Global Structures, Postcolonial Engagements
A Graduate Seminar

Convened by József Böröcz and Ethel Brooks
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office hours: W 1-2 / M 4-5 pm
132A Davison Hall / 119 Davison Hall

Department of Sociology
Rutgers University
Fall 2010, 16.920.570.01 // 01.920.491.04
M 1:10-3:50pm
This is a graduate seminar in the historical sociology of the interconnections among some of the world’s largest and most consequential social institutions. It is a survey course, organized around a critical analysis of such key concepts as ‘development’, the ‘world-system,’ ‘hegemony’, ‘empire’, ‘colonialism’ and ‘coloniality’.

The purpose of the course is gaining literacy, devising critiques and deriving inspiration in some areas of overlap among political economy, geopolitics and studies of representations of inferiorised otherness. You are expected to:

- come to class prepared, with an active interest in both macro-social analysis, an investigative curiosity and a mature intellectual agenda relating to the issues at hand,
- present one or two 5-10-minutes-long, sharply focused remarks introducing the given week's readings as a stimulus for class discussion (schedule of remarks will be assigned in first class),
- present a 15-minute review of a book on the broad theme of the course, that only you have read (for the list of available books, see page 4 of this syllabus),
- bring a less-than-one-page list of problem items (the most clearly formulated critical questions you would pose to the authors if they were here) to each class, in as many copies as members of the class, (these will serve as bases for discussion and, later, as reminders of some of the key points),
- contribute your unique perspective, erudition and experience to the discussions, and
- write a high-quality research paper on a relevant subject on time.

**Grading** will be a judicious combination of your contribution to the discussions, your presentations, homework and your paper. For your grade, write a research paper—maximum 4000 words’ length—about a topic of your choice regarding the links among various kinds of global structures. Your task is to make some theoretical proposition and some empirical observation to bear on each other in a way that is novel and relevant to some literature in this area of research. Please submit your **one-paragraph topic statement by the time of the 6th class meeting**—i.e., by 11 October. Please use our office hours for discussions of possible topics, problems and solutions as soon as they occur to you. **Deadline for the finished paper: 5pm, December 13, 2010.** Please deliver your paper, in a print form, to either József’s or Ethel’s mailbox in the Department.

The books have been ordered through Barnes & Noble. With some luck, you might also be able to find them on Graduate Reserves in Alexander Library.
Introductions:

- ourselves
- course

Films in class:


→ *A luta continua / The Struggle Continues* (Mozambique, dir/prod.: Robert Van Lierop, 1973)

**Homework for next class** (bring to class in as many copies as people): Prepare two sets of viewer notes (each max. 200 words):

What are the key issues the two films, and their juxtaposition, thematise with respect to the subject of our class?
Basics of global analysis:
Modernizationism, Dependency,
World-Systems and Post-Colonial Studies


Recommended:


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For paperback copies, click here: [http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415595179/](http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415595179/)


In preparation for this class, you should watch the film *Black Skin, White Mask* (1995, British, BBC, dir. Isaac Julien), on reserve in the Media section of Douglass Library.)
“Rights of Man” in the Colony


Recommended:

Nationalism, Religion and Gender: The Late Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts


**Recommended:**
