

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Fall 9-1-2008

### EVST 594.03: Graduate Seminar - Globalization and Free Trade: Ethical Issues and Alternatives

Daniel Spencer

*University of Montana, Missoula*, [daniel.spencer@umontana.edu](mailto:daniel.spencer@umontana.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Spencer, Daniel, "EVST 594.03: Graduate Seminar - Globalization and Free Trade: Ethical Issues and Alternatives" (2008). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11950.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/11950>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## GLOBALIZATION AND FREE TRADE: ETHICAL ISSUES & ALTERNATIVES

EVST 594\_03  
Fall, 2008, LA 244  
TR 2:10-3:30 pm  
CRN: 73680

Dr. Dan Spencer  
Rankin Hall 103, Tel. 243-6111  
Office Hours: MW 3-5 pm, Tu 4-5 pm, or by appointment  
e-mail: daniel.spencer@umontana.edu

### COURSE STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

The orientation of the global economy around free trade agreements and trade liberalization within the framework of the World Trade Organization raises critical ethical issues for environmental sustainability and social justice. In this graduate seminar we will examine the logic and values undergirding the dominant neoliberal capitalist model for the global economy, how they are expressed in both multilateral and bilateral trade agreements involving the United States, and the ethical issues these raise. We will look at alternative models to neoliberal globalization both within a capitalist framework and those posing alternatives to capitalism through grassroots activism through proposals for fair trade. Specific free trade agreements will be analyzed and critiqued. We will consider to what extent global capitalism contributes to global environmental problems and whether it can be transformed to be more environmentally sustainable.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- The No-Nonsense Guide to Globalization*. Wayne Ellwood (New Internationalist; ISBN: 1-904456-44-8)  
*Whose Trade Organization? A Comprehensive Guide to the WTO*. Lori Wallach and Patrick Woodall (The New Press: 2004; ISBN: 1-56584-841-1)  
*Fair Trade For All: How Trade Can Promote Development*. Joseph Stiglitz and Andrew Charlton (Oxford University Press: 2005; ISBN: 0-19-929090-3)  
*Fair Trade: The Challenges of Transforming Globalization*. Laura Raynolds, Douglas Murray, and John Wilkinson (Routledge: 2007; ISBN: 978-0-415-77203-7)  
*The Bridge at the Edge of the World: Capitalism, the Environment, and Crossing from Crisis to Sustainability*. James Gustave Speth (Yale University Press: 2008; ISBN: 978-0-300-13611-1)

### REQUIREMENTS

- Regular class attendance and participation that demonstrates a grasp of the reading assignments
- Facilitation of three class discussions with 1-2 other students
- Three short critical response papers to the readings
- Group Project and Paper critically evaluating a current free trade agreement

### ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

#### \*Student-led Discussions

<u>Class</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Session</u>	<u>Topic and Assigned Readings</u> [Recommended Reading in brackets]
--------------	------------	----------------	--

**Introduction: Laying the Groundwork**

**\*Student-led Discussions**

8/26 TU 1 **Introduction: Laying out themes and structure of the course**

8/28 TH 2 Introduction to Globalization I Ellwood Chs 1-3

9/2 TU 3 Introduction to Globalization II Ellwood Chs 4-7

9/4 TH 4 A Typology for Globalization I: Neoliberalism & Social Equity Liberalism Peters: ERES 1

Excerpts from Rebecca Todd Peters:  
*In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization*: pp. 36-58, 70-89,

9/9 TU 5 A Typology for Globalization II: Earthism & Postcolonialism Peters: ERES 1

Excerpts from Rebecca Todd Peters:  
*In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization*: pp. 102-129 [114-123],  
139-159 [149-154].

Recommended: *Ecology in an Era of Globalization*:  
[www.frontiersinecology.org/specialissue/](http://www.frontiersinecology.org/specialissue/)

## I. The Critique of the WTO and Free Trade

9/11 TH 6 The WTO: History and Critique Peet, ERES 4

Richard Peet: "The World Trade Organization", excerpt from  
*Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank, and WTO*

*Go Over Group Project assignment*

\*9/16 TU 7 The WTO: Trade or Other Agendas? Wallach & Woodall Intro, Ch9

*Sign up for Group Projects*

\*9/18 TH 8 The WTO: Environmental & Agricultural Issues Wallach & Woodall Chs 1-2, 7

\*9/23 TU 9 The WTO: Trade & Services Wallach & Woodall Chs 5-6, 10, Conclusion

## II. Fair Trade for All? A Social Equity Liberalism Proposal

9/25 TH 10 Trade and Development: Problems & Possibilities Stiglitz & Charlton Chs 1-2

\*9/30 TU 11 The Doha Round of the WTO: For Whose Benefit? Stiglitz Chs 3-4

**Due:** Critical Response Paper on Wallach & Woodall text

\*10/2 TH 12 Principles & Priorities for an Authentic Development Round Stiglitz & Charlton Chs 5-7

\*10/7 TU 13 Trade Liberalization: How Best to Open Markets Stiglitz & Charlton Chs 8-9

\*10/9 TH 14 Protecting Developing Nations in the Trading System Stiglitz & Charlton Chs 10-12

**7:00 pm: Lecture by Dan Jaffe on Fair Trade Coffee**

10/14 TU 14 Trade Liberalization and the Cost of Adjustment Stiglitz & Charlton Ch 13  
**III. Fair Trade: Transforming Globalization?**

10/16 TH 15 Work on Group Projects (Dan out of town)

Prepare: Project Outline, Preliminary Bibliography  
Email to Dan by the end of the weekend.

\*10/21 TU 16 Introduction to the Fair Trade Movement & Issues Raynolds et al Chs 1-3

**Due:** Critical Response Paper on Stiglitz text

\*10/23 TH 17 Fair Trade in the Global North Raynolds et al Chs 4-6

\*10/28 TU 18 Fair Trade in the Global South Raynolds et al Chs 8-10

\*10/30 TH 19 Fair Trade: Contemporary Challenges & Future Prospects Raynolds et al Ch 13

11/4 TU **Election Day – No Class (Vote!)**

#### **IV. Globalization, Capitalism, and the Environment**

11/6 TH 20 The Problem: System Failure Speth Introduction, Chs 1-3

**Due:** Critical Response Paper on Raynolds et al text

11/11 TU **Veterans' (Armistice) Day**

11/13 TH 21 Alternatives I: The Market, Economic Growth, & Real Growth Speth Chs 4-6

11/18 TU 22 Alternatives II: The 3 Cs: Consumption, Corporations, Capitalism Speth Chs 7-9

11/20 TH 23 Seedbeds of Transformation: New Consciousness & Politics Speth Chs 10-12

11/25 TU 24 Projects Reports I

11/27 TH **No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday**

12/2 TU 25 Projects Reports II

12/4 TH 26 Projects Reports III

**FINAL EXAM PERIOD: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 3:20-5:20 PM**

### **Due: Written Final Reports**

#### **Useful Websites:**

The World Trade Organization: [www.wto.org/](http://www.wto.org/)

United States Trade Representative Office on Trade:

[www.ustr.gov/Trade\\_Agreements/Section\\_Index.htm](http://www.ustr.gov/Trade_Agreements/Section_Index.htm)

NGOs on the WTO: [www.ngos.net/organizations/wto.html](http://www.ngos.net/organizations/wto.html)

Public Citizen: Global Trade Watch: [www.citizen.org/trade/](http://www.citizen.org/trade/)

International Forum on Globalization: [www.ifg.org/](http://www.ifg.org/)

Free Trade and Globalization: [www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/FreeTrade.asp](http://www.globalissues.org/TradeRelated/FreeTrade.asp)

Cato Institute Center for Trade Policy Studies: [www.freetrade.org/](http://www.freetrade.org/)

The Bretton Woods Project: <http://brettonwoodsproject.org/index.shtml>

World Council of Churches: Alternative Globalization Addressing People and Earth

(AGAPE): <http://www.oikoumene.org/?id=2986>

Washington Office on Latin America: [www.wola.org/](http://www.wola.org/)

Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International: [www.fairtrade.net/](http://www.fairtrade.net/)

Fair Trade Federation: [www.fairtradefederation.org/](http://www.fairtradefederation.org/)

Fair Trade Certified: [www.transfairusa.org/](http://www.transfairusa.org/)

### **GRADING POLICY**

**Note Re Papers:** Papers are due in class **on or before** the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made a prior agreement with me, I will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late. Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be marked down and may be returned ungraded for correction. Written work will be evaluated in terms of your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, and ability to address issues raised in the text and in class on the topic at hand. Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

F: Failure to meet minimum requirements

D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements

C: Satisfactory; meets minimum requirements of assignment but not much more

B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style

A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

**Attendance:** Regular attendance and participation in the class is expected. More than **three** (3) absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. More than **five** (5) absences will result in one grade reduction. More than **seven** (7) absences will result in a failing

course grade. Late arrivals in class will count as an absence. (**Note:** If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness or other conflicting commitments, you still **must** speak with the instructor).

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism: All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog (p. 22).

### **WEIGHT OF ASSIGNMENTS**

The total number of points available for class assignments is 500 points.

	<u>points</u>	<u>%</u>
1. Three critical response essays: 50 pts ea	150	30%
2. Three class facilitations: 50 pts ea	150	30%
3. Group Project	200	40%
a) Proposal & Bibliography	(25)	(5%)
b) Oral Presentation	(75)	(15%)
c) Final Written Report	(100)	(20%)

Note: final grades will use pluses and minuses.

### **DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**1. Class Facilitation:** Each student will have the opportunity to facilitate three class discussions of the assigned readings and topics from the Wallach & Woodall, Stiglitz & Charlton, and Raynolds, Murray & Wilkinson texts. The class should be organized as a discussion of the texts, not a presentation. Each group should bring a typed 1-page outline of the main points or issues for discussion from the text, and begin the class with a brief 10 minute overview of the topic and main salient points before turning to discussion. Creativity of format is encouraged!

**2. Critical Response Papers:** Each of these 4-5 page essays should provide a **critical response** to the texts by (1) Lori Wallach & Patrick Woodall, (2) Joseph Stiglitz & Andrew Charlton, and (3) Laura Raynolds, Douglas Murray & John Wilkinson. The first part of your paper should be a brief (one page) summary of the main argument(s) of the book; the bulk of your paper should then be a thoughtful *assessment* and *critique* of the author's arguments: where do you agree with the author, where do you disagree, and *why*? What do you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the author's arguments, and *why*? How might the later authors assess the arguments of the earlier authors? What is your overall assessment of the text? *Why*?

**3. Group Projects: Analyzing Free Trade Agreements.** Details provided in class.

## **Important University Policies, Dates and Deadlines**

For Important Dates and University policies, check Cyberbear at <http://cyberbear.umt.edu/>

Incomplete Grade: Please see the criteria that must be met for an Incomplete on p. 23 of the University Catalog. No exceptions will be made for these criteria.

ERES: To access the ERES readings:

- a. Go into <http://eres.lib.umt.edu/>
- b. Click on Electronic Reserves and Course Materials
- c. Under Instructor, find and select SPENCER, Daniel
- d. Click on the course name (EVST 594).
- e. Enter the password, "EVST594"

### **ERES READINGS, EVST 594\_03, FALL 2008 GLOBALIZATION AND FREE TRADE: ETHICAL ISSUES & ALTERNATIVES Dan Spencer, Environmental Studies**

1. Excerpts from Rebecca Todd Peters, *In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization* (New York: Continuum, 2004), pp. 36-58, 41-58, 70-89, 102-129, 139-159.
2. James Gustave Speth: "Two Perspectives on Globalization and the Environment." In James Gustave Speth, ed. *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003) pp. 1-18.
3. Jerry Mander: "Intrinsic Negative Effects of Economic Globalization on the Environment." In James Gustave Speth, ed. *Worlds Apart: Globalization and the Environment* (Washington, DC: Island Press, 2003) pp. 109-129.
4. Richard Peet: "The World Trade Organization", excerpt from *Unholy Trinity: The IMG, World Bank, and WTO* (London and New York: Zed Books, 2003), pp. 146-199.