

Syllabus

Comparative and International Labor

Studies LBS-4654 - Spring 2019

General Information

Professor Information



Instructor:

Office:

By Appointment

Hours:

E-mail:

Please use Canvas Messages Website:

[Center for Labor Research and Studies](#)

Course Description And Purpose

This is a Discipline-specific Global Learning course that counts toward your graduation requirement.

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.

Course Objectives

At 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; and
- analyze the degree to which contextual differences shape actors' experiences and perspectives in the employment relationship across nations.

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Important Information

Policies

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

Due Dates and Late Policy

Because this class follows a weekly format students are expected to have completed posting their comments, thoughts, and responses to the discussion board by **11:59 pm each Saturday** (with the exception of the Final module when the exam is due on Friday, the last day of the Summer B session). No discussion postings, essays, papers, or presentations will be accepted after the deadline without 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.

Academic Integrity

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, the fellow students, and the educational mission of Florida International University. As a student of this university:

- o I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
- o I will not represent someone else's work as my own.
- o 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 are 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 Code of Academic Integrity.

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.

Technical Requirements & Skills

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

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This course utilizes the following tools.

- o **Using YouTube for Webcam Discussions**

You will need to use YouTube for the webcam discussion exercises starting in Module 3. It is very important that you set up your system and troubleshoot any issues ahead of time.

- Record a video on the fly using a webcam and have it seamlessly embedded in course materials, interactions, and feedback through the content editor.
- Reuse previously recorded videos by choosing from one's own "library" of videos.

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Privacy Policy Statements for Partners and Vendors

- o [Canvas](#)
- o [Microsoft](#)
- o [Adobe](#)
- o [Google](#)
- o [ProctorU](#)
- o [HonorLock](#)
- o [Turnitin](#)
- o [NBC Learn](#)
- o [OpenStax](#)
- o [Adobe Connect](#)
- o [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

Accessibility And Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center 190.

Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

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Academic Misconduct includes: **Cheating** – The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. **Plagiarism** – The use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is responsible for plagiarism.

Learn more about the [academic integrity policies and procedures](#) as well as [student resources](#) that can help you prepare for a successful semester.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call 805-512-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

Expectations Of This Course

This is an online course which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Textbook



International and Comparative Employment Relations: Globalization and Change

Greg Bamber, Russell Lansbury, and Nick Wailes.

SAGE Publications Ltd; 5th Edition; 2010

ISBN-10: 1849207232

ISBN-13: 978-1849207232

You may purchase your textbook online at the [FIU Bookstore](#).

All course materials will be available on the LBS 4654 Canvas Learning website. To access this site:

Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.

1. Go to <http://online.fiu.edu/>
2. Click on "Course Login"
3. Click on "Canvas"
4. Enter your Panther Soft username and password
5. Click on the link to LBS 4654 under "My Courses"

Proctored Exam Policy

There are no proctored exams for this course.

Course Detail

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via **Messages**.

Messages is a private and secure text-based communication system which occurs within a course among its Course members. Users must log on to Canvas to send, receive, or read messages. The Messages tool is located on the Course Menu, on the left side of the course web page. It is recommended that students check their messages routinely to ensure up-to-date communication.

Discussion Forums

There will be a total of **7 discussion forums** during this course, each of which will be worth **40 points each**. The majority of these forums will require students to respond to questions presented by the instructor and the posts of their classmates. Your contribution to the discussion board should be something substantial, meaning that simple one-sentence statements of opinion with no explanation or evidence are not considered sufficient. In general, you should plan on contributing a minimum of one original post and two responses to your classmates' posts during each module's discussion forum. Your contribution to the discussion board will be graded based on the **rubric** provided.

Keep in mind that discussion forums are public and care should be taken when determining what to post. If students need to send a private message to the instructor or a fellow classmate, the email function should be used. Instructor and guidelines for each forum will be provided in the weekly modules.

Assignments

Essays (5 at 40 points each):

You will be responsible for completing **5 short written assignments**, each of which will be worth **40 points each**. These 3 to 4 page essays will be based on a question or set of questions. ALL PAPERS must be single-spaced, typed in 11-point Arial font with one inch margins on each side, and consistently follow one single citation style of your choice. Your writing assignments will be graded based on the rubric provided.

- o **Assignment Module 2: Mar 17**
- o **Assignment Module 3: Mar 24**
- o **Assignment Module 5: Apr 7**
- o **Assignment Module 6: Apr 14**
- o **Assignment Module 7: Apr 21**

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Global Project (40 points):

For this global project, you will identify a commodity in the global marketplace whose production you can track from the raw material to the final stage. Try to choose a product that you use yourself (available in the North American market) so that this project holds meaning for you. Use search terms including the generic name of the product you choose + the terms “commodity chain” or “supply chain” to gather information on “your” product. Once the initial research is done, complete your assignment, reporting your findings and drawing a rough “map” of the commodity chain described in the articles and websites you chose.

- o **Assignment Module 4: Mar. 31**

Final Paper/Project (80 points):

For this final assignment, you will write an 8 to 10 page (2000 to 2500 words) comparative essay. This essay must analytically address the institutional and organizational similarities and differences between the labor markets, social labor structures, and/or labor movements of two regions. Be sure to also draw from insights shared by your classmates in the Discussions. The paper must be single spaced, typed in 11 point, Arial font with one inch margins on each side, and consistently follow one single citation style of your choice. Your essay will be graded based on the rubric provided.

- o **Assignment Final Paper: Apr. 27**

Assessments

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the "Practice Quiz" from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. It is your responsibility to make sure your computer meets the minimum [hardware requirements](#).

Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet. If you need further assistance please contact [FIU Online Support Services](#).

Grading

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

| Course Requirements | Number of Items | Points for Each | Total Points Available |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Discussions | 7 | 40 | 280 |
| Essays | 5 | 40 | 200 |
| Global Project | 1 | 40 | 40 |
| Final Project | 1 | 80 | 120 |
| Total | 14 | N/A | 600 |

| Letter | Point Range | Letter | Point Range | Letter | Point Range |
|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|---------------|
| A | 570 - 600 | B- | 480 - 497 | D+ | 402 - 436 |
| A- | 540 - 569 | C+ | 462 - 479 | D | 378 - 401 |
| B+ | 522 - 539 | C | 438 - 461 | D- | 360 - 377 |
| B | 498 - 521 | C- | 420 - 437 | F | 359 and below |

Course Calendar

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Weekly Schedule

The course week runs from **Sunday to Saturday** (with the exception of the first week when classes begin on Monday, January 7) .

Weekly coursework is due on **Saturday by 11:59pm ET**.

| Date | Module Topics | Module Coursework |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Module 1 Mar 4 - Mar 10 | Introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Course Syllabus o Acquire textbook o Get WebCam Ready o Complete Discussion: Introduction |
| Module 2 Mar 11 - Mar 17 | Theoretical Models on: Varieties of Capitalism & Late Capitalism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Bamber: Chapter 1 OR Jackson & De o Read Streeck o Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Material o Complete Assignment o Complete Discussion |
| Module 3 Mar 18 - Mar 24 | Selected Trends in Strong Engine Capitalism (e.g. Germany, Japan) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Bamber: Chapters 8 & 9 o Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Materials (Reisenbichler, Watanabe) o Complete Assignment o Complete Discussion |
| Module 4 Mar 25 - Mar 31 | Selected Trends in North American Free-Market Capitalism (e.g. United States) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Bamber: Chapter 3 o Read Streeck o Study Online article(s) & Audio-Visual Materials (Porter & McKinlay-Starrs, Bair & Gereffi OR Geliert) o Complete Global Project o Complete Discussion |
| Module 5 Apr 1 - Apr 7 | Selected Trends in Emerging 'Asia' Tiger' Economies (e.g. China, India) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Bamber: Chapters 12, 13 o Read Hung o Read articles (Mohanty, Chowdhury) o Study Online article(s) & Audio-Visual Materials (Ching & Kwan Lee's lecture) o Complete Assignment o Complete Discussion |
| Module 6 Apr 8 - Apr 14 | Selected Trends in South American 'Development' (e.g. Brazil, Bolivia) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Read Lavinas o Read Filho, Goncalves, Dea o Study Online article(s) & Audio-Visual Materials o Complete Assignment o Complete Discussion |

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| Date | Module Topics | Module Coursework |
|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Module 7 Apr 15 - Apr 21 | Selected Trends in Post-Colonial Africa (e.g. Cameroun, Zimbabwe) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Conchilgia ○ Read Dansereau ○ Read Rutherford ○ Study Online articles & Audio-Visual Material ○ Complete Assignment ○ Complete Discussion |
| Module 8 Apr 22 - Apr 27 | Selected Trends in Post-Capitalist Transitional Economies (e.g. Eastern Europe) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Read Hardy ○ Read Bruszt & Greskovits ○ Study Online article(s) & Audio-Visual Materials ○ Complete Final Paper/Project ○ Complete Course Evaluation (in WeatherSon |

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