

Neoliberalism

Fall 2017

Office Hours: Thursday 3-5PM

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This course surveys some of the increasing literature on neoliberalism, the movement throughout the world to reduce the role of the state and give greater rein to market forces. The focus is on the U.S., but a few weeks are spent on neoliberalism in other countries.

Required Books (ordered at Norris bookstore and on reserve at library or available online through Northwestern Library)

- Daniel Stedman Jones, *Masters of the Universe* [available online]
- Gérard Duménil and Dominique Lévy, *Capital Resurgent*
- Greta Krippner, *Capitalizing on Crisis*
- Joe Soss, *Disciplining the Poor*
- Lester K. Spence, *Knocking the Hustle*
- Sarah Babb, *Behind the Development Banks*
- Peter Winn (ed), *Victims of the Chilean Miracle*
- Daniel Zamora and Michael Behrent, *Foucault and Neoliberalism*

Recommended Books (on reserve at library or available online)

- Philip Mirowski and Dieter Plehwe, *Road from Mont Pèlerin* [available online]
- David Harvey, *Brief History of Neoliberalism* [available online]
- Wolfgang Streeck, *How Will Capitalism End?*
- Isaac Martin, *The Permanent Tax Revolt*
- Loic Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*
- Kate Bowler, *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel* [available online]
- Ho-fung Hung, *The China Boom* [available online]
- Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore (eds), *Spaces of Neoliberalism*
- Karl Polanyi, *Great Transformation*
- Jamie Peck, *Constructions of Neoliberal Reason*

Course Requirements

1. Weekly memo discussing the readings (due by 5 PM each Sunday on Canvas, Discussions → “discussion questions for [date]”). The weekly memos are not graded. It is not necessary to summarize the readings. Instead, discuss whether you were convinced by the argument (if it’s an analytical reading), what shortcomings you see, what resonances you find in the reading with other works you have read, what research agenda arises from the reading, etc.
2. 12-15 pp critical analysis (due by 5PM on December 8, over email). This analysis can take many forms. You can dig deeply into the logic of one book, put several books in conversation, or conduct a small empirical project that bears on the themes of this course. You can also take a paper you wrote for another course and revise it to incorporate material you have learned in this course, but this should represent as much work as a paper written from scratch. You *must speak to me* by week 6 about what you plan to do.
3. Lead class discussion one week, which includes preparing the assigned readings and also presenting an overview of the recommended readings. The week when you lead class

discussion, you will kick off the class by briefly (5-10 min) giving your reaction to the assigned reading (summary is not necessary). In the second part of the course you will be asked to give an overview of the recommended reading (or, if you prefer, other material not on the syllabus—speak to me first if you do that). In addition to summarizing the text, it would be helpful if you could try to integrate it with the readings of the week, if possible—what does this additional material suggest about what the required texts argue? How might some of the arguments we’ve been making change if we took the recommended reading into account? And it always helps to come up with discussion questions to try to spark discussion. (Hint: prepare your presentation as if you were teaching to an undergraduate class. Handouts, Powerpoint, anything to bring the reading alive.)

4. participate in discussion every week

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarists will automatically fail the course, and will also be subject to disciplinary action. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the student handbook. You are responsible for knowing and following the rules presented there.

Schedule of Readings

Required books are available for purchase at Norris and are on reserve at the library. Required articles are on Canvas (under “Files”). Recommended books are on reserve or available online.

	Required Readings	Recommended Readings
September 19	Introduction	
September 26	Masters of the Universe (you can skip chapters 4 and 7)	Road from Mont Pèlerin [avail. online]
October 3	Capital Resurgent	Brief History of Neoliberalism [avail. online] How Will Capitalism End?
October 10	Capitalizing on Crisis	Permanent Tax Revolt
October 17	Disciplining the Poor	Punishing the Poor
October 24	Knocking the Hustle	Blessed [avail. online]
October 31	Behind the Development Banks	The China Boom [avail. online]
November 7	Victims of the Chilean Miracle (read pp. 1-163, plus any one of the remaining five chapters)	Spaces of Neoliberalism
November 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bohle and Greskovits, “Neoliberalism, Embedded Neoliberalism and Neocorporatism” • Connell and Dados, “Where in the World Does Neoliberalism Come From?” • Hilgers, “The Historicity of the Neoliberal State” • Pfeiffer et al., “The Holy Spirit in the Household” 	Karl Polanyi, Great Transformation
November 21	Foucault and Neoliberalism	Constructions of Neoliberal Reason

Final papers due December 8, 5PM, over email, to m-prasad@northwestern.edu