Global Structures: A Graduate Seminar

Convened by József Böröcz
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Office hours: M 4-5pm, B207 LSH or by appt
Department of Sociology // Rutgers University
Fall 2005, 16.920.571.01 // 01.920.491.02
M 1:10-3:50pm

This is a graduate seminar in the historical sociology of the interconnections among some of the world’s largest and most consequential social institutions. It is a survey course, organised around a critical analysis of such key concepts as 'development', the 'world-system', ‘hegemony’, ‘empire’, ‘colonialism’ and 'coloniality’. The purpose of the course is gaining literacy, devising critiques and deriving inspiration in some areas of overlap among political economy, geopolitics and studies of representations of inferiorised otherness. You are expected to:

• come to class prepared, with an active interest in both macro-social analysis, an investigative curiosity and a mature intellectual agenda relating to the issues at hand,
• present one or two 5-10-minutes-long, sharply focussed remarks introducing the given week's readings as a stimulus for class discussion (schedule of remarks will be assigned in first class meeting),
• present a 15-minute review of a book on the broad theme of the course, that only you have read (for the list of available books, see page 4 of this syllabus),
• bring a less-than-one-page list of problem items (the most clearly formulated critical questions you would pose to the authors if they were here) to each class, in as many copies as members of the class, (these will serve as bases for discussion and, later, as reminders of some of the key points),
• contribute your unique perspective, erudition and experience to the discussions, and
• write a high-quality research paper on a relevant subject on time.

Grading will be a judicious combination of your contribution to the discussions, your presentations, homework and your paper.

Paper: Write a research paper—maximum 4000 words’ length—about a topic of your choice regarding the links among various kinds of global structures. Your task is to make some theoretical proposition and some empirical observation to bear on each other in a way that is novel and relevant to some literature in this area of research. Please submit your one-paragraph topic statement by the time of the 6th class meeting—i.e., by 17 October. Please use my office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems and solutions as soon as they occur to you. Deadline for the finished paper: 4pm, 12 December 2005. Please deliver your paper, in a print form, to my mailbox.

The books have been ordered through the Livingston College Bookstore. With some luck, you might also be able to find them on Graduate Reserves in Alexander Library.
## Schedule

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<th>date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| 9/12 | Introduction:  
- to the course  
- to some of the basic issues & concepts in global analysis | **Film** in class: *Caravans of Gold* (UK - Nigerian, dir/prod.: Basil Davidson, 1984). |
|      | Homework (deadline: next class; bring to class in as many copies as people): Prepare two sets of viewer notes (each maximum 200 words): |  
/1/ How does the film contribute to understanding global structures and change?  
/2/ What are some of the main problems with the way in which the film addresses those issues? |
| 9/19 | **Basics of global analysis:**  
**Recommended:**  
9/26 World-System Analysis: Approaches, Issues and Openings


Recommended:

10/3 Rise and Demise


10/10 Hegemonies: The Substantive Implications of ‘Periodisation’


Recommended:
10/17 ‘Governance’ and Change


10/24 Global History: How to Think without Euro-centrism?


Recommended:


10/31 The ‘West’ as a Detour


11/7 Orientalism


11/14 **Coloniality**

A slide for a lecture on genetics and race at the State Academy for Race and Health in Dresden shows the Black offspring of a German woman and an African colonial soldier stationed with French troops occupying the Rhineland after World War I. Some 500 teenagers—pejoratively called the "Rhineland bastards"—were forcibly sterilized after 1937 as part of Nazi policy to "purify" the German population. Ca. 1936. *Library of Congress*


11/21 **The Universal Exhibition**


11/28 **Dominance without Hegemony and the Power of Histories**

The Rule of European Difference


Böröcz, József. “Goodness Is Elsewhere.” MS. Online location TBA.

Summary, Patching-Up and Implications
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<td><strong>Items for book review presentation:</strong></td>
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