LABOR & THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
(Labor Studies and Employment Relations 575:363)
Fall 2014

SYLLABUS

Class Meetings:  
Prof. Tobias Schulze-Cleven  
Room B267  
Lucy Stone Hall  
Livingston Campus  
Tuesday & Thursday, 3:20–4:40pm  
tschulzecleven@work.rutgers.edu  
Phone: 848-932-1740  
Office: Labor Education Center, Room 171  
Office Hours: After class on Livingston  
Campus, or by Appointment.

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 to delineate alternative strategies for dealing with  
deepening economic globalization. The course will closely examine how political and economic  
factors have interacted in effecting globalization. Particular attention will be paid to deepening  
tensions between the goals of further economic integration and democratic governance.

In class discussions, we seek to answer such questions as: How has the global economy evolved?  
How much are growing inequalities in the labor market driven by economic globalization? Are  
we witnessing a global race to the bottom in social standards? What measures could be taken to  
improve labor market outcomes? – 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.

Learning Objectives:  
• Analyze issues of social justice across local and global contexts – SAS(d) & LSER(8).  
• Analyze the tensions between global capitalism and democratic governance.  
• Improve professional competencies such as critical thinking and problem solving; verbal  
  and written communication; and interpersonal skills.

Course Requirements:  
In-Class Participation  
Midterm Exam  
Final Exam  
35% of the course grade  
30%  
35%

Week 1: Introduction

**Labor & the Global Economy (Sept 2)**
No reading. We familiarize ourselves with the main themes of the course.


---

Week 2: Probing the Relationship of Labor and the Global Economy

**What is “Labor”? (Sept 9)**

**Globalization in History’s Mirror (Sept 11)**

---

**PART I: THE EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

Week 3: The History of Global Market Integration (I): Early Patterns

**The First Globalization (Sept 16) – QUIZ**

**Regulating Trade in a Politicized World (Sept 18)**

---

Week 4: The History of Global Market Integration (II): Trade

**The Emergence of Global Value Chains (Sept 23)**

**The United States in Initial Comparison (Sept 25)**
Prepare for *guest speaker*, Thomas Haipeter (University of Duisburg-Essen): Q&A on “Labor & the Global Economy” from a German perspective
Week 5: The History of Global Market Integration (III): Finance

**Financial Liberalization (Sept 30) – QUIZ**

**Financial Crises, 1994 – ongoing (Oct 2)**

There are excellent videos available online that should help you understand this material. If you have not had much exposure to the issues discussed during this week (e.g., the role of finance in capitalism, the impact of financial liberalization and the reasons behind the ensuing financial crises), please consult these videos:

- Conversations with History: The Ascent of Money | Niall Ferguson
- Crash! A brief history of modern global capitalism | Leo Panitch
  (http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/audioslideshow/2012/nov/26/brief-history-of-global-capitalism-leo-panitch)
- Conversations with History: The Causes and Consequences of the Global Economic Collapse | Martin Wolf

Week 6: Theory vs. Reality in the Economics of Global Integration

**The Intellectual Case for “Freeing” Global Markets (Oct 7) – QUIZ**

**The Emergence of “Chimerica” (Oct 9)**

Week 7: Consolidating What We Have Learned

**Midterm Review: Recasting Globalization’s Narrative (Oct 14)**

**In-Class Midterm Exam (Oct 16)**
No reading. Prepare for exam.
PART II: DEEPENING THE ANALYSIS

Week 8: Classical Perspectives & the “Primacy of Economics”

**Liberalism (Oct 21)**

**Marxism (Oct 23)**

Week 9: Establishing the “Primacy of Politics” & Building Welfare States

**Social Democracy (Oct 28)**

**Welfare States, including an American Variant (Oct 30)**

PART III: THE GLOBAL ECONOMY’S EFFECTS ON LABOR

Week 10: The United States – Long-standing Arrangements in Question

**International Pressures & Changing Labor Market Structures (Nov 4) – QUIZ**

**Rather than Helping “Losers” from Trade: Welfare State Retrenchment (Nov 6)**

Week 11: Between Cross-National Convergence and Political Choice

**Tensions Cross-Nationally (Nov 11)**
**The Scope of Government-Sponsored Redistribution (Nov 13) – QUIZ**

**Week 12: What Should the Goals Be? (I)**

**Going for “Predistribution”? Institutional Framing of Market Outcomes (Nov 18)**

**Prepare for In-Class Debates: This class believes that... (Nov 20)**
1. “Global economic forces have increased economic inequalities in the rich democracies.”
2. “The best way to prevent further increases in economic inequalities is to pass laws that make it harder for companies to offshore jobs.”

No Required Reading. Research.

**Week 13: What Should the Goals Be? (II)**

**In-Class Debates: (Nov 25)**
Further Research.

**PART IV: IN CONCLUSION**

**Week 14: How to Reach the Goals?**

**On the Political Trilemma of the Global Economy (Dec 2)**

**Liberalism Re-embedded? (Dec 4)**
Week 15: What Have We Learned?

Review (Dec 9) – BRING QUESTIONS!

Week 16: Final Exam online Dec 10-20

Appendix – Further Information on Course Assignments & Class Rules:

ACCESS TO READINGS

With the exception of Rodrik’s book, all readings will be made available to students on Rutgers Sakai (http://sakai.rutgers.edu). These directions lead you to the course site:

- To log on, enter your Rutgers NetID and password in the upper right-hand corner.
- Look for the tabs at the top of the next page. Click on the tab: 38:575:363.
- Click on “resources” on the menu on the left-hand side of the next page. You should see the course syllabus and all of the course readings.

SPECIAL RULES ON ENGAGING WITH THE READINGS

Students are required to print out all assigned readings to allow for effective engagement with the material. Moreover, students are expected to bring hard-copy versions of the assigned texts to class meetings. After instructor’s individual approval, electronic versions may be used as substitutes. These measures will help with in-class discussions of the readings.

SPECIAL RULES ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES

There will be no use of laptops, tablets or smart phones during class sessions without special permission. While such instruments are important tools for research, they have also become distractions in the classroom. For in-depth learning in the course, students are asked to pay focused attention and contribute critical thought in class discussions. I will prepare PowerPoint presentations that will include the main points of each class session. The slides from these presentations will be shared with students through Sakai after each class session.

IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE

Be prepared for class and always read the assigned materials before our meetings. 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. Rather than measuring the frequency with which you speak in class, your participation grade reflects how you balance speaking, reading, and listening. Also, don’t forget to take careful notes to complement the PowerPoint slides.
Students should plan to attend every course session, and I ask you to sign in personally at the beginning of class. 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. If you are late or leave early repeatedly, and if you miss class unexcused, your participation grade will suffer.

GROUP DEBATES
The session on November 25 will be used for in-class group debates. Groups will be formed and time will be provided in class on November 18 for groups to coordinate their preparation for the debates. Your performance in the debate will become part of your in-class participation grade.

QUIZZES
There will be very short in-class quizzes in 5 of the 14 weeks during the semester. If you do the assigned readings, you should have no problem doing well on the quizzes. There will be no trick questions, nor will a complete understanding of the reading be required. Rather, the quizzes are geared to helping you engage with the reading by asking you to answer some very basic questions. Your performance in the quizzes will become part of your in-class participation grade.

EXAMS
The midterm exam covers material from the first half of the course. It will include a variety of question-answer formats (e.g. definitions, short answer, short essay). The final exam covers material from the entire course. This essay-based exam will be given at the designated time during finals week. I’ll give you information about the content and structure of the final exam a few weeks before the end of the semester.

COMMUNICATION
Students are expected to check their Rutgers email accounts regularly for class announcements. Students are responsible for all information communicated to them via email by the instructor. Feel free to contact the instructor via email with questions or concerns about the course. I will do my best to get back to you within 24 hours. When emailing the instructor, always include “Labor & the Global Economy” in the subject line of your email. When available, grades will be posted on the course’s Sakai site under the “PostEm” tab.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
While I encourage students to work together to understand theories and concepts, all written work must be your own. If you cite an author or use his/her ideas, please cite properly. Plagiarized assignments or evidence of cheating will result in a failing grade in the assignment and possibly in the course, and may result in disciplinary action by the university.

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