

**GGR 112 H1F**  
**Geographies of Globalization, Development, and Inequality**

Department of Geography

University of Toronto

First Summer Session (12 May – 27 June 2014)

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12 noon – 2 pm, Wilson Hall (WI) 1016

**INSTRUCTOR**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2.30 – 3.30 pm

\* Please direct all email about the course to the instructor

**Teaching Assistant(s)**

Leqian Yu

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**COURSE GOALS**

Throughout this course we apply a *geographical* approach to global economic integration, international development, and transnational relations of inequality. We will focus on important *processes* to explore how and why people's lives are linked across *places* and *histories*. We proceed from an understanding that *all* accounts of globalization, development, and inequality are the result of particular assumptions. We extend this understanding with the knowledge that designating places as “developing” and “Global South” are geographic concepts that do political work and have real, material effects.

Therefore, we pursue four main goals expressed in the following pivotal questions:

- How do specific ideologies, theories, and practices underpin distinct perspectives on development and globalization?
- Whose visions of the world structure how states, societies, people, and places are constituted as subjects and objects for intervention and measurement?
- What colonial histories, geopolitical relations, and geoeconomic dynamics are continuous with contemporary inequalities?
- In what ways, and with what effects, are economic growth, inequality, and markets related?

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, we will have at least a basic understanding of:

- Definitions and discourses of development, globalization, and inequality that characterize the past century of global economic integration.
- How people's everyday lives are located amid local, national, regional, and international forces and challenges.
- The roots, common (mis)conceptions, and political implications of global economic integration and projects of development.
- Ways to critically assess and rigorously question, as geographers, the ideas that influence our world's economies and societies today.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The most important requirement for this course, as with any course that deals with the politics of difference and representation, is that we approach all readings, lectures, and especially one another with patient and open minds; a willingness to see from new perspectives, to explore the unfamiliar, and to honestly challenge our own assumptions.

### **Specifically, remember to:**

- Come to every class prepared to pose questions, discuss the material, share thoughts, and engage in informed conversation about topics in readings and lecture.
- Complete all of the assignments and readings *before* lecture.
- Bring your textbook, reading notes, and prior lecture notes to each lecture.
- Re-read the course syllabus each week and review assignment guidelines carefully when beginning and before submitting assignments.
- Please be aware of the needs of others – we are sharing the classroom space, and should resolve to be considerate toward one another.
- Web browsing, text messaging, or other forms of electronic distraction during class detract from learning outcomes. Just as some independent musicians now instruct their audiences to experience live concerts without the mediation of technology and screens (which has been shown to impede one's memory of an event anyway) in order to fully live the music experience, the same is true in the classroom. We can all strive to keep distractions to a minimum, both for our own benefit and out of courtesy to one another. Laptops can be powerful tools for learning when we use them with purpose; cell phones are almost never necessary in the classroom. If you are managing an urgent personal or work matter, you are welcome to quietly and momentarily leave the classroom to use your cell phone. You are always welcome to use translation aids and other practical applications that you need in order to participate fully in the course (for the policy on recording lectures, see Course Policies below).

Please think carefully about what uses of technology directly support you to focus and engage, and which distract or isolate.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & EXAM**

ALL assignments are due in hard copy **at the beginning of the lecture period at 12.10 pm** on the due date. Any assignments submitted after the start of lecture will be subject to late penalties (for the policy on late and missing assignments, see the Course Policies below).

**Focus Country:** You will choose a focus country from a list provided on the course website, and you will identify a specific development or globalization intervention (a project, process, or policy) in your focus country. This country and the intervention will form the basis of your course paper, and your specialization in your focus country will help you to interpret and deeply understand the course in a grounded way.

**Intervention Paper (30%):** A 3-5 page paper in which you will explore a specific development or globalization intervention (a project, process, or policy that is intended to create specific changes to extend development or globalization) in your focus country. This paper is not a report “about” the country or intervention. Rather, you will integrate course materials into an assessment that more fully illuminates the justifications, practices, and implications of this intervention. The purpose of the paper is to identify and evaluate discourses, histories, and global/transnational changes that help you to interrogate ideas and assumptions embedded in development projects. You will receive assignment guidelines and the evaluation rubric in class. The paper is due Tuesday, 10 June at the start of lecture.

**Debt & Governance Mapping Exercise (20%)** details will be distributed in class and posted on blackboard. You will receive an outline map and list of required map elements, which you will complete by the beginning of lecture on Tuesday, 27 May.

**Reading toward Writing Exercises (10%):** Throughout the course, you will periodically complete in-class writing exercises that help you to think and write critically about what you read and how you present an argument. Some of these exercises will be more structured and skills-based, forming components of the critical analysis paper; others will be simple reaction responses to readings or lectures. The goal of these exercises is to help you to further develop critical reading, reasoning, and writing skills that are exceptionally useful in this course and your future studies.

**Final Exam (40%):** Covers *all* reading and lecture material for the course. An exam review guide will be provided to you on the course website.

## TEXTBOOK & READING

Sparke, M. (2013). *Introducing Globalization: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Available in the University of Toronto bookstore.

All bold type readings correspond to textbook chapters.  
All other readings will be available on Blackboard under Course Documents.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1

13 May: **Introduction** to the course; history and theory of course themes.

15 May: **Globalization** and **Discourse**

### Week 2

20 May: **Commodities**

*Additional reading:* "Linking Claims & Evidence" posted on Blackboard.

22 May: **Labour**

### Week 3

27 May: **Money**

29 May: **Law**

### Week 4

3 June: **Governance**

5 June: **Space**

### Week 5

10 June: **Health**

13 June: **Responses**

### Week 6

17 June: **Environment**

*Required reading:* posted on Blackboard under Course Documents.

19 June: **Review and Reassessment**

Final Exam: TBA, 23-27 June 2014.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Accessibility:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:

[disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

**Academic integrity:** You must comply with the university's policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct. Quoting or paraphrasing without correct citation is strictly prohibited by university policy and the standards of academic writing, because using another scholar's work without properly citing is submitting work that you did not complete yourself. If you are unfamiliar with the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty, see:

<http://life.utoronto.ca/get-smarter/academic-honesty/>

We are happy to provide guidance and resources to help you develop strong writing skills and the correct use of sources; you will also find excellent writing and research support at writing centres and the Robarts Library. *We highly recommend these resources, particularly Robarts Library in-person and online research assistance:*

<http://onereach.library.utoronto.ca/contact-us/>

**Course meetings:** This is an accelerated summer course and we are covering a full term of material in six weeks. If you are aware of anything that will prevent you from fully completing the requirements, it may be better to take the course when it is offered during the regular academic term. However, a 6-week course can be an exciting and intellectually stimulating opportunity, as you immerse yourself in the subject in a way that cannot be done in a regular term.

**Submitting Assignments:** *All assignments must be submitted in hard copy before the start of lecture at 12.10 pm on the due date. This means that any assignments brought to class after the lecture begins will be assessed a late penalty. Late assignments can be submitted to the Geography Department drop box on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Sidney Smith Hall, Room 5047. Note that assignments can only be submitted when the department's office is open, and will be date stamped only at the end of the day. The department office hours vary throughout the summer. Take this into account to avoid further late penalties. Only assignments submitted in person in class or to the geography department's assignment drop box will be accepted.*

This means that if you wish to submit an assignment on time, without late penalties assessed, to the department's drop box, you must do so on the day *before* the assignment deadline.

For policies on late penalties and missed assignments, see below.

**Missed assignment deadlines:** The only excusable reasons for missing an assignment are *documented* medical or personal emergencies. For medical absences, you will need an official medical note that clearly excuses you for work or school on the day the assignment is due:

<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>

Personal or other emergencies vary more in nature so please contact your College Registrar as soon as possible in such an event. Without proper documentation for missing an assignment or exam, you will receive a grade of zero for that work.

**Penalties for late assignments:** A penalty of 10% per day with no work accepted four days after a deadline. Weekends (Saturday and Sunday) count as one day for this purpose. Note that the penalty applies *after the lecture begins* on the due date. Plan your schedule accordingly to avoid any penalties.

**Absence from lecture:** While the instructor expects all students to attend all lectures, attendance for the lecture period will not be recorded. It is your responsibility to obtain and retain the course material, including lectures and in-class exercises. It is ultimately up to you to determine how to best manage your time.

**Absence from exam:** The *final exam* is managed by the Faculty of Arts and Science. You must file a formal petition with the FAS if you miss the final exam for any reason.

[http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules\\_&\\_Regulations.html](http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html)

**Copies of assignments:** It is your responsibility to maintain digital copies of your written work, and a hard copy of marked assignments until final course marks are recorded.

**Recording lectures:** Taking photographs and/or video recordings is not permitted during class. You must speak with the instructor before audio recording any lectures or classroom activities. Students may, only with the prior consent of the course instructor, create audio recordings of course lectures for their own personal use. Accommodations for requests to audio record lectures do *not* you to permanently retain this material, and do *not* permit you to transmit this material in any form. This means that you cannot share these files with others in any format, or distribute them via any methods (websites, email, social network sites, or any other form of sharing files). Non-compliance with these terms violate the intellectual property rights of the instructor and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students who violate these terms will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct.

**Course website:** The course website is Blackboard. All course materials (lecture slides, assignment guidelines, additional readings) will be posted on this website, and the online discussion board will be available for your use. Announcements will also be posted on the course website, which you should check regularly throughout the term.

**Email from the course instructor:** The instructor may periodically send important course information via email. Therefore, all UofT students are required to set up and regularly check a UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that you regularly check your UofT email address.

**Email policy:** Please conduct as much course business as possible in-person before or after class and during office hours. You are encouraged to be in contact with each other to discuss the course, assignments, and “nuts and bolts” questions. Be sure to carefully consult the resources you have (syllabus, course website, handouts, assignment guidelines, discussion boards, and each other) for answers to many of your questions. Because of email overload, *we ask you to limit email exchanges to very short questions for which you cannot otherwise find answers*. Please direct all emails regarding the course to the instructor only. All of the information you need for the course is provided in class and on the course website.

*I reserve the right to modify the course requirements and readings as necessary. No changes will be made that increase the workload or move assignment deadlines earlier.*