

Global Governance, Economic Development, and Human Rights

Professor: Cornel Ban, Ph.D.

Boston University, Department of International Relations
cban@bu.edu

Course description:

How is the world governed? What's wrong with the rules of global governance? What are the main forces that contest the status quo? Has the crisis and the rise of the BRICs changed the way we think about development? Why are Europe and America losing ground to emerging markets? What is there in the underbelly of globalization? How can we better understand the limits of our socio-economic and environmental systems and how will this affect our career opportunities, our health and our education?

This course will address these questions by reading some of the most analytical interventions published by leading scholars and/or publicized in well-researched documentaries and excerpts from feature films. Most materials are clickable.

Your grade will be based on class participation (20 points), a 800 word editorial on a topic discussed in class (20 points), a test of 3 basic terms from a list of 30 (10 points) and a final paper (50 points). The final paper is a 3000 word policy memorandum relevant to class discussions that incorporates your internship work (if you have one). To get at least ten points for class participation you need to have at least two interventions in each session.

Since this is a seminar, your thoughtful participation in class is critical for a successful course. Please complete all readings and attend all seminars where we will watch the videos together. It will be worth it!

Methodology

In order to make the most of the many organisations and guest experts in the vicinity of Geneva, some of this class will involve academic field trips. Any entrance fees will be covered by the program.

The exact content will vary from one semester to the next depending on what is going on in the city, such as the HRC, and who is available to speak to our group. Sometimes classes may be changed at short notice due to the commitments of outside speakers.

Absences and punctuality

All class visits are a mandatory part of the course, which will consist of at least 40 contact hours over 8 weeks. Punctual attendance at all sessions is required. Students will lose 1% for every late arrival or per day for late submission of work and 5% for any unexcused absence. Excused absence can only be given by the program director, exclusively for medical reasons or for emergencies such as a death in the family. You may not miss class for work-related reasons, and your supervisors should be informed of this.

Plagiarism

All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be “expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean.”

May 24: Who governs? Money and Power in the Global World

Read and discuss

Woods, Ngaire. "Global governance after the financial crisis: A new multilateralism or the last gasp of the great powers?" *Global Policy* 1.1 (2010): 51-63.

Lan Xue, “The Shifting Global order: A Dangerous Transition or an Era of Opportunity” *Governance*, October 2012, 535-538

Who Controls the World? Ted talk by James B. Glattfelder
http://www.ted.com/talks/james_b_glattfelder_who_controls_the_world.html

Problem-solving session based around select excerpts from the following documentaries:

1. Ferguson, N. *The Ascent of Money*, episode 4
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ascentofmoney/featured/the-ascent-of-money-episode-4-planet-finance/102/>
2. PBS, *The Untouchables*
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/untouchables/>
3. *Margin Call*, 2011 (excerpts)

May 31: Morning: Visit to the US mission

Afternoon: BRICs and Beyond

Watch and discuss

http://youtu.be/5_YmF3ccrfw

<http://youtu.be/EOLw-uNDUrA>

<http://youtu.be/aDQOCFD4f4I>

Zooming in:

Birdsall, Nancy, and Francis Fukuyama. "Post-Washington Consensus-Development after the Crisis, The." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2011): 45.

Rodrik, Dani. "Let developing nations rule." *VOX EU* 28 (2009).

Marion Fourcade, "The Material and Symbolic Construction of the BRICs" *Review of International Political Economy*, 2012

Case study: 'Embraer: The backstory of a Brazilian Champion' FT, <http://blogs.ft.com/donsullblog/2010/08/08/embraer-the-backstory-of-a-brazilian-champion/#axzz2MlwQrm1K>

Wrap-up discussion:

Eric X. Li "The Life of the Party" *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2013, <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138476/eric-x-li/the-life-of-the-party>

George J. Gilboy "What to read on China's economy" *Foreign Affairs*, <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/features/readinglists/what-to-read-on-chinas-economy>

June 7: Trade: free, fair or just?

Morning: Visit to the WTO

Watch this history of the organization:
<http://youtu.be/IXp75Egtvi8Discussion>

Afternoon: Class

Discussion:

Rodrik, Dani. "The return of industrial policy." *Project Syndicate* 12 (2010).

The Economist, Is there any point to the WTO? Aug 4, 2005
<http://www.economist.com/node/4251046>

Esserman, Susan "The WTO on Trial," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2003
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/58626/susan-esserman-and-robert-howse/the-wto-on-trial>

[The WTO Promotes Trade Strongly but Unevenly](#)", CEPR Discussion Paper 5122. July 2005

Discussion 1
Around the world with Joseph Stiglitz
"http://www.stiglitz-thefilm.com /

Discussion 2:

June 14: Poverty, Inequality and the Millenium Development Goals

Morning: Visit at the UN office in Geneva

Basic info: <http://www.unog.ch/>

Afternoon: Class

Read and Discuss

Kristol, I. "Why inequality doesn't matter" *Foreign Affairs*, October 24, 2011
Milanovic, Inequality and Its Discontents, *Foreign Affairs*, August 12, 2011

Debate specific points from one of the UN reports on the Millenium Development Goals <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Documentary and discussion: "A Dollar A Day - The Tunnel and Other Lies"
<http://www.linktv.org/programs/a-dollar-a-day-the-tunnel-and-other-lies>

June 21: Environment and Food

Discussion:

Kelemen, R. Daniel, and David Vogel. "Trading places: The role of the United States and the European Union in international environmental politics." *Comparative Political Studies* 43.4 (2010): 427-456.

Jonathan Harris, Green Keynesianism: Beyond Standard Growth Paradigms, *Triple Crisis*, <http://triplecrisis.com/green-keynesianism-beyond-standard-growth-paradigms/>

Leonce Ndikumana, Agriculture for Africa's development: In Search for a Champion, *Triple Crisis*, <http://triplecrisis.com/green-keynesianism-beyond-standard-growth-paradigms/>

Watch and discuss

BBC, Climate Wars, <http://youtu.be/6gE6zipFWmo>
The Food Problem and Brazil's Example http://youtu.be/FhiEJOC_-kc
Financializing Food, <http://youtu.be/3ItddcAJX8I>

June 28: The Underbelly of Globalization: Transnational Crime

Discuss:

Andreas, Peter "Gangster Paradise" *Foreign Affairs*, February 2013

Picci, Lucio. "Federico Varese: Mafias on the Move." *European Sociological Review* (2011).

Watch and Discuss:

Smuggler Nation and Gangster Paradise

<http://vimeo.com/56937394>

http://www.watsoninstitute.org/pub/06_Andreas.pdf

PBS Black Money, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/blackmoney/view/>

July 5: Human Rights and Mobilization

Read and discuss:

Haddad, Heidi Nichols. "Judicial Institution Builders: NGOs and International Human Rights Courts." *Journal of Human Rights* 11.1 (2012): 126-149.

Buechler, Steven M. "New Social Movements and New Social Movement Theory." *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements* (2013).

July 12: Where to?

Read and discuss:

Taleb, Nassim Nicholas, and Mark Blyth. "Black Swan of Cairo: How Suppressing Volatility Makes the World Less Predictable and More Dangerous, The." *Foreign Aff.* 90 (2011): 33.

Pei , Minxin, "What to Read on Chinese Politics" *Foreign Affairs*,
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/features/readinglists/what-to-read-on-chinese-politics>

Wrap-up discussion:

"Is Unlimited Growth a Thing of the Past?" Martin Wolf, *Financial Times*
<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/78e883fa-0bef-11e2-8032-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2LmW2cxgz>
Sasha Bush, "Democratizing Finance," <http://triplecrisis.com/democratizing-finance/#more-7702>