Global Structures, Postcolonial Engagements
A Graduate Seminar

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, organized 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 focused remarks introducing the given week's readings as a stimulus for class discussion (schedule of remarks will be assigned in first class),
• 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. For your grade, 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 11 October. Please use our office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems and solutions as soon as they occur to you. Deadline for the finished paper: 5pm, December 13, 2010. Please deliver your paper, in a print form, to either József's or Ethel's mailbox in the Department.

The books have been ordered through Barnes & Noble. With some luck, you might also be able to find them on Graduate Reserves in Alexander Library.
## Schedule

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<tr>
<th>dates</th>
<th>topics</th>
<th>readings</th>
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| 9/8   | **Introduction:**  
- ourselves  
- course  |
|       | **Films** in class:  
\[Caravans of Gold\] (UK-Nigerian, dir/prod.: Basil Davidson, 1984).  
\[A luta continua / The Struggle Continues\] (Mozambique, dir/prod.: Robert Van Lierop, 1973)  |
|       | **Homework for next class** (bring to class in as many copies as people): Prepare two sets of viewer notes (each max. 200 words):  
What are the key issues the two films, and their juxtaposition, thematise with respect to the subject of our class?  |
| 9/13  | **Basics of global analysis:**  
Modernizationism, dependency, world-systems and post-colonial studies  |

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Recommended:

9/20  World-System Analysis: Approaches, Issues and Openings


Recommended:


9/27  Global History: How to Think without Euro-centrism?


Recommended:


10/4  Imperialism, Marxism and the National Question


Geo-Political Economy


The bookstore has very expensive cloth bound copies. For paperbacks, click here: http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415595179/

Transnational Organizing

**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

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**“Rights of Man” in the Colony**

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In preparation for this class, you should watch the film *Black Skin, White Mask* (1995, British, BBC, dir. Isaac Julien), on reserve in the Media section of Douglass Library.


Recommended:


Recommended:

11/29  Empire beyond Modern Europe


12/6  Avoiding Empire


12/13  Summary, Patching-Up and Implications
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<tr>
<th>Items for book review presentation:</th>
<th>Date of presentation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrighi, Giovanni, Takeshi Hamashita and Mark Selden (eds.) 2003. <em>The Resurgence of East Asia</em>. 500,</td>
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<tr>
<td>London: Verso.</td>
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<td>Grovogui, Siba N’Zatioula. 1996. *Sovereigns, Quasi Sovereigns, and Africans. Race and Self-</td>
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<td>Determination in International Law*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.</td>
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<td>Columbia UP.</td>
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