

Neoliberalism in the Global Age

HUMN 5984/SSCI 5050—Fall 2016

Student Commons 3208

Monday 5:30-8:20

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday from 4:00-5:00pm, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the semester of the U.S. election, this graduate course is an exploration of neoliberalism, including state policies of market fundamentalism, intensified policing and surveillance, disinvestment in public infrastructure, disavowal of environmental protections and labor rights. Our studies will bring together a range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives: we will explore the historical emergence of neoliberalism; its geographical impact on cities and the movement of human bodies; political theories that investigate its aims and transformations; an analysis of issues of race, gender and other forms of inequality/identity; and a look at it through religious, postcolonial, and transnational lenses. Students in the course will expand their understanding of the global impact of neoliberal forces and movements that have emerged in resistance to it, and will develop the ability to critically analyze neoliberalism in their own research.

The course will be conducted as a reading seminar where each student is expected to actively participate. More generally, this class will also be a learning community environment in which every effort will be made to help students know each other personally, communicate broadly, and empower each other to grow intellectually.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce students to the foundational theories and conceptualization of neoliberalism, and develop a comprehensive understanding of the interdisciplinary scholarly conversation on neoliberalism
2. Develop student's ability to critically analyze the social, geopolitical, economic, cultural, and spatial dimension of neoliberalism
3. Cultivate a broad interdisciplinary range of methodological skills for analyzing, articulating, and asserting a diverse range of definitions of neoliberalism, its impacts, and possible ideological alternatives
4. Engage in a series of critical writing assignments aimed at analyzing the dimensions of neoliberalism related to the students research agenda and thesis

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1) CRITICAL RESPONSE PAPERS (CRs)—Weeks 2-12

[40% of final grade]

Critical Responses (CRs) of 1-2 single-spaced are required weeks 2 through 12 (11 weeks, only 10 CRs). Students are encouraged to engage with topics and issues in the lectures of interest to them and/or pertaining to their own research in graduate school. I encourage the application of the ideas to your research, close readings, critical engagement with the ideas presented, and creative and critical interpretations of neoliberalism. The possibilities for your weekly CRs are nearly limitless with one exception—DO NOT SUMMARIZE the readings in your CR. We have all read the texts, so please write a CR that moves beyond summary and into critical analysis of the ideas presented.

You will submit your CRs via our class Google Docs webpage. CRs are due by 12:00pm (noon) on the day of class. Please write and save your CRs in a Word document on your own computer, then cut and paste your CR into the Google Doc for that days readings. You are strongly encouraged to read your peers CRs before you come to class as a means of preparing for the discussion by familiarizing yourself with the diverse perspectives and interpretations of the readings.

2) EXPLORATION PROJECT—Weeks 13-16

[20% of final grade]

I have designed “Neoliberalism in the Global Age” as an advanced graduate course that provides each of you with a space to apply our exploration of neoliberalism towards a topic related to your broader research agenda. To this end, each of you will work on either a paper or a project where you analyze the impacts of neoliberalism on a specific social, political, ethical, economic, historical or cultural phenomenon by using the texts we read, our class discussions, your critical personal observations, and the collective growth that we undergo this semester.

To make this assignment accessible, we will work on it throughout the semester on the following timeline:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Preliminary Proposal Due | (Week 8—October 8 th) |
| 2. Final Proposal Due | (Week 12—November 7 th) |
| 3. Instructor Approval Due | (Week 13—November 14 th) |
| 4. Exploration Presentations & Discussion | (Week 16—December 5 th) |

3) ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

[30% of final grade]

Active participation in class discussions is central to being successful in graduate school. Participation in my courses will be assessed on three criteria:

1. It is vital that we cultivate our class discussions as a safe space for all students to contribute their insights without fear of verbal shaming or reprisals. To foster this environment, students are required to be respectful of their peers and refrain from making comments that degrade a sense of intellectual safety for all members of our learning community. You are welcome (and encouraged) to have a different perspective than your peers, but you are required to present your alternative reading of the text in a respectful manner that honors each member of our community as a human being. RESPECT is the #1 rule in my courses, and students will lose significant participation points for violating this rule.
2. Students exemplify in their comments that they have completed the readings and are actively working to increase their understanding of the material.
3. Students participate actively (i.e. multiple times) in every class discussion.

If you find it difficult to actively participate in discussions, please talk to me in the first three weeks of class so that we can discuss methods to help you develop your ability to engage in dialogue with your peers.

Additionally, we will have a document in our Google Drive called the “**Neoliberalism Archive**.” Each student in the course is expected to contribute at least 10 primary sources, and 5 secondary sources, to the archive throughout the semester. This will predominantly in the form of articles, but other primary sources (such as videos, public talks and other related materials) are acceptable as well. This assignment is ultimately for all of your benefits—our goal is to create an archive of sources to use in your work and research on neoliberalism.

CLASS INTRODUCTIONS

[10% of final grade]

Each week, rotating groups of two students will provide a 15-20 minute (maximum) introduction to that weeks reading at the beginning of the class. We will sign up for reading introductions on the first day of class. Students are strongly encouraged to be creative and create an introduction that is interesting and stimulate excitement amongst your peers about the reading discussion that will follow.

This assignment is intentionally a group project, meaning that the expectation is that you will work with your peers to develop an introduction collectively, as opposed to each member presenting separately.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Communication, communication, communication. I pride myself on being an understanding, fair, and supportive professor. I will work with any student on any issue that comes up in your life. I can only do this, however, if you communicate with me beforehand regarding assignments, attendance, and issues in your life that are affecting your participation/work. If you communicate with me, I will work with you.
2. Attendance is mandatory. Every student is expected to attend every seminar session. In the case of serious illness or major life issues, please contact the instructor immediately via email. Failure to attend the seminar without prior notification will result in a loss of 3.33% of your final grade per absence.
3. Tardiness. Students are expected to be in class by **5:30 pm** (beginning of the class period). Students who will be **more than ten minutes** late for class need to contact me as soon as possible to inform me of their situation. Repeated tardiness without a valid reason is unacceptable.
4. Electronic Devices. Notes on the class discussion should be taken on paper. The use of cell phones, laptops, and all other electronic devices are NOT allowed in the classroom, no exceptions. Recording devices (tape-recorders, video-cameras, cell phones with cameras, etc.) are NOT allowed in class. If you have a pressing family issue and need to have your phone out during class, please inform me before class.
5. No make-up assignments will be accepted. Since the written assignments are all take-home and students should have worked on them regularly and diligently throughout the semester, there is no anticipated reason why students could not turn in their assignments on time. Late and incomplete assignments will not be accepted.
6. Academic Honesty and Graduate Scholarly Ethics: All work for this course must be the student's own. Anyone guilty of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, paper or argument theft, etc.) will fail the course automatically and will be reported to the university for further disciplinary measures. If you have any doubt regarding what plagiarism is, you must speak with the professor at once. Students are responsible for being attentive to, or observant of, campus policies about academic honesty as stated in the University's Student Conduct Code. The Code can be found at <http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/studentlife/studentlife/discipline.html>.

GRADING SCALE

100-93	A	76-73	C
92-90	A-	72-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-67	D+
86-83	B	66-63	D
82-80	B-	62-60	D-
79-77	C+	59-0	F

COURSE READINGS

All the course books are classic texts worthy of purchase for your own professional libraries. Likewise, you can expect to use some of them again in other courses and as valuable resources when you begin writing your thesis.

I take the cost of books very seriously as a teacher. I strongly suggest purchasing all of your books online and in used condition whenever possible. Purchasing used copies online WILL save you more than half the cost of new copies of these texts. I would also suggest purchasing a discounted “Amazon Student” membership, which over the course of your graduate career will easily pay for itself in discounts and free 2-day shipping. Sign up here: http://www.amazon.com/b/ref=tb_surl_astudent/?node=668781011

The following is a list of the required texts. The books are presented in the order they will be read in class. Articles and other excerpts will be provided to you as a PDF on our Canvas website, and are marked on the syllabus accordingly. All course books are available in paperback—which is cheaper, lighter, and more environmentally friendly.

NO eBooks are allowed because the pagination is commonly different from print books. The class is a discussion seminar and it is important for everyone to be on the same page.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, ISBN: 978-0199283279

Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College de France, 1978-1979*, ISBN: 978-0312203412

Wendy Brown, *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution*, ISBN: 978-1935408536

Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*, ISBN: 978-0143035596

Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Declaration*, ISBN: 978-0786752904

Janice Peck, *Age of Oprah: A Cultural Icon for the Neoliberal Era*, ISBN: 978-1594514692

Stuart Hall, Doreen Massey, Michael Rustin, *After Neoliberalism?: The Kilburn Manifesto*, ISBN: 978-1910448106

***This book is available for chapter-by-chapter download at:

<https://www.lwbooks.co.uk/soundings/kilburn-manifesto>

Daniel Zamora & Michael C. Behrent, *Foucault and Neoliberalism*, ISBN: 978-1509501779

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1: August 22

- Optional Pre-Semester Reading:
 - Stuart Hall, “The Neo-Liberal Revolution,” *Cultural Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 6, November 2011
 - Michel Foucault, “Right to Death and Power Over Life,” excerpt from *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1* (also included in *The Foucault Reader*)
- In Class
 - Introductions
 - Syllabus
 - Q&A

WEEK 2: August 29

- PRIMARY READING:
 - David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, Chap 1-2 (p. 1-63)
 - OR
 - David Harvey, “Neoliberalism and the restoration of class power,” *Spaces of Global Capitalism* (London: Verso, 2006) (p. 9-68)
- SECONDARY READINGS:
 - Wendy Brown, “American Nightmare: Neoliberalism, Neoconservatism, and De-Democratization,” *Political Theory*, [PDF]
 - Aihwa Ong, “Neoliberalism as a Mobile Technology,” *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, [PDF]

WEEK 3: LABOR DAY!

- Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College de France, 1978-1979*,
 - Chap 1-4 (p.1-100)
 - NO Critical Response (CR) DUE

WEEK 4: September 12

- Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics*
 - Chap 5-8 (p.101-214)

WEEK 5: September 19

- Michel Foucault, *The Birth of Biopolitics*
 - Chap 9-12 and “Course Summary” & “Course Context” (p. 215-332)

WEEK 6: September 26

- Wendy Brown, *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism’s Stealth Revolution*,
 - p.1-114

WEEK 7: October 3

- Wendy Brown, *Undoing the Demos*

- p.115-222

WEEK 8: October 10

- Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*
 - Part 1: War (p.xi-96)
- Preliminary Proposals Due

WEEK 9: October 17

- Hardt & Negri, *Multitude*
 - Part 2: Multitude (p.97-228)

WEEK 10: MICHAEL HARDT! October 24

- Michael Hardt & Antonio Negri, *Declaration*
- Veronica Gago, “Financialization of Popular Life and the Extractive Operation of Capital: A Perspective from Argentina,” *South Atlantic Quarterly* [PDF]

Class meets at 6:30pm Wednesday, October 26th in Student Commons 2600 for Public Talk by Michael Hardt, “Where Have All the Leaders Gone?”

WEEK 11: October 31

- Daniel Zamora & Michael C. Behrent, *Foucault and Neoliberalism*
 - Introduction & Chap 1-3, Conclusion (p. 1-84; 176-186)

WEEK 12: November 7

- Janice Peck, *Age of Oprah: A Cultural Icon for the Neoliberal Era*
 - Preface, Chap 1-4 (p iv-102)
- Final Proposal Due

WEEK 13: November 14

- Janice Peck, *Age of Oprah*
 - Chap 5-8 (p.103-226)
- Instructor Approval Due

WEEK 14: THANKSGIVING BREAK!

WEEK 15: November 28

- Stuart Hall, Doreen Massey, Michael Rustin, *After Neoliberalism?: The Kilburn Manifesto*
 - “Introduction” and Chapters 1-3

WEEK 16: December 5

- *After Neoliberalism? & Foucault and Neoliberalism*
 - Read 4 chapters of your choice, related to your interests
- Neoliberal Exploration Paper and Project Presentations & Discussion

OTHER IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

Format of the Final Research Paper: The paper shall be typed, double-spaced, on letter size white paper using 12 pt. Times New Roman font with 1" margins and left justification, with each page numbered starting on the first page of text. Do not include the cover page as a numbered page. Additionally, the last name of the student shall be included on the top right corner of each page. Please use only one side of the page. Papers will be graded on content, organization, presentation style (e.g., paragraph structure, grammar, spelling), and proper use of citations. Please note that unless expressly permitted by the instructor, emailed assignments will not be accepted. If you are going to be absent the day the assignment is due, it is your responsibility to get your paper delivered to me before that class.

Disability Accommodations: The faculty at the University of Colorado system have both a legal and moral obligation to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. To be eligible for accommodations, students **must** be registered with the UCD Office of Disability Resources and Services (DRS). The DRS staff has experience to assist faculty in determining reasonable accommodations and to coordinate these accommodations. If a student is given accommodations, they must be followed. If a student chooses not to accept the accommodations set forth by the DRS, they **MUST** complete all assignments and do all course work in the same manner as all other students. No exceptions or alternate forms of evaluation can be used except those mandated by the DRS. Faculty cannot arbitrarily decide to give a student extra time, extra assistance or other forms of aid unless it is formally mandated by the DRS.

CLAS Incomplete (IW/IF) Policy: The faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences passed the following policy relating to the awarding of incomplete grades. This CLAS policy is consistent with the UCD campus policy. Incomplete grades (IW or IF) are NOT granted for low academic performance. To be eligible for an Incomplete grade, students **MUST** (1) successfully complete a minimum of 75% of the course, (2) have special circumstances beyond their control that preclude them from attending class and completing graded assignments, and (3) make arrangements to complete missing assignments **with the original instructor**. Verification of special circumstances is required. Completion of a CLAS Course Completion Agreement is strongly suggested. Incompletes cannot be awarded that stipulate (1) a student may repeat the entire course, (2) repeat or replace existing grades, (3) allow the student an indeterminate period of time to complete a course, or (4) allow the student to repeat the course with a different instructor. The CLAS Course Completion Agreement is available from the CLAS Advising Office, NC 4024.

MHMSS Incomplete Policy: Incomplete grades are not given to students simply because they are receiving lower grades than they would like. To be eligible for an incomplete grade, students must have completed 75% of the course assignments with passing grades and have special circumstances outside of their control that preclude completion of the course. The incomplete grade that will be given if the above conditions are met is an IF,

which means that if the student does not complete the work for the course within 12 months, the grade reverts to an F.

Military Personal: If you are a student in the military with the potential of being called to military service and/or training during the course of the semester, you are encouraged to contact your school/college Associate Dean or Advising Office immediately.

Policy For Returning Papers & Exams: I encourage students to provide me with a SESE at the end of the semester so I can return their papers. If you do not, papers will be held for one month after grades have been submitted, then they will be discarded.

Religious Holiday Accommodations: Faculty in the University of Colorado system have both a legal and moral obligation to provide reasonable accommodations to students who must be absent from classes because of religious holidays. Faculty are expected to develop course-consistent accommodations for students who miss class or graded assignments in order to observe religious holidays. Faculty are encouraged to (1) avoid examinations during major religious holidays and (2) ask students to privately identify all course conflicts at the beginning of the semester. For a list of such holidays, please consult <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org>.

Student Complaints About Course or Instructor: 1) meet with the instructor face-to-face; 2) if not satisfied, meet with the head/chair of the department/unit; 3) if not satisfied, appeal to the Associate Dean. No step in this process may be skipped. See "Procedures for Student Grievances about Courses or Faculty, CLAS."

Student Email Policy: Email is an official means of communication for students at the CU Denver. All official university email, *including email I send as part of this class (which I will do on a fairly regular basis)*, will be sent to each student's assigned CU Denver email address. CU Denver will *only* use CU Denver student email accounts if it elects to send email communication to students. CU Denver email accounts are available through IT Services. Students are responsible for reading emails received from CU Denver. Official emails sent through this system will be presumed to have been received by students.

Writing Expectations: As an advanced undergrad or graduate student, the expectation in this class is that you have the ability to write professionally in the English language. All written work should be grammatically sound, correctly spelled, and written in engaging prose. If you have concerns about this, please contact me early in the semester and I will be happy to work with you. Please also use The Writing Center, a wonderful campus resource, that will help you to continue to develop as a writer. Writing Center website: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/writing/Pages/TheWritingCenter.aspx>

Academic Policies

The following policies, procedures, and deadlines pertain to all students taking classes in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS). They are aligned with the Official University Academic Calendar found on the [Registrar's website](#).

- **Schedule verification:** It is each student's responsibility to verify that their official registration and schedule of classes is correct in their UCDAccess portal before classes begin and by the university census date. Failure to verify schedule accuracy is not sufficient reason to justify late adds or withdrawals. Access to a course through Canvas is not evidence of official enrollment.
- **E-mail:** Students must activate and regularly check their official CU Denver e-mail account for university related messages.
- **Administrative Drops:** Students may be administratively dropped from a class if they never attended or stopped attending and the policy is indicated in the course syllabus. Students may also be administratively dropped if they do not meet the pre- and/or co-requisites for the course as detailed in the course description. Please note: this policy does not apply to all classes and should not be relied upon; if the plan is to no longer complete the course, please follow the appropriate drop/withdrawal process.
- **Late adds (after Sept. 7, 2016) and late withdrawals (after Nov. 15, 2016):** require a written petition, verifiable documentation, and dean's approval. CLAS undergraduate students should visit the CLAS Advising Office (NC1030) and graduate students should visit the Graduate School (12th floor LSC) to learn more about the petition process. Petition deadline: Dec. 9, 2016.
- **Co-requisites and withdrawals:** Students should read the course notes in the UCDAccess registration system and their course syllabus to determine the impact of dropping/withdrawing from courses with co-requisites.
- **Waitlists:** The Office of the Registrar notifies students at their CU Denver e-mail account if they are added to a class from a waitlist. Students are not automatically dropped from a class if they never attended, stopped attending, or do not make tuition payments. Students will have access to Canvas when they are on a waitlist, but this does not mean that a student is enrolled or guaranteed a seat in the course. If a student is not enrolled in a course when the waitlists are purged on Aug. 29, 2016, the student must complete an [Instructor Permission to Enroll Form](#) and bring it to the CLAS Advising Office (NC 1030) or have their instructor e-mail it to clasinstructorpermission@ucdenver.edu in order to enroll in the class.

Applicable Forms:

- [SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT FORM](#) – Available on the Registrar's website. Submitted to the Office of the Registrar (SCB 5005)
- [INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION TO ENROLL FORM](#) – Available on CLAS Advising's website. Submit to CLAS Advising (NC 1030) either in person or have the instructor e-mail it to clasinstructorpermission@ucdenver.edu
- **LATE ADD AND WITHDRAWAL PETITIONS** – undergraduates visit CLAS Advising (NC 1030) and graduates visit the Graduate School (12th floor LSC)

Important Dates and Deadlines

August 22 **FALL 2016 CLASSES BEGIN**

August 28 **ADD DEADLINE (11:59 pm)**
Last day to add or waitlist a class using UCDAccess.

August 29 **DROP DEADLINE (11:59 pm)**
Last day to drop a class on UCDAccess without a \$100 drop fee, including section changes.

NO ADDING OF CLASSES IS PERMITTED TODAY

WAITLISTS PURGED

All waitlists will be eliminated today. Students should check their schedule in UCDAccess to confirm in which classes they are officially enrolled.

August 30 – **ADD CLASSES WITH INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION**
Sept. 7 (5 pm) Students must obtain instructor permission to add a course using the [Instructor Permission to Enroll Form](#) and bring it to the CLAS Advising Office (NC 1030) or have their instructor e-mail it to clasinstructorpermission@ucdenver.edu

Sept. 5 **LABOR DAY** - No classes, Campus closed

Sept. 7 (5 PM) **CENSUS DATE**

ADD WITH INSTRUCTOR PERMISSION DEADLINE

To add a course August 30 – Sept. 7, 2016, the instructor needs to sign an [Instructor Permission to Enroll Form](#) and the completed form should be brought to the CLAS Advising Office (NC 1030) or have the instructor e-mail it to clasinstructorpermission@ucdenver.edu

After today, a written petition, verifiable documentation, and dean's approval via CLAS Advising (NC 1030 – 303-556-2555) are required to add a class and students will be charged the full tuition amount. College Opportunity Fund (COF) will not apply and these credits will not be deducted from eligible students' lifetime hours after today.

LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS OR WITHDRAW FROM TERM WITHOUT "W"

Last day to drop full term classes with a financial adjustment.

After this date, withdrawal from classes requires instructor signature approval on the [Schedule Adjustment Form](#), course(s) will appear on your transcript with a grade of "W," and no tuition adjustment will be made. After this date, a complete withdrawal (dropping all classes) from the term will require the signature of the dean through the CLAS Advising office (NC 1030 – 303-566-2555).

GRADUATION APPLICATION DEADLINE

Last day to apply for Fall 2016 graduation. Undergraduates must make an appointment to see their academic advisors before this date to apply. Graduate students must complete the Intent to Graduate and Candidate for Degree forms.

PASS/FAIL, NO CREDIT DEADLINE

Last day to request No Credit or Pass/Fail grade for a class using a [Schedule Adjustment Form](#).

LAST DAY TO PETITION FOR A REDUCTION OF PhD DISSERTATION HOURS

Oct. 31 (5 PM) **COURSE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE WITH SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT FORM**

After Sept 7, 2016, students must obtain instructor permission to withdraw from a course using the [Schedule Adjustment Form](#) and must bring the signed form to the Office of the Registrar (SCB 5005). Dean/Advisor Signature is needed after today. If the course has a co-requisite, check the course notes in the UCD Access registration system and the course syllabus to determine the impact of dropping/withdrawing from a co-requisite course.

Nov. 15 (5 PM) **CLAS EXTENDED COURSE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE WITH SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT FORM**

After Oct. 31, 2016, to withdraw from a course, complete a [Schedule Adjustment Form](#), with instructor's and CLAS Advising representative's signatures, and submit it to the Office of the Registrar (SCB 5005).

After today, a written petition, verifiable documentation, and dean's approval via CLAS Advising (NC 1030 – 303-556-2555) are required to withdraw from a class.

November 21-27 **FALL BREAK** - No classes, campus open.

November 24 **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY OBSERVED** - No classes, campus closed.

December 9 **LATE WITHDRAWAL PETITION DEADLINE**

Deadline to petition the dean to withdraw from Fall 2016 courses. Contact CLAS Advising (NC 1030 – 303-556-2555) for further information. After this date, only retroactive withdrawals are considered. Contact CLAS Advising (NC 1030 – 303-556-2555) for further information on retroactive withdrawals.

December 12-17 **FINALS WEEK**

December 17 **END OF SEMESTER**
FALL COMMENCEMENT

December 22 **FINAL GRADES AVAILABLE**

Check for official grades in the UCDAccess portal and on transcripts (tentative). Canvas does not display final course grades.