Overview:

This course invites consideration of the terms “radical political economy” and “heterodox economics.” It explores recent research aimed at conceptualizing inequalities based on gender, race/ethnicity, nation, class and other dimensions of collective identity. It emphasizes complementarities among Marxian political economy, feminist theory, critical race theory, and institutional and behavioral economics. Within this framework, it focuses on emerging applications of intersectionality/stratification economics and the economic significance of care provision.

The reading list is open to suggested changes or additions.

Assignments and Evaluation:

General aim will be a lecture of about 30 minutes and discussion of about 45 minutes each class.

Active participation is a key aspect of this course. Depending on the size of the class, we may engage in go-rounds and small group exercises as well as more informal discussion and some time may be reserved during class meetings for students to write brief reflections on class discussions.

Given the importance of participation, regular attendance is important. If you have a compelling reason to miss class, please let me know in advance.

Students will take turns making a 10 minute presentation of one of the optional readings or another reading that you consider relevant to the topic of the week. (I encourage you to go beyond the reading list). We will aim for about two per week. Given the size of the class, each student can do about 2.

We will also do some free-writing exercises in class—these are designed to improve your fluency as a writer but also to help get discussion going. They will not be graded, but I may comment on them.
One focus of class discussion will be possible comprehensive exam questions for the PE comp—at least one for each weekly topic. Think of it this way: What is the question about this material that I would most like to answer? Questions for the PE III comp will be randomly chosen from the list we develop.

Overall, participation in class will account for 30% of your grade.

Two written requirements for the class:

1) A short paper of 3-5 pages addressing one of the core questions that we will develop during the semester. This paper should address the assigned readings and it would be great if you could also bring in issues raised in other graduate courses. It will account for 30% of your grade. Due date: Wednesday, March 22.

2) A longer research paper of 12-15 pages providing a critical review of the literature on an issue relevant to the course, which will account for 50% of your grade. You can use your short paper as a jumping off point or turn to a completely different topic. Either way, this paper should develop a distinct vantage point or argument that could motivate additional research, in addition to covering additional sources. Due date: Monday, May 22.

Both papers should include consistent, professional-quality endnotes or references. I am available at any time to discuss your plans for these papers and urge you to look for possible synergies with other courses you are taking and/or your dissertation research agenda.

Please note: I will not offer extensions or incompletes for these papers unless I am provided, with a credible first draft by the deadline.

Syllabus, Scheduling, and Books

All the readings below are required unless specified “optional.” Some of them are quite short and many are available directly online. Others will be available via Moodle. Not all the optional readings are available as yet, and I will add to the list of optional readings as we go (especially in response to your suggestions).

I. The Theoretical Landscape

1. Heterodoxy Redux (week of February 6, 2023)


Nancy Folbre, “Radical Offspring,” Review of Radical Political Economics (2022), just published online: 
https://doi.org/10.1177/04866134221138372

Optional:


https://doi.org/10.1080/00213624.2021.1940039

2. Two Manifestos (week of February 13, 2023)


Optional:

China Miéville, interview with C.J. Polychroniou, “Marx’s Communist Manifesto Has Much to Teach Us in 2023,”
https://truthout.org/articles/china-mieville-marxs-communist-manifesto-has-much-to-teach-us-in-2023/

“History is a Weapon: The Queer Nation Manifesto” 
https://www.historyisaweapon.com/defcon1/queernation.html

3. Stratification Economics and Intersectionality (week of February 20, 2023) no class on Monday, so discussion will spill over to following week


II. Revisiting Historical Transitions

4. Patriarchal Institutions and Precapitalist Social Formations (week of February 27, 2023).


Optional:


5. Colonial, Nationalist and Capitalist Interactions (week of March 6, 2023).

Nancy Folbre, “Capitalist Trajectories,” Ch. 7 of Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems, pp. 131-158.


Optional:


John Judis, “What the Left Misses About Nationalism”


***Spring Break***

III. Rethinking Basic Concepts

7. Capabilities and Disabilities (week of March 20, 2023).


Optional:

Six Brief Essays on Capitalism and Disability, at [https://lpeproject.org/symposia/capitalism-disability/](https://lpeproject.org/symposia/capitalism-disability/)


8. Care Provision, Capabilities, and Externalities (week of March 27, 2023)

Nancy Folbre, “Gender and Care Costs,” Ch. 9, Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems, 186-210.


Optional:


Optional:


Optional:


Chris Buckley, Joy Dong, and Amy Chang, “A Shrinking, Aging China May have Backed Itself into a Corner,” New York Times, January 18, 2023

11. Care Provision and Macroeconomics (week of April 17—note that Monday is a holiday).


Optional:


12. Inequality, Health, and Social Climate (week of April 24, 2023).


**Optional:**


**13. Market Socialism and Workplace Democracy (week of May 1, 2023)**


**Optional:**


**14. Transformational Possibilities (week of May 8, 2023)**
Nancy Folbre, Chapter 10, “Division and Alliance,” *Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems*, pp. 211-229

Erik Olin Wright. “Taking the Social in Socialism Seriously,” (summary of *Envisioning Real Utopias*),” available at [http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/Published writing/Taking the social.pdf](http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~wright/Published writing/Taking the social.pdf)


Optional:


15. **Class Discussion/Presentation of Papers in Progress (week of May 15, 2023)**