

**MBA – 2020-21**  
**MGMT 901 – GLOBAL BUSINESS CONTEXT**  
**(Tentative Online Version)**

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Men can very well live without laboring, they can force others to labor for them, and they can very well decide merely to use and enjoy the world of things without themselves adding a single useful object to it: the life of an exploiter or slave holder and the life a parasite may be unjust, but they certainly are human.

**Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition***

**Course Objective:**

Throughout this term, we will be questioning **the present-day global human condition** that constrains, yet also empowers, individuals and collectivities such as business organizations, non-governmental organizations, states, nations, classes, and the United Nations in their choices and executions of various actions. As we are going through an unprecedented episode of human history, we will also be reviewing emergent tendencies, discussions, and mobilizations observed in different local contexts and on the world scale. Among these, we particularly will focus on the rise of totalitarianism and its discontents, the trade disputes among great powers, the new cold war between the US and Russia, and between the US and China. Conceptually speaking, we will be examining interrelations among five notions that are widely used in everyday speech: capitalism, sovereignty, globalization, hegemony, and imperialism. We will attempt to separate globalization from imperialism but also try to understand why these two overlap to a large extent in capitalism. We address climate change and its concomitant downside effects in connection with the crisis of US hegemony and capitalism as a mode of exchange and a mode of production.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Acquire basic knowledge of the formation, structure and interactions of global context.
2. Develop basic skills to use social theory frameworks and political economy perspectives in making sense of change and transformation in the structures of global context.

3. Gain an understanding of connections between business corporations (capital) and states and how the interaction between these two plays a decisive role in the making of local, national and global structures and relations.
4. Obtain basic comprehension of the role of money in international relations and recent regional and global financial turbulences and transformations in the international financial system as turning points in the structures of global context.
5. Understand the nature of current economic and political relations on the world scale in terms of economic flows in the world economy and their implications for hegemony in the world system.

Upon successful completion of the course:

1. You should have a sense of the contours of how economic policies affect individual, social, political, economic and social structures in the global economy, resulting in **the present-day global human condition**.
2. You should also have some sense of the dynamics of long term change within different regions of the world and the ways in which variations in these dynamics affect strategies and actions of business corporations, nation states and international official and non-governmental organizations, social mobilizations and individuals.
3. Most importantly, you should also gain a sense of the ways in which global (macro) structures constrain the possibilities of economic and political action at the local level and the opportunities for new choices that remain despite these constraints.

### **Course Material:**

#### **Required Texts:**

Arendt, H. 1958. *The Human Condition*. Introduction by Margaret Canovan – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (1998). London: The University of Chicago Press.

Karatani, K. 2014. *The Structure of the World History: From Modes of Production to Modes of Exchange*. Durham, London: Duke University Press.

Karatani, K. 2018. Neoliberalism as a Historical Stage *Global Discourse* DOI: 10.1080/23269995.2018.1464614

#### **Recommended Texts:**

Arrighi, G. 2007. *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of Twenty-First Century*. London, New York: Verso

Karatani, K. 2017. *Isonomia and the Origins of Philosophy*. Durham, London: Duke University.

Wallerstein, I. 2011. *Modern World System II: Mercantilism and the Consolidation of the European World-Economy 1600—1750*, Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Wallerstein. I. 1991. Braudel on Capitalism: Everything Upside Down *Journal of Modern History*, 63:354-361.

### **Readings and Course Web:**

Readings will be sent via email. Unless mentioned otherwise, you will not be responsible for suggested readings in partial fulfillment of the requirements of this course. Yet, if they are recommended and made available that means that they are important sources of information and knowledge for boosting your performance in your assignments.

### **Instructional Design:**

This is an online class delivered via SUCourse+ and Zoom. Online teaching depends on students' eagerness and active participation in the conduct of the course. Students are requested to attend all meetings unless they have an essential and valid excuse to be absent. They also are strongly urged to do their homework before each class.

Assignments include reading the required materials and writing and submitting a one-page long reflection paper on the assigned documentary.

The class will meet every other two weeks on Zoom. In between the meetings, students will do the required readings and watch a documentary. As part of their assignment, they first will write a question on a topic in the documentary which they think calls for a further examination, then reflect on their own question in a one-page long note.

In total, the class will have seven Zoom meetings (lectures) and seven documentaries, and hence seven reflection questions and notes.

### **Grading:**

<i>Reflection Notes</i>	70%
<i>Final Exam</i>	30%

### **Requirements:**

- 1) **Reflection Notes:** There will be seven documentaries, and hence seven reflection notes. Each note is worth 10% of the overall grade.
- 2) **Final Exam:** Final exam is a take-home assignment. Students will review an academic book of their choice. The book review will be approximately 1300 words. To learn about how to write a good academic book review, read

<https://www.insidehighered.com/advice/2015/03/27/essay-writing-academic-book-reviews>.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Learning is enhanced through cooperation and as such you are encouraged to work in groups, ask for and give help freely in all appropriate settings. At the same time, as a matter of personal integrity, you should only represent your own work as yours. Any work that is submitted to be evaluated in this class should be an original piece of writing, presenting your ideas in your own words. Everything you borrow from books, articles, or web sites (including those in the syllabus) should be properly cited. Although you are encouraged to discuss your ideas with others (including your friends in the class), it is important that you do not share your writing (slides, MS Excel files, reports, etc.) with anyone. Using ideas, text and other intellectual property developed by someone else while claiming it is your original work is *plagiarism*. Copying from others or providing answers or information, written or oral, to others is *cheating*. Unauthorized help from another person or having someone else write one's paper or assignment is *collusion*. Cheating, plagiarism and collusion are serious offenses that could result in an F grade and disciplinary action. Please pay utmost attention to avoid such accusations.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

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#### **Week 1**

**February 25-26 (No Zoom meeting)**

#### **The Rise of Constitutional Monarchy**

#### **Watch:**

*The Glorious Revolution*, written and presented by David Starkey, produced and directed by James Burge (approx. 48mins).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mypTm0VRF4g>

#### **Suggested readings:**

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Glorious-Revolution>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil\\_war\\_revolution/glorious\\_revolution\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/civil_war_revolution/glorious_revolution_01.shtml)

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**Week 2**

**March 4-5 (Zoom meeting only on Thursday)**

**The Modern State and Nation**

**Required readings:**

Karatani (2018), pp. 1-4.

Karatani (2014) - Chapter 7, pp.165-175; Chapter 9, pp.209-212

Total pages to read: 18

**Assignments:**

Do the required readings shown above.

Submit your first reflection note before the class meeting on  
March 4, Thursday (10 %).

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**Week 3**

**March 11-12 (Zoom meeting only on Thursday)**

**Democratic Revolutions**

**Watch:**

*French Revolution*, directed by Hugues Nancy, written by Adila Bannedjai-zou, produced by Patricia Boutinard Rouelle (approx. 1hr 40mins).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h3LZmErlUs>

**Suggested readings:**

Palmer, R. R., 2014. *The Age of the Democratic Revolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Read: Chapter 1, pp. 5-21).

<http://library.lol/main/B2950088EA075C9E48B1FCFC5C6DC1B0>

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**Week 4**  
**March 18-19 (Zoom Meeting both on Thursday and Friday)**

**Revolutions, Nation, Nation-State, and Imperialism**

**Required readings:**

Karatani (2018), pp. 7-9

Karatani (2014) - Chapter 7, pp.175-181; Chapter 9, pp. 212-227

Total pages to read: 27

**Assignments:**

Do the required readings shown above.

Submit your second reflection note before the class meeting on March 18, Thursday (10 %).

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**Week 5**  
**March 25-26 (Zoom meeting on Thursday)**

**Empire: Irrigation Type**

**Watch:**

Engineering an Empire: China

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x16c09b>

**Suggested readings:**

Lewis, M. E. 2009. *China's Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. (Read: Introduction and Chapter 5: The Rural Society).

<http://library.lol/main/8CE0D8EE14F50A50F2A1F94F2C9EB8E9>

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**Week 6**  
**April 1-2 (Zoom Meeting both on Thursday and Friday)**

**World System Type I: World-Empire – Part I**

**Required readings:**

Karatani (2014) - Chapter 3, pp. 63-80

Total pages to read: 20

**Assignments:**

Do the required readings shown above.  
Submit your third reflection note before the class meeting on  
April 1, Thursday (10 %).

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**Week 7**  
**April 8-9 (Zoom meeting on Thursday)**

**Empire: Merchant Type**

**Watch:**

*Süleyman the Magnificent* (the Ottoman Empire)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uTGy\\_meBFg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uTGy_meBFg)

**Suggested readings:**

İnalçık, H. 1967. "Capital Formation in the Ottoman Empire". *Journal of Economic History*. Vol. XXIX. (Read: pp. 97-119).  
<http://library.lol/main/C11105B4AE361A77B46BC202815EE152>

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**Week 8**  
**April 15-16 (Zoom Meeting both on Thursday and Friday)**

**World System Type I: World Empire – Part II**

**Required readings:**

Karatani (2014) - Chapter 5, pp.104 -126

Total pages to read: 23

**Assignments:**

Do the required readings shown above.  
Submit your fourth reflection note before the class meeting  
on April 15, Thursday (10 %).

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**April 22 (Zoom meeting on Thursday)**

**Empire: Maritime Type**

**Watch:**

Engineering an Empire: Greece  
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5xh1d0>

**Suggested readings:**

Finley, M.I. 1981. *Economy and Society in Ancient Greece*. London:  
Chatto and Windus. (Read Chapter 3, pp. 41-61).  
<http://library.lol/main/9CB4F9D9B94C2896EA15272A219CB53C>

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**Week 10**  
**April 29-30 (Zoom Meeting both on Thursday and Friday)**

**World Money, International Trade and Imperialism**

**Required readings:**

Karatani (2014) - Chapter 4, pp. 81-103.

Total pages to read: 24

**Assignments:**

Do the required readings shown above.  
Submit your fifth reflection note before the class meeting on  
April 29, Thursday (10 %).

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**Week 11**  
**May 6-7 (Zoom meeting on Thursday)**

**Capitalism**

**Watch:**

*American Titans: Vanderbilt vs. Drew*  
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6s05a0>

**Suggested readings:**

Markham, J.W. 2002. *A Financial History of the United States*. New York, London: M. E. Sharpe. (Read: Chapter 4: Section 5. "Robber Barons", pp. 251-265).  
<http://library.lol/main/7CE451F79B8588789D71850E91904DD2>

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The outline of the last three weeks will be announced soon!