

Diaspora & Transnational Studies

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

DTS414H1 Money on the Move

Instructor

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Office hours

Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., or by appointment. (I may occasionally reschedule office hours; I will always post this information as an announcement on the course Quercus page).

Course description

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, industry and finance matured together, pushing people into motion around the world. The instruments of long-distance trade, like insurance, credit, and debt, connected people in new and sometimes unsettling ways. The free movement of goods and cash was mirrored by restrictions on migration to some parts of the world and by forced or coerced migration to others. This course explores the history of the rise of global capitalism at a human scale, exploring how financialization, industrialization and imperialism overlapped and intertwined, and how the rise of liberalism and capitalism weighed on human lives.

This is a seminar course – a shared intellectual project that, ideally, will be shaped as much by your interests, questions, and insights as by mine. I am broadly interested in the sometimes-hazy lines between ‘free’ and enslaved labour in the nineteenth century; in the formation of a multinational – or perhaps transnational – global capitalist class; in the financialization of public goods and in the ways that the abstracted world of central banks and monetary policy redounds on the ‘everyday’ economy of wage-earners. But there is a *lot* to think about in the readings for this seminar, and my hope is that we will find new themes to explore and probe as the seminar develops.

Evaluation

| Assignment | Key date | Percentage of total mark |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| Reading responses (500-750 words x 2) | On-going; at least 1 response must be submitted the day before our Week 5 meeting, 3 November 2023; both responses must be | 45% |

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| | submitted by 6 December 2023 | |
| Attendance | On-going | 10% |
| Film review (ca. 5 pages, ca. 4,500-5,000 words) | 5 December 2023 | 45% |

Assignments and evaluation

Reading responses – 45%, 2 responses of 500-750 words, throughout term

During the semester, you will write 2 reading responses based on the week's readings. You are free to submit your responses at any time. However, at least one of the responses must be submitted before Week 5.

In your response, you will identify a theme or question in common among the readings for that week, and write a short essay explaining and analysing that theme or question. I will give examples in the first seminar, and throughout the term, of this kind of analysis. You should provide your own argument about the readings, rather than a simple summary. These responses are an opportunity for you to engage critically with the course, and I may use the essays as a starting point for class discussions. You do not need to do any outside research for your responses, although you may find it helpful to refer to other readings or materials we have already covered in class.

Attendance – 10%, throughout term

To receive full attendance marks, you must **attend 9 out of our 12 meetings**. Everyone will start with 1 mark out of 10, and regular attendance will mean full marks.

Film review – 45%, 5 pages

For this assignment, you will choose one of the following feature-length films, and write an essay exploring its relationship to the themes of the course – the rise of capitalism and liberalism; the effects of financialization on human societies; mass migration in the era of global industrialization; neoliberalism and its institutions, etc. You will add texture and depth to your analysis by including references to at least 3 additional secondary sources, ideally but not necessarily exclusively academic books (which can be from the course syllabus) or articles in your essay.

Please choose from one of the following films – they include both fictional narratives and documentaries:

Bong Joon Ho, *Parasite*, Comedy, Drama, Thriller (Barunson E&A, CJ E&M Film Financing & Investment Entertainment & Comics, CJ Entertainment, 2019).

Adam Curtis, *HyperNormalisation*, Documentary (BBC, 2016).

Abderrahmane Sissako, *Bamako*, Drama (Archipel 33/Arte France Cinéma/Chinguitty Films/Louverture Films/Mali Images/New Yorker Films, 2006).

Lauren Greenfield, *The Queen of Versailles*, Documentary (Evergreen Pictures, BBC Storyville, Impact Partners, 2014).

Alex Gibney, *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, Documentary, Biography, History (Jigsaw Productions, 2929 Productions, HDNet Films, 2005).

Submission of assignments

The final essay will be submitted on Quercus; the reading responses should be submitted by email as an attachment, either .doc/docx or .pdf, to my university account, padraic.scanlan@utoronto.ca.

Quercus announcements and online materials

During the term, I will post announcements to Quercus fairly regularly, with links to films, articles, etc. that strike me as interesting or relevant to upcoming seminar meetings, or which reminded me of previous meetings. These readings and media are optional, of course, but I hope that you will keep an eye on the Announcements page for the course – and please let me know if you come across something that you think would be of interest to the seminar.

Email policy

If you have a simple question about a reading or an assignment, one that I can answer in a few lines, it is likely that I will be able to give you a reply over email. If I cannot answer your question briefly, I will reply and invite you to book a digital meeting where we can discuss your questions at greater length. I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours; I do not usually answer messages on weekends, so if you send a message on, say, late Friday afternoon, you may not receive a reply until Monday morning.

Please note:

- All email must be sent from your university account. I will not reply to messages from personal accounts.
- For a quicker response, please include 'DTS414' in the subject line.

Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the UofT. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your U of T degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Please be advised that Instructors and Teaching Assistants are required to report any instance of suspected academic dishonesty to the Employment Relations Program Office. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Using a generative artificial intelligence to draft essays.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying/ altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Signing attendance reports on behalf of other students.

Please read the University of Toronto's policies on student plagiarism and conduct yourselves accordingly. Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the appropriate University authorities. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests,

examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/new-registration>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Weekly readings

Week 1: What is Capitalism?

R. M. Hartwell and Stanley L. Engerman, "Capitalism," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*, ed. Joel Mokyr (Oxford University Press, 2005),
<http://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195105070.001.0001/acref-9780195105070-e-0104>.

David Harvey, *Marx, Capital, and the Madness of Economic Reason* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), Chapter 9, 172-206.

Daniel T. Rodgers, *Age of Fracture* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2012), 41-76.

James Ferguson, "The Uses of Neoliberalism," *Antipode* 41, no. 1 (2010): 166–84.

Week 2: Capital and Slavery

Stephanie E. Smallwood, *Saltwater Slavery: A Middle Passage from Africa to American Diaspora* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007), Chapter 2, 33-64.

Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* (New York: Knopf, 2014). Chapter 2, 29-55.

Kris Manjapra, "Plantation Disposessions: The Global Travel of Agricultural Racial Capitalism," in *American Capitalism: New Histories*, ed. Sven Beckert and Christine Desan (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018), 361–87.

Week 3: Free Labour

Jeremy Zallen, *American Lucifers: The Dark History of Artificial Light, 1750-1865* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019), Chapter 2, 57-93.

K.-Sue Park, "Money, Mortgages, and the Conquest of America," *Law & Social Inquiry* 41, no. 4 (2016): 1006–35.

Allen, Robert C. *The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, Chapters 4 and 7.

Week 4: Islands of Wealth

Vanessa Ogle, “‘Funk Money’: The End of Empires, The Expansion of Tax Havens, and Decolonization as an Economic and Financial Event,” *Past & Present* 249, no. 1 (November 1, 2020): 213–49.

Slobodian, Quinn. *Crack-Up Capitalism: Market Radicals and the Dream of a World Without Democracy*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2023, Chapters 3 and 6.

Week 5: Commanding Nature

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2009), Chapter 3.

Sassen, Saskia. *Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2014, Chapter 2.

McPhee, John. *The Control of Nature*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1990, Part 3: “Los Angeles Against the Mountains.”

Week 6: Life on the Fringe

Anne Fleming, *City of Debtors: A Century of Fringe Finance* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2018), Introduction, 1-11; Chapter 1, 12-46.

Davis, Mike. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso, 2006, Chapter 6.

Edwards, Laura F. *Only the Clothes on Her Back: Clothing and the Hidden History of Power in the Nineteenth-Century United States*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2022, Introduction, Chapters 3 and 4.

Week 7: Debt

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2019), Introduction, 1-23.

Jake Halpern, "The World of Payday Loans," *The New Yorker*, October 11, 2010.
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/10/11/pay-up>

Mitchell, Josh. *The Debt Trap: How Student Loans Became a National Catastrophe*.
New York: Simon & Schuster, 2021. Introduction, Chapters 8 and 9.

Graeber, David. *Debt: The First 5,000 Years*. Revised edition. London: Melville House,
2014, Chapters 2 and 5.

Week 8: Food

Jennifer Clapp, "Financialization, Distance and Global Food Politics," *The Journal of Peasant Studies* 41, no. 5 (September 3, 2014): 797–814.

Davis, Mike. *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World*. London: Verso, 2002, Chapters 1, 8 and 9.

Otter, Chris. *Diet for a Large Planet: Industrial Britain, Food Systems, and World Ecology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020, Chapters 2 and 4.

Week 9: Despair

Anne Case and Angus Deaton, *Deaths of Despair and the Future of Capitalism*
(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2020), Introduction, 1-16 and Part III,
131-184.

Matthew Desmond, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* (New York: Crown,
2016), Part One.

Jheon, Catherine. "We Bought a Crack House." *Toronto Life*, May 29, 2017.
<https://torontolife.com/real-estate/parkdale-reno-hell/>.

Week 10: Crashes

Adam Tooze, *Crashed: How a Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World* (New
York: Penguin Books, 2019), Chapter 2, 42-71 and Chapter 6, 143-165.

Karen Ho, *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009), Chapter 1, 39-72 and Chapter 6, 249-294.

Week 11: The Age of Extremes

Steven Shapin, "Uncertainty and Virtue in the World of High-Tech and Venture Capital," in *The Scientific Life: A Moral History of a Late Modern Vocation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 269–304.

Harris, Malcolm. *Palo Alto: A History of California, Capitalism, and the World*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023, Section V.

Bowlin, Nick. "A Good Prospect." *The Drift*, July 9,. <https://www.thedriftmag.com/a-good-prospect/>.

Week 12: Abundance and Scarcity

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. "The Serviceberry: An Economy of Abundance." *Emergence Magazine*, October 26, 2022. <https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/the-serviceberry/>.

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015, Chapters 2 and 9.

Scanlan, P.X. "The People's Potato," draft manuscript chapter of *The Irish Question: Land, Labour and Famine* (forthcoming 2025) [will be posted on Quercus]