

Dalhousie University
Departments of Political Science & Sociology & Social Anthropology

POLI/SOSA 1500

Global Politics and Society (GPS)

Fall term, 2020; Online.



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Class Location: Online via Brightspace & Brightspace Collaborate

Class Time: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. 4:30-5 reserved for office hours.

The course fulfills the 1st year social science requirement and acts as a pre-requisite for upper level courses in both Political Science and Sociology and Social Anthropology. This is a DAL CAPS course.

Note: Students may take a maximum of 9 credit hours in SOSA and/or POLI. Because this course can be counted as either POLI or SOSA, that means students can take only one additional 3 credit course in POLI and another in SOSA.

Course Description:

What do we mean when we say we live in a “global society”? The course covers key concepts from political science, sociology, and social anthropology with a view to examining how interactions of large-scale global processes, politics, and policies resonate in communities, social institutions and people’s everyday lives. This course explores globalization as the multiple ways nations, communities, and people are connected and disconnected across traditional boundaries. While consideration of globalization requires thinking about seemingly abstract large-scale global processes, in this course we will show how ‘the global and the local’ come together; how people engage with and shape global processes, and how state and non-state actors seek to ‘govern’ and contest them.

We will focus upon the changing dynamics of global capitalism as these are manifest in the political, economic, and social conditions across and within regions, nations, and communities. Core themes for the course will include: political economy as the primary lens through which to discuss the changing dynamics of global capitalism and the resulting strains on communities, countries, and regions; global governance and local institutions, along with the complex politics of regional and global security; nation states, societies and cultures as foundational concepts, all of which are subject to new strains from globalizing forces; global migration and the governance of borders – who moves to other countries, how, why and under what conditions?; politics, ecology and the environment – including the challenge of climate change; popular struggles by people concerned about globalization and how it affects their lives; global connections and disconnections – the pros and cons of global institutions and cultural practices. Through these topics, we will emphasize foundational theories and concepts from all three disciplines including: class, gender, ethnicities and race; culture and society; the nation-state; government and governance; conflict and co-operation; power and authority.

Organization of the course:

This course is **asynchronous**, relying on videos of lectures, and entails **weekly synchronous discussions** (explained below; alternative arrangements can be made for students who are unable to attend discussions). All course materials, except the textbook, are available on Brightspace. Please check Brightspace daily for announcements.

Every week the instructors will post videos on the online platform [Brightspace](#) (not later than Friday evening) in order to provide students the opportunity to watch and take notes in preparation for the following Tuesday discussion.

Every week students are expected to read the assigned chapters and, most weeks, watch a documentary. Some weeks you will be asked to complete an assignment.

The course has 3 Discussion Boards: 1. Conversations on Course content is a space for student questions about the lectures, readings, or documentaries. We may post news pieces of interest here also; 2. Introductions/ Community for students and instructors to upload their Introduction videos or text; 3. Housekeeping is a space for students to ask questions about assignments and issues that arise.

Learning Objectives:

- become familiar and able to define foundational concepts in all three disciplines
- understand the ways in which the three disciplines define and study globalization, global politics and society
- learn how to describe and analyse examples of globalizing politics and processes
- be able to identify some examples and impacts of globalization in contemporary everyday life (e.g. in cities, migration and citizenship, environmental politics, food production and consumption)
- build organizational and time-management skills that assist students in taking greater control and responsibility for their own learning. Practically, this means that students join the discussion having completed readings and ask questions when they do not understand materials in lectures and readings.
- learn about and practice writing and citation conventions for the social sciences.

Required Text

Globalizations: The Essentials. George Ritzer and Paul Dean, 2018. Wiley-Blackwell. eText.

Available from the Campus Bookstore: <https://bookstore.dal.ca/Search?cat=0001&data=ritzer>

Evaluation and Assignments

1. Introduce yourself! We would like to get to know you! Tell us your name, where you are taking this class from (From BC? Near the Dal campus?), where you went to high school (in Winnipeg? Hong Kong? Bedford?) and/or why you decided to take this course. Are you taking other DALCAPS courses? Have you taken an anthropology, political science, or sociology course before? You may record your response in a 1 min video or in a 1 double spaced, typed page. Be sure that your name and banner number are on the typed page or title your video Introduction [First and Last name]. **Worth 5 points. Due by midnight Atlantic Daylight Time on Thursday September 17.** Note: you can always post it earlier.

2. Attendance and participation in synchronous discussions. Participation in our synchronous meetings, designed to answer student questions and encourage discussion about the course materials, is worth 2 points (except for the first class). You may attend *all* discussions, but we will grade you for participation in up to 8. In other words, aim to attend 8 (or more) between Week 2 and Week 12! You decide which. These discussions will be approximately 30-40 min and held during the scheduled class time 3:30 to 5:00 on Brightspace. Please check in 3 min

early and use your full name (first name and last name) when you do so. 2 points x 8 discussions= **Worth up to 16 points (16%)**.

3. Post a comment to the “Conversations around Course Content” Discussion Board and/or connect with us during one instructor’s office hours: worth up to 2 points. (In other words, if you post once and attend office hours, you get two points; if you post twice, 2 points). Due: any time between September through to end of November.

4. Reflections. Students are asked to write 1 page double spaced or about 250 words summarizing their responses to a question posed by the instructors in the videos. **Students choose 8 different weeks** (whichever weeks students prefer **between Week 2 and Week 11**) to hand in a Reflection. If the professor raises more than one question, choose the one you would like to focus on. **This is due Friday of each week at midnight (or 11:59) Atlantic daylight time, no exceptions.** Please submit your Reflection to Brightspace, and be sure to mention which video module you are referring. This will typically be graded within 3 days. You will be provided with more detailed feedback on the first reflection you hand in but after that the comments will be brief. We will try and address some of the issues raised by student Reflections in videos or group discussions. **Each worth up to 4 points X 8 = 32 points (32%)**

3. Article review. This assignment asks you to find a peer reviewed article of interest to you, and to write a summary of it, noting connections to issues or concepts raised in our course. Find a peer-reviewed article of your choice using NOVANET. Your article should focus on a course topic such as inequality (income inequality globally or in a particular country or racial inequality?); local/global sport, music, or food; migration (a case study?); neoliberal policies (in a particular region?). The article you choose to summarize and discuss in connection to course issues or concepts must be published in a journal in political science, anthropology, or sociology. The length of the assignment is approximately 1000 words (3 to 4 pages, double spaced), Further instructions to follow. **Worth up to 20 points (20%)**. Due Oct 23 by midnight Atlantic Daylight Time.

4. Take home exam. The final assignment will be written responses to questions posed by the instructors about the course materials. Students will draw from all the relevant course materials (assigned chapters, the lectures, and documentaries) and write essay style answers. The take home exam questions are posted at the end of classes and your essay answers are due Dec 15 by midnight Atlantic Daylight Time. **Worth up to 25 points (25%)**.

Course policies and expectations:

- Check Brightspace daily. In Brightspace we post the link to our synchronous discussions, video lectures, instructions for the assignments, and announcements. We also post answers to commonly asked questions by students about the course in the Discussion Boards so please check Brightspace first, before sending us a question via email.
- In order to do well in this course, it’s crucial that you keep up with the content of the lectures and reading materials. Lectures will often contain material that complements

rather than reproduces the content of the readings, so it's really important to stay on top of both.

- Videos made by the professors (or fellow students) available on Brightspace are not to be saved and shared. Audio / video recordings of lectures are not permitted. The posted course material is the property of your instructors.
- **Brightspace Collaborate synchronous discussions:**
 - Please sign in a few minutes early (you may need to wait for the moderator)
 - Use your first and last names when you sign in so we can take attendance (you may need to edit your name from a nickname to your full name).
 - Please remember to mute your mic unless you are speaking.
 - We prefer to see students' faces during the discussion –but we understand if this is not possible or if students need to stop the camera for a bit.
 - If you would like to ask a question, click the hand icon and/or type it into the discussion section.
 - If a phone in option is available (for those with internet connection issues), we will provide it next the link for the synchronous discussion on Brightspace.
- If you are having a problem with Brightspace, contact the Brightspace Help: [online help](#)
- Assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with a 12 pt. font. Be sure to include place name, ID, assignment title, course no. and the instructors' names at the top of the assignment.
- Please proof-read and copy-edit **all** assignments. The quality of your writing will be considered in assessing your grade.
- If you have questions or concerns about course content, your progress in the course, or other matters, we encourage you to post your questions to the appropriate Discussion Board, or visit our virtual office hours.
- If you email us about the course, please put GPS 1500 in the subject heading and include your B00 number. Do please first refer to the course outline and to the Brightspace discussion board on common course questions, which contain answers to many of the questions we might otherwise receive.

Late Policy:

All assignments are due when specified in this outline. However, if you hand in late work due to illness or emergency, you must inform the professor in advance; if you do not inform us or the assignment is very late, your work may be penalized by 2% per day (including weekends). If extenuating circumstances prevent you from completing the assignments on time, please email or discuss this with one of the professors, or the TA, as soon as the problem arises. If you are having a problem with Brightspace, contact the Brightspace Help and email your assignment to your professors until you can upload it into Brightspace, but it must be uploaded to Brightspace within 24 hours. Please note: Reflections cannot be handed in late; students just choose the following week as explained above.

Course Schedule

Please note that you are asked to do the reading *in advance* of the synchronous class discussion (with the exception of week 1).

- Sept 8 **Module 1: Welcome & Introduction to the course**
Our first class is synchronous (Sept 8 at 3:30 Atlantic Daylight Time) for an introduction to the course.
During the week, watch: Welcome and Introduction to Key Concepts videos
READING for this week: Chapter 1 “Globalization I” (Textbook)
- Sept 15 **Module 2: Globalization? Concepts and Debates**
READING: Chapter 2 “Globalization II: Some Basic Issues...” & Chapter 3 “Globalization and Related Processes: Imperialism” (Textbook)
Watch Week 2 videos
****Introduction Assignment due Sept 17 by midnight ADT****
- Sept 22 **Module 3: Economic Globalization**
READING: Chapter 4 Neoliberalism (Textbook)
Videos for week 3
FILM: *Life and Debt*
- Sept 29 **Module 4: Economic Globalization, Part II.**
READING: Chapter 6 Structuring the Global Economy (Textbook)
Videos for week 4
FILM: If available: *The American Factory* (on Netflix)
Note: you should hand in at least one Reflection during September in order to keep up.
- Oct 6 **Module 5: Global governance: actors and processes**
READING: Chapter 5: Global Politics, Structures and Processes & Chapter 7: Global Economic Flows (Textbook)
Videos for week 5
Note: If you haven’t yet, watch Video on How to use Novanet.
- Oct 12 --Thanksgiving
- Oct 13 **Module 6: Global culture and cultural flows**
READING: Chapter 8 & Chapter 9 (Textbook)
Video Modules for week 6
FILM: *Global Metal*
- Oct 20 **Module 7: Global migration and transnationalism**
READING: Chapter 10 (Textbook)

Videos for Week 7

FILM (20 min): *The Year of the Dog: Inside the World's Largest Human Migration*

****ARTICLE REVIEW ASSIGNMENT DUE Friday Oct 23 by midnight ADT****

Oct 27 **Module 8: Global Security & Borders**

READING: Chapter 12 (Textbook)

Videos for Week 8

Nov 3 **Module 9: Global inequalities**

READING: Chapter 13 and 14 (Textbook)

Videos for Week 9

FILM: If available: *There's Something in the Water* (on Netflix)

Study Break Nov 9-13

Nov 17 **Module 10 Environmental politics – global and local concerns**

READING: Chapter 11 (Textbook)

Videos for Week 10

FILM: *This Changes Everything*

Nov 24 **Module 11: Resisting Globalization, Part 1**

READING: Chapter 15 (Textbook)

Videos for Week 11

FILM: *The Take*

Note: Last possible week to hand in a Reflection

Dec 1 **Module 12: Recap and review**

Final take home assignment due by December 15, midnight ADT

Grading scheme

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+ A A-	4.30 4.00 3.70	90-100 85-89 80-84	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
B+ B B-	3.30 3.00 2.70	77-79 73-76 70-72	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
C+ C C-	2.30 2.00 1.70	65-69 60-64 55-59	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
FM	0.00		Marginal Failure	Available only for Engineering, Health Professions and Commerce.
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	
Pending	Neutral		Grade not reported	

SECTION B: UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate.

University Statements

Provide links and brief statements as provided:

Academic Integrity http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Accessibility https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

Student Code of Conduct

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

(read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Contact the program at elders@dal.ca.

University Policies and Programs

Provide links to:

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Learning and Support Resources

General Academic Support – Advising

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
(Halifax)

Fair Dealing Guidelines
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>

Dalhousie University Library <http://libraries.dal.ca>

Indigenous Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Students
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html

Student Health Services
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html

Counselling

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/frequently-asked-questions-august-2017.html

Copyright Office

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

E-Learning website

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services

<http://dsu.ca/dsas>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Writing Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Faculty or Departmental Advising Support: Studying for Success

Program: http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html