

Course Descriptions

INTS 4706: Global Political Economy of China

China's rise in the 21st century has given rise to complex reactions in both the global North and the global South. This course will explore the rise of China and its possible consequences for the Global Political Economy from a complex systems perspective. The recently developed evolutionary theory of Global Political Economy will be the basic framework. We will build up an applicable ecologically sound evolutionary theory from the bottom up to understand 21st century Chinese paradoxes and ambiguities. These paradoxes and ambiguities are not accidental but relate to tensions in the moral economy of PRC embedded in the world of the early 21st century. Furthermore, the uneven development of both the Chinese and Global Political Economies across space and over time has led to immense inequalities among groups and possible polarizations. We will examine these inequalities and related emerging issues both theoretically and empirically and begin a conversation between the theorists and practitioners. In this way, this course is intended to begin the much needed dialogue among students of global society regarding the contemporary relevance of a complex multilayered innovative economy like that of the PRC. The ecological and geopolitical aspects of China's rise will be analyzed within our *Evolutionary Ecological Global Political Economy* framework. Well-being of the Chinese people and others in the Global Political Economy will be analyzed by using an extension of Sen's capabilities theory called the *Socially Embedded Intersectional Capabilities Theory*.

INTS 4708: Power & Oppression: Analyzing Societal Structures Internally & Externally

This course is designed to be an introspective practice in examining how frameworks apply to societal norms, personal and cultural identity and academic settings. We will explore frameworks on racial equity, oppression, gender, implicit bias, and intercultural conflict, in addition to others. We will critique white supremacist structures that influence our everyday interactions, work-environment, and how we view and engage in the world around us.

INTS 4709: Professional Writing

In this class, you will learn and practice professional writing for government and non-profit roles. Students will expand their knowledge of planning, revising, and editing text and adjusting rhetorical strategies and formats for different audiences and goals. Among the types of writing styles that may be included are: needs assessments, op-ed writing, grant proposals, policy briefs, and article/book summaries or reviews.

INTS 4710: Women, War, and Peace

Conflict is gendered: it both shapes and is shaped by the gendered roles people play in society. Traditionally, men fight while women play supportive roles, men are perpetrators of violence while women are victims of this violence. However, this simple story is not only inaccurate, it limits our capacity to identify and analyze the full range of activities that men and women pursue during conflict. This story encourages us to valorize the warrior man and condemn men as cowards who will not take up arms. This story encourages us to expect women to be the victim and to ignore or treat as aberrant women who are perpetrators of violence themselves. This story also ignores the reality that the male/female dichotomy does not represent the full continuum of gender expression. The processes of peace-building are similarly gendered as it is elites who sit down to discuss the cessation of violence and design peace agreements and these are nearly always men who fight. Post-conflict environments are structured by peace agreements. When agreements are written by particular men, institutions and social structures tend to maintain the same kinds of gender bias that existed during conflict. This class will explore a range of issues guided by the question: how are conflict and post-conflict processes gendered? The focus will be primarily on women but in understanding the constraints of social structure on women, we also better understand the constraints on men and the implications for people who challenge these categories. This class focuses on the gender elements of these processes through a range of mostly recent cases.

INTS 4822: Contemporary Political Theory

The readings for this course are centrally from indigenous women (Roxane Dunbar-Ortiz on indigenous civilizations and the founding of the US in land-grabbing/genocide, Latin women (Valeria Luiselli and Gloria Anzaldua on American aggression and the Borderlands, and Black women on the prison-industrial complex (Michelle Alexander, Angela Davis, Susan Burton). The course will also examine theories of how to dismantle these diverse and longlasting forms of oppression through democratic solidarity from below (Heather McGhee *The Sum of Us*) and how to defeat a dangerous movement toward racist autocracy (Masha Gessen, Hannah Arendt, Jason Stanley).

We will also explore Nick Estes's ideas of municipal democracies with multiracial participation from below standing against oppressive states, and displaying international solidarities with the Palestinians and Kurds (also Abdullah Ocalan, *"Liberating Life"* on the oppression of women and the women's liberation army in Rojava). Estes and Dunbar-Ortiz's *"Examining the Wreckage"* links settler-colonialism and the centrality of racism to capitalism.

The course will conclude with W.E.B. Du Bois's *Black Reconstruction* and Aldon Morris, *The Scholar Denied: W.E.B. Du Bois and the founding of Sociology*. Du Bois is the greatest American social historian and perhaps the greatest social theorist since Marx.