Course Description: Political economy was formulated as a central field of research since the 19th century, designed to comprehend both fields - politics and economics - and how they interact, at the local, regional and global level. Since the 2008 financial crisis it became a very popular field of research, highlighting varied and opposed theoretical approaches. The course will focus on critical perspectives to political economy, including a. class conflict, race and ethnic relations and the world system; b. state institutions and their relation to civil society, capital and labor organizations; and c. late developments of the neoliberal economy, the social and economic implications of inequality, and global protests of the 99%.

General Course Requirements: All students are expected to attend lectures, do the reading, participate in class discussions; they will write two reading reports, do one mid-term take home exam and one final take home exam.

Grading: Each one of the reading reports will be 10% of the final grade. The mid-term exam will be 30 % and the final exam 50%.

Honor Principle: Examinations and the research paper will be conducted in accord with the principles of academic honor detailed in Dartmouth’s Organization, Regulations and Courses and in the Student Handbook.

Students with Disabilities: I encourage students with disabilities, including “invisible” disabilities like chronic diseases, learning disabilities, and psychiatric disabilities to discuss with me after class or during my office hours by the end of the second week of the term appropriate academic adjustments or accommodations that might be helpful to you. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Academic Skills Center may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

Week 1-2. Founding Assumptions
* Smith, A. The Wealth of Nations, Chapters 1-3.

Week 3. The Development of the World System
* Dos Santos, T. "The Structure of Dependence" in Development and Under-Development ed. By Seligson and Passé-Smith. Ch 22
Week 4. The State and Social Actors

Week 5. Uneven Encounters: Racism and Ethnic Hostilities

Week 6. Labor Organizations

Week 7. The Politics of Structural Changes and Globalization

Week 8. Globalization and its Discontents
Week 9. Anti-Inequality Protests and Political Outcomes