

Senior Seminar in International Relations
University of Northern Colorado
Fall 2018

Course Information

Instructor: Gregory P. Williams

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Office Hours: Mcke 305, Mondays, Wednesdays, 1:30-3:00, and by appointment

Registration: PSCI 425, sec 001, CRN 15167

Meeting: MWF, 3:35-4:25, McKee 0327

Description

This course is a capstone experience for seniors majoring in political science or international affairs. It is not simply the study of more political theory, more foreign policy, or more international organizations. This seminar is an opportunity to apply international relations concepts through in-depth historical analysis. We will examine world-systems over time. This course will cover the following: the vocabulary of world-systems scholarship; pre-modern world-systems; the operations of capitalism; hegemonic power in the modern world-system; and the nature of world-systemic transformation (or lack thereof).

Readings

All reading assignments are listed under the schedule below. Readings will come from two sources, Canvas and your bookshelf. You must read the assignments before coming to class and bring the book or article with you. We will discuss readings in detail. If you have a photographic memory, you do not need the book to know what is discussed on page 135. Everyone else, however, will need to refer to the text directly.

Buy these books:

- (1) Gilpin, Robert. 1983. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. In schedule as WCWP.
- (2) Ikenberry, G. John. 2006. *Liberal Order and Imperial Ambition: Essays on American Power and International Order*. Cambridge: Polity. In schedule as LO.
- (3) Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2004. *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction*. Durham: Duke University Press. In schedule as WSA.
- (4) Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2011. *Historical Capitalism with Capitalist Civilization*. London: Verso. In schedule as HC.

Expectations and Grades

1) Attendance, Participation, and Quizzes (25%)

You should do the reading before coming to class each day. Be prepared to take an in-class quiz on the reading assigned for that day. Twice you will be asked to help lead a discussion on that day's topic. One day, you will orally summarize the reading for your classmates, and hand in a

one to two page written summary. (When you present, please speak extemporaneously or from notes. Do not read your summary.) On a separate occasion, you will ask three to five critical questions to spark a class discussion, and hand in your questions in writing. (See also: “Attendance Policy” below.)

2) Papers (75%)

Three times this semester, you will submit formal papers. Please see the handout, “Paper Guidelines,” for specific instructions.

Schedule

Thinking and Talking About World-Systems

Monday, August 20th: Welcome to the Senior Seminar

Wednesday, August 22nd: World-Systems as Unthinking

Immanuel Wallerstein, “There Is No Such Thing As Sociology,” *The American Sociologist* 6, no. 4 (1971): p. 328.

WSA, Preface: “Understanding the World in Which We Live” (pp. ix-xii)

Friday, August 24th: Social Life in World-Systems

Fernand Braudel, pp. 461-514: “Social Hierarchies,” In *Civilization and Capitalism, 15th-18th Century II: The Wheels of Commerce*, trans. Siân Reynolds (New York: Harper & Row, 1982). Part 5: “Society: ‘A Set of Sets.’”

Monday, August 27th: States in World-Systems

Fernand Braudel, pp. 514-554: “The all-pervasive state.” In *Civilization and Capitalism*.

Wednesday, August 29th: Economies in World-Systems

Fernand Braudel, pp. 555-599: “Civilizations do not always put up a fight” and “Capitalism outside Europe.” In *Civilization and Capitalism*.

Monday, September 3rd: No Class

Wednesday, September 5th: Vocabulary of World-Systems

WSA, Ch. 1: “Historical Origins of World-Systems Analysis” (pp. 1-22).

Friday, September 7th: Types of World-Systems

Monday, September 10th: Question Time

Pre-modern World-Systems

Wednesday, September 12th: Mini-systems, 12,000 Years Ago
Christopher Chase-Dunn and Bruce Lerro, Ch. 5: “World-Systems of Foragers” (pp. 75-90). In *Social Change* (Boulder: Paradigm, 2014).

Friday, September 14th: Chiefdoms
Chase-Dunn and Lerro, Ch. 7: “The Sacred Chiefs” (pp. 104-127). In *Social Change*.

Monday, September 17th: Changes of Small Systems
Leonid Grinin and Andrey Korotayev, “Chiefdoms from the Beginning Until Now,” in *Chiefdoms, Yesterday and Today* (Clinton Corners, NY: Eliot Werner Publications, 2017, 3-14).

Wednesday, September 19th: Feudalism
Martin van Creveld, Ch. 1: “Before the state” (pp. 1-58). In *The Rise and Decline of the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Friday, September 21st: Late Feudalism
Martin van Creveld, Ch. 2: “The rise of the state: 1300-1648” (pp. 59-125). In *The Rise and Decline of the State*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Monday September 24th: Catch up on course material

Origins and Functions of the Modern World-System

Wednesday, September 26th: A Unique System
HC, “Introduction” and Ch. 1: “The Commodification of Everything”
WSA, Ch. 2: “The Modern World-System as Capitalist World-Economy” (pp. 23-41)
Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System,”
Comparative Studies in Society and History 16, no. 4 (1974): pp. 387-415.

Friday, September 28th: Role of Nation-States
WSA, Ch. 3: “The Rise of the States-System” (pp. 42-59)
HC, Ch. 2: “The Politics of Accumulation”

Wednesday, 28 September: Capitalism is a Way of Organizing Nature
Harriet Friedmann, “What on Earth is the Modern World-System? Foodgetting and Territory in the Modern Era and Beyond,” *Journal of World-Systems Research* 6, no. 2 (2000): pp. 480-515.
Another reading to be announced

Paper 1: Topic Handed Out

Monday, October 1st: Expansion

Immanuel Wallerstein, "End of the Road for Runaway Factories?" Commentary no. 351, 15 April 2013: <http://www.iwallerstein.com/road-runaway-factories/#comment-376>.

Paper

Wednesday, October 3rd: Class Debate

Paper 1 Due

Capitalist Social Relations

Friday, October 5th: Geoculture of the System

Wolfgang Streeck, "How to Study Contemporary Capitalism?" *European Journal of Sociology* 53, no. 1 (2012): 1-28.

WSA, Ch. 4: "The Creation of a Geoculture" (pp. 60-75).

Monday, October 8th: Citizenship

Immanuel Wallerstein, "Citizens All? Citizens Some! The Making of the Citizen," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 45, no. 4 (2003): 650-679.

Wednesday, October 10th: Gender Inclusion

Valentine M. Moghadam, "Gender and Globalization" (pp. 241-268). In *Global Social Change*.

Friday, October 12th: Households

Wilma A. Dunaway, Ch. 14.1: "The centrality of the household to the modern world-system" (pp. 453-461). In *Routledge Handbook of World-Systems Analysis*, Salvatore J. Babones and Christopher Chase-Dunn, eds. London: Routledge, 2012.

Monday, October 15th: Long Waves

Immanuel Wallerstein, "Long Waves as Capitalist Process," *Review* 7, no. 4 (1984): 559-575.

Wednesday, October 17th: Question Time

Bring to class three questions on the operations of the modern world-system.

Power and Hegemony in Capitalist World-Economy

Friday, October 19th: What is Hegemony, and When Does it Occur?

Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Three Instances of Hegemony in the History of the Capitalist World-Economy"

Monday, October 22nd: Hegemony in the Twentieth Century

Christopher Chase-Dunn and Bruce Lerro, Ch. 18: "The World-System since 1945" (pp. 326-343). In *Social Change*.

Wednesday, October 24th: Competing Visions of Hegemony—Perspectives A and B
Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Eagle Has Crash Landed,” *Foreign Policy* (2002): 60-68.
Robert Gilpin, “The Rise of American Hegemony” (pp. 165-182). In *Two Hegemonies*,
Patrick Karl O’Brien and Armand Clesse, eds. Farnham, UK: Ashgate (2002).

Friday, October 26th: No Class Meeting

Monday, October 29th: No Class Meeting

Wednesday, October 31st: Competing Visions of Hegemony—Perspective C
LO, Introduction (pp. 1-18).
LO, Ch. 1: “Rethinking the Origins of American Hegemony” (pp. 21-50).
LO, Ch. 3: “The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order” (pp. 88-110).

Friday, November 2nd: Capitalism and Democracy
LO, Ch. 5: “American Power and the Empire of Capitalist Democracy” (pp. 143-171).

Paper 2: Topic Handed Out

Monday, November 5th: For Good or For Evil
LO, Ch. 6: “Getting Hegemony Right” (pp. 186-196).

Wednesday, November 7th: U.S. Hegemony Today
LO, Ch. 11: “Is American Multilateralism in Decline?” (pp. 245-277)

Paper

Friday, November 5th: Class Debate
Paper 2 Due

Transformation or More of the Same?

Monday, November 12th: How Does Transformation Work?
Christopher Chase-Dunn, “Continuities and Transformations in the Evolution of World-Systems,” *Journal of Globalization Studies* 5, no. 1 (2014): 11-31.
Gregory P. Williams, “Will We Know It When We See It? Contemplating Emergent World-Systems,” *Journal of Globalization Studies* 9, no. 1 (2018): forthcoming.
Begin WCWP

Wednesday, November 14th: Arguments About Transformation
WSA, Ch. 5: “The Modern World-System in Crisis” (pp. 76-90).
Perry Anderson, “Why the System Will Still Win,” *Le Monde Diplomatique* (2017).
Keep reading WCWP

Friday, November 16th: The Perfect Storm?

Christopher Chase-Dunn, "Five Linked Crises in the Contemporary World-System,"
Journal of World-Systems Research 19, no. 2 (2013): 175-180.

Eric Hobsbawm, "World Distempers," *New Left Review* no. 61 (2010): 133-150.

Jason W. Moore, "The Socio-Ecological Crises of Capitalism" (pp. 136-152). In
Capitalism and Its Discontents, Sasha Lilley, ed. Oakland, CA: PM Press (2011).

Be close to finishing WCWP

Monday, November 19th: Transformation is Not Only Not Inevitable, It is Rare!

Finish WCWP, with class discussion and debate

Wednesday, November 21st: No Class Meeting

Friday, November 23rd: No Class Meeting

Monday, November 26th: Dilemmas and Adjustments

HC, Ch 4: "On Progress and Transitions; and, "Capitalist Civilization" (all)

Wednesday, November 28th: Who, if Anyone, Will Determine the Future?

Immanuel Wallerstein, "Antisystemic Movements, Yesterday and Today," *Journal of
World-Systems Research* 20, no. 2 (2014): 158-172.

Christopher Chase-Dunn and Bruce Lerro, Ch. 20: "The Next Three Futures" (pp. 359-
373). In *Social Change*.

Paper Three Topic Handed Out

Friday, November 30th: Thinking About the Future

Paper 3

Tuesday, December 4th at 1:30pm

Paper 3 Due

Other Notes

(i) Student Conduct

Students are expected to treat one another with respect and hold themselves to high academic standards. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will likely fail the course and may face disciplinary action. For more information, please see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf>.

(ii) Attendance Policy

Students may have three unexcused absences; students who miss more than three classes will have a third of a letter grade deducted from their final grade for each class missed.

(iii) Students with Disabilities

Students who believe they might benefit from Disability Support Services should contact the center at the start of the semester (970-351-2289). Please feel free, of course, to contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.