

## GPHY 228 – Geographies of the Global Political Economy

<b>Contact Time</b>	1.5 hrs. tutorial per week; 1.5 hrs. weekly in-class lecture; weekly office hours	
<b>Format</b>	Lectures, discussions, and debates based on key texts, case studies and videos	
<b>Class Assessment</b>	Participation and Attendance	25% (10% Lecture & 15% tutorial)
	Midterm	25%
	Student Weekly Portfolios	20%
	End of Term Exams.	30%

### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course examines the geographies of the contemporary global economy from a broadly political economy perspective. It analyzes the interactions between states, international organizations, multinational corporations, and other non-state actors in shaping the global economic system. Students will examine key theories, concepts, and debates in the field, as well as explore contemporary issues and challenges faced in the global political economy to better understand the global political and economic system in which we live and imagine a different world we can aspire towards. The course is divided into two main sections. **Section One** commences with an overview of common concerns of economic and social inequality, uneven patterns of geographical development and the search for equity that faces all regions and peoples of the world. We discuss competing approaches to theorizing how the market (capitalist) economy works and introduces the broader concept - the global political economy. The opening section concludes with a brief overview of the relationship between capitalist expansion and its expression in class, racial, gender and spatial inequalities. In **Section Two**, we discuss selected aspects of the present-day global economy particularly the role of specific countries, economic trading blocs and global institutions in shaping the global economy. Finally, we examine how people in their search for greater equity and security in their daily lives have mobilized against the rising inequality, environmental degradation, and climate change and speculate on the possible impacts on the global economy of spatial shifts in economic power as well as the impacts of movements for worlds beyond capitalism.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Critically assess competing theories of globalization to determine the relationship between capitalist systems and patterns of uneven geographical development.
2. Make connections between periods, locations, national traditions to delineate intellectual trends in our understanding of capitalism across spans of time and space.
3. Recognize economic and political relationships and policies that reproduce or support oppressive and unequal spatial relationships.
4. Communicate complex ideas surrounding the workings of capitalist systems and the spatial flows they generate to a lay audience.
5. Consolidate their knowledge about space, place, scale, and power as abstract concepts and apply them to an analysis of concrete instances of racial, gender and sexual inequality in the global economy.

### SELECTED COURSE TOPICS

Globalization, anti-Colonialism; Racial Capitalism; anti-Black and anti-Indigenous Racism, Global Production Networks; Racial and Gendered Divisions of Labour; Financialization; Precarity and Work; Social Reproduction, Debt Economies, Austerity; Outsourcing; Free Trade; the Alt right, Climate Change; Energy and Energy Transition; Waste Economies

### SAMPLE OF TYPICAL COURSE READINGS (May change from Year to Year)

Mackinnon D. and A. Cumbers (2019). *An Introduction to Economic Geography: Globalization, Uneven Development and Place*. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Sheppard, E. (2016). *Limits to Globalization: The Disruptive Geographies of Capitalist Development*. Oxford University Press.

Aoyama, Y., J.T. Murphy, and S. Hanson (2010). *Key Concepts in Economic Geography*. Sage Publications.