Labor and the Global Economy
(Labor Studies and Employment Relations 575:363)
Fall 2012

Syllabus

Class Meetings:
Prof. Tobias Schulze-Cleven
Room 201
tschulzecleven@work.rutgers.edu
Beck Hall
Phone: 848-932-1740
Livingston Campus
Office: Labor Education Center, Room 171
Monday & Thursday, 10:20–11:40am
Office Hours: 2-4pm on Thursdays or Appt.

Course Overview:
This course examines the influence of the shifting global economy on employment patterns and living standards in the rich democracies. Contemporary challenges facing the American workforce are put into comparative perspective across both time and space to delineate alternative strategies for dealing with deepening globalization. The course will closely examine how political and economic factors have interacted in determining the conditions under which the American people and their counterparts in other advanced countries work today. In the process, we seek to answer such questions as: How much are growing inequalities in the labor market driven by globalization? Are we witnessing a global race to the bottom in social standards? What measures could be taken to improve labor market outcomes? What can US policymakers learn from other nations about how to increase the country’s international competitiveness? – After taking the course, students will have a better understanding of how socio-economic systems around the world have been affected by and have engaged with the global economy.

Class Materials:
There is one required book for the class:


All other readings will be made available to students on Rutgers Sakai (http://sakai.rutgers.edu).

Course Requirements:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10% of course grade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Press Critique Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Introduction (Sept 06)

NO READING

Week 1

Global Capitalism in Crisis (Sept 10)


Perspectives on Labor (Sept 13)


PART I: DEMOCRATIC CAPITALISM

Week 2

Classical Perspectives: Markets and Politics (Sept 17)


From the “Labor Question” to “Democratic Capitalism” (Sept 20)


Week 3

Varieties of Democratic Capitalism (Sept 24)


The Golden Age in the United States (Sept 27)

Week 4

The Golden Age in Europe (Oct 1)

PART II: PROBING GLOBALIZATION

Globalization in History’s Mirror (Oct 4)

Week 5

The Intellectual Case for Free Trade (Oct 8)

In-Class Midterm Exam (Oct. 11)
NO READING

Week 6

Globalization as Regionalization (Oct 15)

Technological Change & Innovation in Global Value Chains (Oct 18)

Week 7

Globalization as Financialization (Oct 22)

The Emergence of Two New Giants: India and China (Oct 25)
Week 8

International Migration (Oct 29)

International Competition Reloaded (Nov 1)

PART III: HOW IS THE “GLOBAL EFFECT” PLAYING OUT?

Week 9

Changing Labor Market Structures (Nov 5)

Welfare States in Crisis (Nov 8)

Week 10

Retrenchment and Labor Market Flexibility (Nov 12)
Jacob Hacker. 2007. Failing the Middle Class. Challenge 50(3): 26–42.

In-Class Debate on “Does Higher Inequality Undermine American Democracy?” (Nov 15)

Week 11

Challenges to Labor Agency, Voice and Power (Nov 19)

The Global Labor Governance Regime (Nov 20) – TUESDAY!

PART IV: COMPARATIVE & INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

Week 12

Rich Countries I: Denmark (Nov 26)

Rich Countries II: Germany (Nov 29)

Week 13

Raising Labor Standards in Global Supply Chains – Part I (Dec 3)

Raising Labor Standards in Global Supply Chains– Part II (Dec 6)

Week 14

Course Review (Dec 10)

Week 15

Final Exam (Dec 18, 12-3pm)
CLASS PARTICIPATION
You are expected to bring questions and comments about the course material so that you can participate in class discussions. With much of our time spent learning through discussion, it is necessary for everybody to participate. I might ask students to use their questions to stimulate discussions and will ensure broad participation. It is critical that we respect one another’s thoughts and address our comments at others’ ideas, not at people themselves. This course is not a forum for demeaning or threatening language. If for some unavoidable reason you must miss a class, please let me know in advance through the university’s absence reporting website (https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/) so that your absence will not remain unexplained.

KEEPING UP WITH THE NEWS
Throughout the course, students must keep up with current events by reading at least one quality newspaper (e.g. Financial Times, New York Times) and one news magazine (e.g. The Economist, The Atlantic) on a regular basis. You may also choose foreign-language publications as well, or fulfill this assignment by checking Internet and newsgroup news sources regularly. In addition, you will be expected to read any news clips handed out in class or emailed by the instructor.

GRADE DISPUTES
If you think your paper or exam has been graded incorrectly, you must submit your reasons in writing within one week of the work being handed back. You should specifically address the comments that accompany the grade on the assignment and why you feel you receive a grade in error. Your written appeal should be at least one paragraph and should not exceed one page. I will read your appeal and re-consider your grade. Please be aware that this could result in a higher, lower or unchanged grade.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
While I encourage students to work together to understand theories and concepts, all written work should be your own. Please do not use other students’ papers or exercises for your assignments. If you cite an author or use his/her ideas, please cite properly. Plagiarized assignments will receive a failing grade.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES
There will be no use of laptops or other electronic devices during class sessions, without special permission. Laptops or other electronic devices have become valuable tools for research, writing, study and communication. But we also know that such instruments have become devices of distraction in the classroom: for networking, games, and other purposes. For in-depth learning in the course, we seek focused attention and critical thought in the classroom – and encourage research outside of the classroom. Moreover, given that I will have to read your handwriting in your exams, you should be able to take written notes that are legible to you.
PRESS CRITIQUE PAPER

(Topic due in class Nov 1. Draft due in class Nov 15. Paper due in class Nov 29)

Write a 1500-word (about 5 pages) paper reviewing press coverage of a news story about an aspect of economic globalization during the months of July-October 2012. You may review one newspaper’s or news magazine’s coverage of a story, or compare two or more sources’ coverage. Is the coverage accurate and insightful? Is it biased? Do the reporters have a good understanding of politics and economics? How could the reporters improve the coverage? Make sure to analyze and critique the coverage, incorporate course readings and material from lectures into your analysis, and cite multiple examples from specific news clips.

EXTENSIONS AND LATE PAPERS

Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the instructor and only in the event of significant and verifiable personal emergency. In the interest of fairness to all, no extensions will be granted due to the stresses of academic life. I will accept unexcused late papers, but note that the grade will be lowered by 1/3 of a grade for each day that the assignment is due.