

LABST 20: LABOR IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY - Laney College Labor Studies

Room E256

Labor Studies Phone: 510/464-3210

Fall 2007 Semester, Thursday 6-9 pm,

Course Code: L-1798 3 Units

Instructor: Michael Eisenscher getorganized@igc.org Office hours: By arrangement
(510) 436-6125

Course Description: *The global economy has undergone a dramatic transformation over the course of the last half century, driven by new technologies, the breakdown of the global system of colonies and resistance to neo-colonialism, the emergence of formerly under-developed nations as global competitors, the demise of centrally directed socialist economies, and the realignment of geo-political relations between states. These changes have had both direct and indirect impacts on the nature of work, the character of employment and job opportunities, the mobility of capital, trade and global competition, patterns of migration and immigration, erosion of labor rights and trade unionism and a general breakdown of post-World War Two labor relations systems around the world. This course will examine these changes – the environment in which organized labor achieved its peak, suffered serious reversals and has sought to regain its footing during these critical postwar decades. It will consider such issues as the export of jobs, outsourcing, trade, immigration, multinational corporations, industrial and labor relations, international relations, economic development and under-development, and the practice and future of trade unionism. It will help to place the experience of American workers into a global context.*

IF THE SYSTEM ISN'T WORKING FOR YOU, LEARN HOW IT WORKS IN ORDER TO CHANGE IT!

Required reading: (available at the Laney College bookstore and from instructor, as noted)

Real World Globalization, Ninth Edition (Economic Affairs Bureau, Inc., Boston, 2007)
edited by Betsy Rakocy, Alejandro Reuss, Chris Sturr, and the *Dollars & Sense* Collective;

and *instructor handouts* and *internet resources*.

Students are expected to stay current in international economic news that affects workers and unions.

In-class videos and computer generated visuals will be used extensively throughout the course.

Students are requested to **provide an email address** to enable the instructor to send supplementary materials between classes.

Attendance is required. Students who miss more than three classes will be dropped unless they have made special arrangements with the instructor. **Class will start on time;** regular attendance is expected. **Students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading material in advance of each class.**

Grading: will be based on your knowledge of the subject matter demonstrated through **class participation, exams and written assignments.**

70% of your grade will be based on in-class participation. Each of two written assignments are worth a total of 10 points. The midterm essay is due October 26th; the second essay is due December 6th. You may substitute a book review (other than on the assigned readings) of a text approved in advance by the instructor for one of the assigned papers. Students must individually write their own papers.

Written assignments should be submitted typed, double-spaced in an 11 or 12 point font. Sources should be documented in footnotes or end notes. These assignments may be submitted electronically as an attachment to email in Word, WordPerfect, or another common word processing format. Pages should be numbered.

Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. It may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement. It also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as her or her own. **Plagiarism, or cheating on any of the exams will result in a failing grade (F) in the course.**

- 8/23 Introductions, discussion of course expectations.** Review of the curriculum, assignments and expectations.
- Class discussion: What is globalization? Is it beyond social control, like weather, or a product of policies and practices pursued by governments, corporations, unions and other non-governmental organizations and institutions, and by individuals and families? What is international labor solidarity; why care about workers in other countries?
- “Bertell Ollman on Globalization”, www.pipeline.com/~rgibson/Ollmanglobalism.htm
- “What is Neo-Liberalism?” by Elizabeth Martinez and Arnolando Garcia, *Network News*, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Winter 1997
- 8/30 Labor, Capital and the Postwar Social Contract**
- Reading: *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* by David Harvey, Introduction and Chapters 1-2
- “Short History of Neoliberalism” by Susan George, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)
- “Free Markets, Commerce and Economic Development” in *Real World Globalization*, Chapters 1 and 6
- “Neoliberalism and the U.S. Expansion of the ‘90s” by David Kotz, *Monthly Review*, April 2003
- 9/7 Last day to drop and receive refund**
- 9/9 Last day to add a class**
- 9/6 Globalization in the Late 20th and early 21st Century**
- Reading: *Real World Globalization*, Chapter 1 [Unless specified otherwise, this and all subsequent references to *RWG* will be to the 9th Edition.]
- “Globalization and the Downsizing of the American Dream” by Kevin Danaher, *Global Exchange*; www.globalexchange.org/economy/econ101/americanandream.html
- “Trading Places: Globalization from the Bottom Up” by Mark Levinson, *New Labor Forum*, Fall/Winter 2002
- “Backlash: Behind the Anxiety over Globalization”, *BusinessWeek*, 04/24/2000, http://www.businessweek.com/2000/00_17/b3678001.htm
- “Globalization: What Americans Are Worried About (BW/Harris Poll), *Businessweek*, 04/24/2000
- “Globalization Threatens Workers, Thrills Investors”, *Businessweek*, 04/24/2000, http://www.businessweek.com/2000/00_17/b36780001.htm
- “Globalization and Its Fall Out” by Vandana Shiva, *ZNet*, March 24, 2003
- “Beyond Globophobia” by Doug Henwood, *The Nation*, December 1, 2003; www.thenation.com/docprint.mhtml?i=20031201&s=henwood
- “Globalization Today” by Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello, *ZNet*, March 23, 2002
- “The Social Costs of Globalization” by Joseph Stiglitz, *Financial Times*, November 24, 2004; <http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1075982786279&p=1012571727126&ExpIgnore=true>
- “Mystery: How Wealth Creates Poverty in the World” by Michael Parenti, *Information Clearinghouse*, February 17, 2007; www.informationclearinghouse.info/article17102.htm

“The Maladies of Affluence”, *The Economist*, 08/09/07,
http://www.economist.com/world/international/dipslayStory.cfm?story_id=9616897&fsrc=nwlgafree

“Greenspan Sees Jobs Benefits in Globalization”, *Wall St. Journal*, January 27, 2004;
<http://online.wsj.com/article/0,,SB107513754572511714,00.html> and
www.federalreserve.gov/BoardDocs/speeches/2004/20040126/default.htm

“The Ideology of Globalization as that of Capitalism Writ Large and, Necessarily, Write Always Larger” by Douglas Dowd, April 10, 2003;
www.dougdown.org/NewFiles/articles/ideogloblo.html

“The Condition of the Dollar” by Lindsey Williams, Rense.com, March 4, 2007;
www.rense.com/general75/lind.htm

“Another Nail in the US Dollar’s Coffin” by Jephraim P. Gundsik, ICHblog.eu, February 6, 2007;
www.ichblog.eu/content/view/392/2/

“The Great Dollar Crash of ‘07” by Mike Whitney, ICHblog.eu, February 6, 2007;
www.ichblog.eu/content/view/405/2/

Video: *Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy*

Video: *What I’ve Learned About U.S. Foreign Policy – The War Against the Third World*

9/13 Globalization in the Late 20th and early 21st Century (continued)

9/16 Last Day to Drop Full-Term Credit Classes without "W" Appearing on Transcript

9/20 Corporations and Corporate Power in the Global Economy

Real World Globalization, Chapter 2

“How Wal-Mart Is (Mis) Shaping the Global Economy” by Richard Wilson, in *American Educator*, Spring 2007

“Wal-Mart’s Tale of Two Cities: From Bentonville to Shenzhen” by Nelson Lichtenstein, *New Labor Forum*, Summer 2006

“Are Bad Jobs Good for Poor People?” by Anmal Chaddha, *Race, Poverty & the Environment*, Spring 2007

“Activists in India protest against Wal-Mart” by Mathew Rosenberg, AP, 8/10/07,
<http://www.ajc.com/business/content/printedition/2007/08/10/walmart.html>

Video: *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*

Supplementary Video: *Is Wal-Mart Good for America?* – Watch on-line – 5 short streaming videos produced by Frontline/PBS.

[<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/walmart/view/#rest>]

9/27 Trade, Investment and Debt [SELECT FIRST ESSAY TOPIC]

Real World Globalization, Chapters 3-4

“Plunder and Profit” by David Moberg, *In These Times*, March 29, 2004

“Fast Track to Disaster for the World’s Poor” by Thomas Ambrogi, in *Social Policy*, Spring 2002

- “Free Trade Enslaving Poor Countries” by Sanjay Suri, *Inter Press Service*, March 21, 2007; <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=37008>
- “Will a Social Clause in Trade Agreements Advance International Solidarity?” by David Bacon
- “Know-Nothings and Know-It-Alls: What’s Wrong with the Hype about Globalization?” by Jessica Collins and John Miller, in *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)
- “International Trade Agreements Reshape the World”, *Labor Report on the Americas*, Sept-Oct. 1996
- “Workers Rights Offers a Litmus Test on Trade” by Alan Beattie and Eoin Callan, *Financial Times*, March 6, 2007; www.ft.com/cms/s/a5d73c66-cc13-11db-a661-000b5df10621,s01=1.html
- “What’s Free about Free Trade?”
- “The Big Lie About Free Trade” by Bernie Sanders, *Chicago Tribune*, December 31, 2002; www.chicagotribune.com
- “Who Gains from Trade” by Mehrene Larudee, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)
- “The IMF and World Bank’s Cosmetic Makeover” by Sarah Anderson, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)
- “Nafta’s Lessons: from Economic Mythology to Current Realities” by James Cypher, April 10, 2003; www.dougdown.org/NewFiles/articles/cypherlo.html
- “Kicking Away the Ladder: The ‘Real’ History of Free Trade” by Ha-Joon Chang, *Foreign Policy in Focus*; www.fpif.org
- “More Free Trade is Good and More Protectionism is Bad – NOT!” by Robin Hahnel, *ZNet*, June 1, 2000; www.zmag.org/ZSustainers/ZDaily/2000-06/01hahnel.htm
- “Stiglitz: Time to Snuff the IMF?” in *Left Business Observer*, #102
- “[Structural] Adjustment: The Cost” by Walden Bello, *Third World Traveler*, March 2, 2005; www.thirdworldtraveler.com/IMF_WB/adjust_costs_Dark.html
- “World Financial Volatility” by Patrick Bond, *ZNet*, Dec. 27, 2004
- “Dear Dr. Dollar”, *Dollars & Sense*, July/August 2007
- “Wolfowitz and the World Bank” by Larry Peterson, *Dollars & Sense*, July/August 2007
- “Trade Quagmire – Colisions Are Imminent Over Fast-Track Trade Authority, Labor Standards and Tarrifs” by Robert Kuttner, *American Prospect*, February 19, 2007; www.prospect.org/web/printfriendly-view.wv?id=12476
- “Free Markets, International Commerce and Economic Development” by Arthur MacEwan, *New World Globalization* (7th Ed.)
- “Supply, Demand and Tortillas” by Chris Tilly and Marie Kennedy, *Dollars & Sense*, Spring 2007
- “International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank ‘Debt Relief’ for Poor and Indebted Countries Is a Sham” by *50 Years Is Enough*, December 2004; www.50years.org/action/s26/factsheet.html
- “How International Monetary Fund (IMF)/World Bank Structural Adjustment Programs Have Increased Poverty Around the World” by *50 Years Is Enough*, December 2004; www.50years.org/actions/s26/factsheet2.html
- “The IMF and Corporate Welfare” by *50 Years Is Enough*, December 2004; www.50years.org/factsheets/corpWelfare.html

Video: *The Money Lenders*

Video: *Trade Secrets*

10/4 Trade, Investment and Debt (continued)

10/11 Labor in the International Economy

Real World Globalization, Chapter 5

Child Labor is Back, National Labor Committee

“Globalization and Wages: The Down Escalator” by Richard DuBoff, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)

“The Impact of Capital Mobility on Workers’ Rights” by Leo Gerard, Pres., United Steelworkers Union; www.ourfuture.org/onmessage/other_contributors/03_07_03.cfm

“Australia’s Workchoices: Exploitation and Suppressing Strikes” by Chris White, March 2007

“Resisting Market Fundamentalism! Ending the Reign of Extremist Neoliberalism” by Soren Ambrose, *Economic Justice News*, April 2004; www.50years.org/cms/ejn/story/61

“Study Says Computers Give Big Boosts to Productivity” by Steve Lohr, *NY Times*, March 13, 2007

“Globalizing Workers Rights” by Jeremy Brecher, Tim Costello and Brendan Smith in *New Labor Forum*, Spring 2007

“U.S. Immigration History: a handout” by National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; www.nnirr.org

“The War on Immigrants” by Harold Meyerson, *New Labor Forum*, Summer 2006

“The 2006 Immigrant Uprising: Origins and Future” by Kent Wong, Victor Narro, and Janna Shadduck-Hernandez, *New Labor Forum*, Winter 2007

“Rising from Below: Immigrant Workers Open New Organizing Fronts” by David Bacon, *Race, Poverty & the Environment*, Spring 2007

“Braceros or Amnesty?” by David Bacon, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)

“Coming to America” by Felicia Mello, *The Nation*, 06/25/07

“Illegal Immigrants: Uncle Sam Wants You” by Deborah Davis, *In These Times*, August 2007

“Blacks and Immigrants: More Allies than Adversaries” by Gerald Lenoir, *Race, Poverty & the Environment*, Spring 2007

“Immigrants and the Labor Movement” by Esther Cervantes, *Dollars & Sense*, May/June 2006

“An Emerging Chinese Labor Movement” by Brendan Smith, Jeremy Brecher and Tim Costello, *New Labor Forum*, Winter 2007

“Legalizing Human Trafficking” by Basav Sen, *Dollars & Sense*, May/June 2006

“Organizing Labor in Rural Colombia” by James J. Brittain, *Dollars & Sense*, Nov/Dec 2006

“The Fight for Quality Jobs: Our Battle Against Neoliberalism” by Steven Pitts, *Race Poverty & the Environment*, Spring 2007

“Can Globalisation Be Tamed?” by Steve Schifferes, *BBC News*, February 24, 2004; <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/business/3516197.stm>

“Profit, Laundering and Tax Evasion: The Dirty Little Secret of Financial Globalization” by Lucy Komisar, *Dissent*, Spring 2005; <http://dissentmagazine.org>

“The Social Costs of Neo-liberalism in China” by Stephen Phillion, *Dollars & Sense*, July/August 2007

Video: *The Global Assemblyline*

Video: *The Hidden Face of Globalization: What Corporations Don't Want You to Know*

Video: *The Outsourcing Report*

10/18 Labor in the International Economy (continued)

10/25 Economic Development **[FIRST ESSAY IS DUE]**

Real World Globalization, Chapter 6

“Plunder and Profit” by David Moberg, *In These Times*, March 2004

“Scorecard on Globalization, 1980-2000: Twenty Years of Diminished Progress” by Mark Weisbrot, Dean Baker, Egor Kraev and Judy Chen, *Social Policy*, Spring 2003

“Globalization Made Them Do It: The Once Radical African National Congress Is Not Toeing the Free-Market Line” by Paul Kingsworth, *Social Policy*, Spring 2003

“Milton Friedman’s Chilean Miracle” by Alejandro Reuss, *Dollars & Sense*, January/February 2007

“The World Bank Brings Market Fundamentalism to Iraq” by Kathy Hoang, *50 Years Is Enough*; www.50years.org/cms/ejn/story/169

“Human Cost Behind Bargain Shopping”, Dateline-MSNBC, <http://www.msnbc.com/id/8243331/>

“From Globalization to Localization?” by Stephen S. Roach, 06/19/07, *The Globalist*, <http://www.theglobalist.com/DBWeb/printStoryid.aspx?Storyid=6130>

11/1 Economic Development (continued) **[SELECT 2ND ESSAY TOPIC]**

11/8 The Rise and Fall of the American Labor Movement

“Is the Secret to Labor’s Future in Its Past?” by Michael Eisenscher

“Labor: Turning the Corner? It Will Take More Than Mobilization” by Michael Eisenscher

AFL-CIO Foreign Policy Leaders Help Develop Bush’s Foreign Policy” by Kim Scipes

“Workers of the World: The AFL-CIO Struggles to Define a Global Agenda for Labor” by Reddy, *Colorlines*, Spring 2004

“Toeing the Line? Sweeney and U.S. Foreign Policy by Tim Shorrock, *New Labor Forum*, Fall/Winter 2002

“Out of Step: Labor and the Global Social Justice Movement” by Rachel Neumann, *New Labor Forum*, Fall/Winter 2002

“Global Unions: A Solution to Labor’s Worldwide Decline” by Stephen Lerner, *New Labor Forum*, Winter 2007

11/15 Political Economy of War and Imperialism

Real World Globalization, Chapter 8

“Terrorism and Globalization” by Doug Henwood, *The Nation*, November 21, 2001;
www.thenation.com/doc/20011203/henwood20011121

“Pax Romana vs. Pax Americana: Contrasting Strategies of Imperial Management” by Walden Bello, *Foreign Policy in Focus*, May 12, 2003; www.foreignpolicy-infocus.org/outside/commentary/2003/0305empire.html

“Like Ancient Rome, America Shifts from Republic to Empire” by Franz Schurmann, *Pacific News Service*, May 9, 2003;
http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=8bab468e29438d7f0742688707f5fe5b

“Ruling the Empire” by Alejandro Reuss, *Dollars & Sense*, January/February 2003

“World Economy Versus World Empire” by TomDispatch.com, May 15, 2003;
www.nationinstitute.org/tomdispatch/index.mhtml?emx=x&pid=676

“Empire and the Capitalists” by Immanuel Wallerstein, TomDispatch.com, May 15, 2003;
www.nationinstitute.org/tomdispatch/index.mhtml?emx=x&pid=676

11/22 Thanksgiving Day – NO CLASS

11/29 Natural Resources, Health and the Environment

Real World Globalization, Chapter 7

“Business and Climate Change: Privatizing Environmental Regulation?” by David L. Levy, *Real World Globalization* (7th Ed.)

12/6 Resistance to Globalization [2ND ESSAY IS DUE]

Real World Globalization, Chapter 9

“People Vs. Empire” by Arundhati Roy, *In These Times*, January 3, 2005

“Globalization and Parecon” by Robin Hahnel

“Globalized Resistance-At the G-8 summit, activists refine their tactics” by Linda Pinkow, *Dollars & Sense*, July/August 2007

“Confronting Empire” by Arundhati Roy, Porto Alegre, Brazil, January 27, 2003

“Red States and Blue Collars” by Chrystia Freeland, *Financial Times*, 08/03/07,
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/4c475166-414f-11dc-8f37-0000779fd2ac,s01=1.html>

“Worker Run Cooperatives in Buenos Aires” by Benjamin Dangl, *ZMag*, April 2005

“Argentina’s Occupied Factories” by Michael Albert, *ZMag*, Dec. 2005

“Labor in Waiting: The International Trade Union Movement and China” by Anita Chan, *New Labor Forum*, Fall/Winter 2002

“Liberating Pachamama – Corporate Greed, Bolivia and Peasant Resistance” by Daphne Eviator, *Dissent*, Spring 2006

“Blood on the Palms – Afro-Colombians fight new plantations” by David Bacon, *Dollars & Sense*, July/August 2007

“The Establishment Rethinks Globalization” by William Greider, *The Nation*, April 30, 2007

“Rethink Urged on Global Economy” by Frances Williams, *Financial Times*, February 24, 2004

Video: *Golden Lands, Working Hands: Worker Owned Companies*

Video: *The Take*

Video: *Argentina’s Occupied Factories*

Video: *Venezuela’s Bolivarian Revolution*

12/13 Resistance to Globalization (continued)

12/20 Alternatives to Capital-Driven Globalization – TBA