LBS 4654: Comparative and International Labor Studies

(This is a Global Learning Class)

Spring 2016

Instructor: Ali Bustamante
E-mail: Blackboard Messages

Course Description:
This course examines alternative approaches to labor relations, employment systems, and working-class activism in selected economic powers of the world, highlighting specific trends in various regions of the world: Strong Engine Capitalism (e.g. Germany, Japan), North American Free-Market Capitalism (e.g. United States), Emerging 'Asian Tiger' Economies (e.g. China, India), South American 'Development' (e.g. Brazil, Bolivia), Post-Colonial Africa (e.g. Cameroun, Zimbabwe), and Post-Capitalist Transitional Economies (e.g. Eastern Europe). The course will emphasize the different ways in which workers are organized, the relative success workers and unions have achieved in their respective nations, the different roles played by the state, and the reasons why particular union strategies and national models of employment relations develop.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Demonstrate a global awareness and understanding of the globalization and interrelatedness of employment relations systems, labor movements, and social justice of selected countries that impact on the rest of the world.
• Conduct a multi-perspective analysis of labor relations, labor movements, and national models of employment in the selected major economic powers/nations, as well as cultural, social and historical events.
• Demonstrate a willingness to analyze contemporary issues of social justice across the selected nations and inside the United States and to suggest/engage in solutions.
• Use comparative strategies and research methods in order to critically analyze employment relations, labor movements, and social justice in countries not covered in the course.
• Analyze the degree to which contextual differences shape actors’ experiences and perspectives in the employment relationship across nations.

Required Text:

All course materials will be available on the LBS 4654 Blackboard Learning website. To access this site:
1. Go to http://online.fiu.edu/
2. Click on “Course Login”
3. Click on “Blackboard Learn Login”
Discussion postings, essays, papers, or presentations will be accepted after the deadline without penalty (200 points).

Due Dates and Late Policy:
Because this class follows a bi-weekly format; students are expected to have completed posting their comments, thoughts, and responses to the discussion board by 11:59 pm each Saturday. No discussion postings, essays, papers, or presentations will be accepted after the deadline without penalty.
permission from the instructor. Late written work will be penalized 20% of the possible points, and no late assignments will be accepted after one week beyond the due date.

**Course Assessments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE ASSESSMENTS</th>
<th>NUMBER ITEMS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>TOTAL POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussions</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>600</strong></td>
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**Grade Scale:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Letter Grades</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grades</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Letter Grades</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>570 - 600</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>480 - 497</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>402 - 436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>540 - 569</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>462 - 479</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>378 - 401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>522 - 539</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>438 - 461</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>360 - 377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>498 - 521</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>420 - 437</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>359 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This syllabus is subject to be changed by the Professor, if necessary. There is no extra credit.

**Academic Misconduct Statement:**

This Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001 and reflects the values articulated in the Student Code of Standards. Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly to demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of Florida International University. As a student of this university:

- **I will be honest in my academic endeavors.**
- **I will not represent someone else’s work as my own.**
- **I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another’s cheating.**

All students are deemed by the university to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook. By taking this course I promise to adhere to FIU’s Student
Do not copy without the express written consent of the author.

Code of Academic Integrity. For details on the policy and procedure go to ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT (http://online.fiu.edu/currentstudents/academicmisconduct).

Assistance for Students:
The Learning Center is available to assist you in the organization and writing of your papers. The website for the Learning Center is: http://learningcenter.fiu.edu Students with special needs: I understand that there is Office of Disability Services (http://drc.fiu.edu/) available to me should I need it. It is my responsibility to contact them to process my request to have my needs met. I need to follow their procedures as to proper notification to the instructor.

Religious Holidays:
The University’s policy on religious holy days as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his or her faith.

WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

**Important:** The course week runs from **Monday to Sunday.**
Weekly coursework is due on **Sunday by midnight (EST).**
The modules cover a **1-week period;** thus, you have 1 week to work on each module’s content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module #/Date</th>
<th>Module Topics</th>
<th>Weekly Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 Jan. 18 – Jan. 24 | Introduction | Read Course Syllabus  
Acquire textbook  
Get WebCam Ready  
Complete Discussion: *Introduction* |
| 2 Jan. 25 – Jan. 31 | Theoretical Models on:  
Varieties of Capitalism  
Late capitalism | Read Bamber: Chapter 1 OR Jackson & Deeg  
Read Streeck  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials  
Complete Assignment  
Complete Discussion |
| 3 Feb. 1 – Feb. 7 | Selected Trends in  
Strong Engine Capitalism  
(e.g. Germany, Japan) | Read Bamber: Chapters 8 & 10  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials (Reisenbichler, Watanabe)  
Complete Assignment  
Complete Discussion |
| 4 Feb. 8 – Feb. 14 | Selected Trends in  
North American Free-Market Capitalism  
(e.g. United States) | Read Bamber: Chapter 3  
Read Starrs  
Study Online article( s) & Audio-Visual Materials (Porter & Rivkin, Starrs, Bair & Gereffi OR Gelert)  
Complete Global Project  
Complete Discussion |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5    | Feb. 15 – Feb. 21 | Selected Trends in *Emerging 'Asian Tiger' Economies* (e.g. China, India) | Read Bamber: Chapters 12, 13  
Read Hung  
Read articles (Mohanty, Chowdhury)  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials (Ching Kwan Lee’s lecture)  
Complete Assignment  
Complete Discussion |
| 6    | Feb. 22 – Feb. 28 | Selected Trends in *South American 'Development'* (e.g. Brazil, Bolivia) | Read Lavinas  
Read Filho, Goncalves, Dea  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials  
Complete Assignment  
Complete Discussion |
| 7    | Feb. 29 – Mar. 6  | Selected Trends in *Post-Colonial Africa* (e.g. Cameroon, Zimbabwe) | Read Conchilgia  
Read Dansereau  
Read Rutherford  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials  
Complete Assignment  
Complete Discussion |
| 8    | Mar. 7 – Mar. 12  | Selected Trends in *Post-Capitalist Transitional Economies* (e.g. Eastern Europe) | Read Hardy  
Read Bruszt & Greskovits  
Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials  
Complete Final Paper/Project  
Complete Course Evaluation (in Panthersoft) |