

Soc 49.09 - Critical Political Economy

Spring 2026: March 30 – June 3

Lev Grinberg

Course Description: Political economy was formulated as a central field of research in the 19th century, designed to comprehend both fields - politics and economics - and how they interact, at the local, regional and global levels. 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 on 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 comparative reading reports, do one mid-term take home exam, and one final take home exam. All the reading items will be on Canvas, and the students' assignments must be uploaded to Canvas.

Grading: Participation in class and each one of the reading reports will be 10% of the final grade. The mid-term exam will be 30 % and the final exam will be 40%.

I grade assignments and exams with numbers, using the following scale:

95%-100%: A	81%-84.9%: B	69%-72.9%: C	Below 60%: E
90%-94.9%: A-	77%-80.9%: B-	65%-68.9%: C-	
85%-89.9%: B+	73%-76.9%: C+	60%-64.9%: D	

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*.

Use of Artificial Intelligence: It is limited to very specific purposes and forbidden for others. You can use AI for grammar and spelling corrections, for better organizing your text, and for searching resources. You are not allowed to use AI for summarizing the readings or comparing them, for writing your essays or any part of them. For more detailed explanations on the use of AI you can read [here](#) the Dartmouth guidelines.

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.
- * Marx, K. (1977). Karl Marx, Selected Writings, (2nd Edition) ed. by McLellan, Oxford University Press: Oxford. Chapters. 8 (Economic and Philosophical manuscripts), 19 (wage labor and Capital), 30 (preface to a critique of political economy).
- * Weber, M. (1946) From Max Weber ed by HH. Gerth and CW Mills, Oxford University Press, New York., "Class Status, party" (180-195).
- * Weber, M. (1968). Economy and Society (ed. By) Roth and Wittich, Bedminster Press: New York. (vol. 1) "Ethnic Groups" (Pp. 384-398)

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
- * Cardoso, F.H. Faletto, E. (1979) Dependency and Development in Latin America, Berkeley: University Press of California.Ch. 1-2 Pp. 1-28. Preface
- * Mc Michael, P. "Britain's Hegemony in the Nineteenth-Century World-Economy", States Vs. Markets in the World System, ed. by Evans et al.

Week 4. The State and Social Actors

- * Tilly, C. (1992) "How War Made States and Vice Versa" in Tilly C. Coercion, Capital and the European States, Cambridge and Oxford: Blackwell.
- * Skocpol, T. (1980). "Political Response to Capitalist Crisis: Neo-Marxist Theories of the State and the Case of the New Deal", Politics and Society, 10:2. pp. 155-201.
- * Rueschmeier, D., Stephens, E. H., and Stephens, J. D. (1992). Capitalist Development and Democracy. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Pp. 269-302.

Week 5. Uneven Encounters: Racism and Ethnic Hostilities

- * Hechter, M. (1977) Internal Colonialism: the Celtic fringe in British national development, 1536-1966, Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, Pp. 15-43.
- * Bonacich, E. (1979) "The Past, Present and Future of Split Labor Market Theory", Research in Race and Ethnic Relation, Vol. 1, Pp. 17-64.
- * Rex, J. (1970) Race Relations in Sociological Theory, London: Weinfeld and Nicolson, Ch. 1-2, Pp. 1-58.

Week 6. Labor Organizations

- * Sturmhthal, A. (1973). "Industrial Relations Strategies". In Sturmhthal, A. and J. G. Scoville (Eds.). The International Labor Movement in Transition. University of Illinois Press, Chicago. 1-35.
- * Maier, C. "Preconditions for Corporatism" in Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism, J.Goldthorpe (ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- * Goldthorpe, J (1984) "The End of Convergence: Corporatist and Dualist Tendencies in Modern Western Societies". Pp. 315-343 in Order and Conflict in Contemporary Capitalism, J.Goldthorpe (ed.). Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- * Grinberg, L. (1991). "Are Dualism and Corporatism Compatible Patterns of Political Economy? Some implications of the Israeli Case." International Sociology, 6:211-225.

Week 7. The Politics of Structural Changes and Globalization

- * Hall P. (1986) Governing the Economy, New York: Oxford University Press, Pp. 259-283.
- * Kiely, R. "The Crisis of Global Development" in Globalization and the Third World, ed by Kiely and Marfleet, London: Routledge.
- * Williamson, J. (1994). "In Search of a Manual for Technopols". In Williamson J. (Ed.). The Political Economy of Policy Reform. The Institute for International Economics, Washington. pp. 11-28.

Week 8. Globalization and its Discontents

- * Amin, S. (1997) Capitalism in the Age of Globalization: The Management of Contemporary Society, London: Zed Books. Pp. 12-45.
- * Harvey, David (2007) A Brief History of Neoliberalism, Oxford: Oxford University Press, Pp. 1-38.
- * Stiglitz, J. (2012) The Price of Inequality, W. W. Norton. chs 1 and 8.

Week 9. Anti-Inequality Protests and Political Outcomes

- * Standing, G. (2011) The Precariat, the New Dangerous Class, London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, Pp. 1-25.
- * Campbell, J. (2018) American Discontent, The Rise of Donald Trump and Decline of the Golden Age, Ch. 8, New York: Oxford University Press.
- * Grinberg, L (2014) Mo(ve)ments of Resistance: Economy, Politics and Society in Israel, 1931-2013, Academic Study Press, NY, Pp. 251-274.