http://www.dior.whs.mil/peidhome/procstat/procstat.htm> `

Canada: Top Ten Military contractors: http://coat.ncf.ca/our_magazine/links/55/Articles/55_38-39.pdf

7. THE GEOPOLITICS OF ENERGY: OIL AND GAS PIPELINES

Global Energy resources. The oil giants, Strategic and economic dimensions, the Battle for Oil, Pipeline networks in Central Asia and the Middle East. The energy market, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy

Readings: Course Notes on the Energy Economy, The Battle for Oil by Eric Waddell,

Energy Outlook:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/ieo/world.html>,

Iraq and the Problem of Peak Oil by F. William Engdahl,

The Great Phase Transition: The Post-Oil Era by Jorge Figueiredo,

The Eurasian Corridor: Pipeline Geopolitics and the New Cold War, by Michel Chossudovsky,

The "Demonization" of Muslims and the Battle for Oil, by Michel Chossudovsky,

The Anglo-American Military Axis, par Michel Chossudovsky,

The Real Reasons for the Upcoming War With Iraq: A Macroeconomic and Geostrategic Analysis of the Unspoken Truth by William Clark,

Centre for Research on Globalization Oil and Energy Dossier,

MIDDLE EAST OIL MAP:

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/images/middleeastmap.jpg>

US House of Representatives: "US Interests in Central Asia":

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/CON110A.html>

Les énergies renouvelables:

<http://www.sciencetech.technomuses.ca/francais/schoolzone/basesurenergie.cfm>

Centre d'Information sur l'Energie et l'Environnement:

<http://www.ciele.org/filieres/>

8. POVERTY, FAMINE AND BIODIVERSITY

The nature of Third World agriculture, the cash crop economy, the globalization of agricultural systems, the displacement of the peasant economy, famine formation, the role of the agribusiness and biotech conglomerates, the markets for seeds and farm inputs, the use of genetically modified seeds, destroying biodiversity, plant breeders rights under the WTO, the WTO agreement on agriculture, case studies of agricultural reform.

Readings: Globalization of Poverty, Chs. 6-11, see the case studies on India, Bangladesh, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Somalia. See the debate on biodiversity and the role of the biotech companies.

Lecture Notes on Agriculture (summary notes on agricultural systems),

On the privatisation of water, Niger, the year of starvation ahead by Michel Chossudovsky,

GM Seeds: Biowarfare in Brazil, Monsanto Genetically Modified Cotton,

Ultimate War Crime: Breaking the Agricultural Cycle, Iman Khaduri,

The Global Crisis: Food, Water and Fuel. Three Fundamental Necessities of Life in Jeopardy, by Michel Chossudovsky,

Global Famine, by Michel Chossudovsky,

The United States Department of Agriculture Says Yes to Terminator, Rural Advancement Foundation International,
<http://www.globalresearch.ca/articles/RAF108A.html>,

Canada backs terminator seeds:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gmdebate/Story/0,2763,1408821,00.html>,

New patent aims to prevent farmers from saving seed by Chakravarthi Raghavan,
<http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/newpa-cn.htm>, Intellectual Property Rights: "The

Patenting of Life" by Third World Network, <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title/iprharare.htm>FAO report on famine at <http://www.fao.org/waicent/ois/press%5Fne/presseng/h38f.htm>

Centre for Research on Globalization, Dossier on Poverty and Social Inequality

Centre for Research on Globalization, Dossier on Biotechnology and GMO

Broad Issues pertaining to Biodiversity, Third World Network:
<http://www.twinside.org.sg/access.htm>

See also: Grains and biodiversity <http://www.grain.org/semences/?id=14>

MAPS

Map: top ten agricultural exporters:/ world-top-ten-agricultural-exporters-map.gif

MAP: Daily Food Consumption (calorie and protein intake) worldfood.gif

9. CRIMINALISATION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Illicit trade, Narcotics, Transnational criminal organizations (TCO). Criminalization of production et banking, money laundering, offshore banking havens, narco-economies: the cases of Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Afghanistan.

Reading: Globalization of Poverty, 14 and 15, (sections on narcotics economy),

See also "la Corruption à l'assaut des États" In French <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/1996/12/CHOSSUDOVSky/7464.html>, Michel Chossudovsky, Afghanistan's Multibillion Dollar Heroin Trade,

PART II

Seminars / Class Room Presentations

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recommended Textbook

The Globalization of Poverty and the New World Order, Global Research, Montreal, 2003, by Michel Chossudovsky,

Also available in French under the title: *La Mondialisation de la pauvreté et le nouvel ordre mondial*, deuxième édition Écosociété, Montréal, 2004.

Online Material

The material below can be accessed directly by clicking the links indicated below on the web-based version of the course outline:

Bretton Woods and WTO

The IMF and World Bank sites provide information on country-level macro-economic reforms as well comparative economic data. The World Bank can be accessed at <http://www.worldbank.org/>; the IMF at <http://www.imf.org/>; of specific interest see World Bank, The World Debt Tables (annual). Contains review of global debt situation and review of debt situation of individual countries. See also World Bank: Annual Report; World Bank, The World Development Report (annual), contains in appendix main economic and social data on developing countries. IMF Survey (bi-monthly) contains useful review of IMF policies.

At the WTO site, you will be able to consult relevant documents on trade reform and the system of global trade and investment. World Trade Organization site at <http://www.wto.org/>; see the text of the agreements on the site.

Agencies of the United Nations System

All UN agencies (including UNCTAD, FAO, UNICEF and the regional economic commissions) can be accessed at United Nations site locator <http://www.unsystem.org/index8.html>;

see UN home at <http://www.un.org/> for access to General Assembly, UNSC, etc.

See the site of the UNDP at <http://www.undp.org/>; see the UNDP Human Development Report.

The FAO site at <http://www.fao.org/> provides material and analysis on Third World agriculture as well as an annual review of the global food situation.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) site at <http://www.ilo.org/> provides analysis and data on the employment situation as well as on human and labour rights.

See also the sites of UNICEF at <http://www.unicef.org/> and the WHO at <http://www.who.int/>, which provide a review and analysis of social issues.

Financial Press with Coverage of Global Economic Issues:

Financial Times (London) at <http://www.ft.com/>

New York Times at <http://www.nytimes.com/>;

Washington Post at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>;

Globe and Mail at <http://www.globeandmail.com/>;

Forbes Magazine at <http://www.forbes.com/>

Access to World Media (newspapers by country)

See Webdo at http://www.webdopresse.ch/fr_pays.asp?nav=anglais

See also Kidon News at <http://www.kidon.com/media-link/europe.shtml> .

These sites include links to more than 8000 newspapers classified by country as well as country reference material. Constitutes an excellent tool for research on country case studies.

See also newspaper links by country at: <http://www.ecola.com/news/press/>;

newspapers and magazines of interest:

Le Monde diplomatique (French and English) <http://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/>:

Economist (London) at <http://www.economist.com/>;

International Herald Tribune (Paris) at <http://www.iht.com/>:

The Independent (London) <http://www.independent.co.uk/>:

the Guardian (London) <http://www.guardianunlimited.co.uk/>

the Observer (London) <http://www.observer.co.uk/>;

International Research Centers and Economic Think Tanks

International Chamber of Commerce at <http://www.iccwbo.org/>

Institute of International Finance at <http://www.iif.com/>

Davos World Economic Forum (WEF) at <http://www.weforum.org/>; Economic Policy Institute at <http://epinet.org/>;

Economic Development and Globalization Issues:

Alternative Media Sites

There are several news fora/ discussion groups on issues of macro-economic reform, international debt, biodiversity, environmental issues, famine, global trade reform, etc.

See the home pages of the Third World Network (TWN) at <http://www.twinside.org.sg/index.htm> including TWN Third World Features

The Centre for Research on Globalization at <http://www.globalresearch.ca>

Global policy forum at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/index.htm> See links at the Other

Economic Summit at <http://pender.ee.upenn.edu/~rabii/toes/>

World Social Forum at <http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/>

Corpwatch with links to issues of international trade and finance at <http://www.corpwatch.org/>

Development GAP at <http://www.igc.org/dgap/index.html>

Environmental issues: Eco IGC news at <http://www.igc.org/igc/> independent media center at <http://dc.indymedia.org/>; on farm policy and agriculture see <http://www.iatp.org/>; Forum on Globalization see <http://www.ifg.org/> see WTO Watch at <http://www.wtowatch.org/>;

See also WTOaction at <http://www.wtoaction.org/discuss/>

Jubilee Campaign on cancellation of Third World debt at <http://www.jubileeusa.org/start.htm>

SAPRIN NGO-Bretton Woods dialogue on structural adjustment at <http://www.igc.org/dgap/saprin/index.html>

Alternative Media (General)

Multinational Monitor at <http://www.essential.org/monitor/hyper/list.html> .

One World at <http://www.oneworld.org/>

Indymedia centers at <http://www.indymedia.org/>

Znet at <http://www.lbbs.org/weluser.htm>

Library Facilities

In addition to the facilities at the University of Ottawa, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and CIDA have excellent library facilities on issues of globalization and international development (including specialized journals, documents and reports which can be consulted and/or photocopied on site). Also consult the electronic journal available at the University Library.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Examen: **November 5 2008** (50 %)

Research term paper (case study or specific topic). Presentation in the context of classroom seminars: **December 17, 2008** (50%)

Attendance is compulsory. Kindly sign the attendance list.

For useful tips on how to write a University paper, please refer to the following Website:
<http://www.sciencessociales.uottawa.ca/USB/cleusbkey.swf> .

Beware of Academic Fraud!

Academic fraud is an act committed by a student to distort the marking of assignments, tests, examinations and other forms of academic evaluation. Academic fraud is neither accepted nor tolerated by the University. Anyone found guilty of academic fraud is liable to severe academic sanctions.

Here are a few examples of academic fraud:

- engaging in any form of plagiarism or cheating;
- presenting falsified research data;
- handing in an assignment that was not authored, in whole or in part, by the student;
- submitting the same assignment in more than one course, without the written consent of the professors concerned

In recent years, the development of the Internet has made it much easier to identify academic plagiarism. The tools available to your professors allow them to trace the exact origin of a text on the Web, using just a few words.

In cases where students are unsure whether they are at fault, it is their responsibility to consult the University's Web site at the following address; you will find « *Tools for Writing Papers and Assignments* » to http://www.socialsciences.uottawa.ca/eng/writing_tools.asp

Persons who have committed or attempted to commit (or have been accomplices to) academic fraud will be penalized. Here are some examples of the academic sanctions, which can be imposed:

- a grade of « F » for the assignment or course in question;
- an additional program requirement of between three and 30 credits;
- suspension or expulsion from the faculty.

Last session, most of the students found guilty of fraud were given an « F » for the course and had between three and twelve credits added to their program requirement.

For more information, see:

http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/info/newsletter/fraud_e.html