This graduate seminar focuses on classical and contemporary political economy, social movements and the historical evolution of socio-cultural systems. Political economy includes the works of Karl Marx, Max Weber, Frederic Lane and Karl Polanyi as well as contemporary research and theorizing in economic and political sociology and studies of transformations of modes of accumulation. The focus on social movements includes research on organizational instruments and strategies as well as the institutional contexts of mobilizations for social change. Of special interest is the emerging field of transnational social movements in the world polity. The historical evolution of social systems includes comparative and historical sociology, and studies of global social change in historical perspective. This is the core seminar for the Sociology Department’s graduate specialization in Political Economy and Global Social Change.

Requirements: Grades will be based on attendance, participation in discussion, a take-home midterm exam, and a five-page essay on a topic germane to the course. The questions for the midterm will be handed out on October 29 and the answers are due in class on November 5. A one-paragraph description of the essay topic is due on October 29. The five-page essay is due on December 3. Books are available in the Campus Book Store and on reserve in the Rivera Library: C. Chase-Dunn and S. Babones (eds.) 2006 Global Social Change. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press Jackie Smith and Dawn Weist 2012 Social Movements in the World-System. New York: Russell Sage. Edna Bonacich and Jake Wilson 2008 Getting the Goods: Ports, Labor and the Logistics Revolution Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Reading Schedule: Asterisked (*) readings are required. Others are recommended. Required readings should be read prior to the class meeting under which they are listed.

October 1 Overview of the course. Hand out syllabus.

October 8: Political Economy and Economic Sociology
*Karl Marx: Capital, Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 4, “The fetishism of commodities and the secret
thereof”; Chapter 26 “The secret of primitive accumulation; and Chapter 31, “Genesis of the industrial capitalist.”

Michael Taussig, The Devil and Commodity Fetishism

*Karl Marx Grundrisse, Introduction“The method of political economy.”

Max Weber General Economic History

Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation

October 15: World Historical Social Change and Globalization

October 22: More World Historical Social Change and Globalization

Giovanni Arrighi, The Long Twentieth Century

C. Chase-Dunn, Global Formation

October 29: Even More World Historical Social Change and Globalization

One-paragraph description of Five-page Essay topic is due. Questions for Take-home Midterm will be handed out in class

Immanuel Wallerstein, World-Systems Analysis

November 5: Transnational Social Movements

Take-home Midterm is Due in Class

*Jackie Smith and Dawn Weist 2012 Social Movements in the World-System Introduction, Chapters 1-3.


C. Chase-Dunn, Global Formation, Chapter 5: World Culture, Normative Integration and Community

November 12, University Holiday

November 19: More Transnational Social Movements

*Jackie Smith and Dawn Weist Social Movements in the World-System Chapters 4-6.

November 26: Global Capitalism
* Edna Bonacich and Jake Wilson, *Getting the Goods: Ports, Labor and the Logistics Revolution* (Parts 1 and 2)
William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*
Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*
Edna Bonacich and Richard Appelbaum, *Behind the Label*

December 3 More Global Capitalism

Five-page Essay is Due.
* Edna Bonacich and Jake Wilson, *Getting the Goods* (Part 3 and Conclusion)
Ruth Milkman, *L.A. Story*