Poverty, Trade and Development: 
Globalization and Inequality in the 21st Century

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Course Goal: To better understand the complex relationship between persistent poverty, governance institutions and political processes, and the role these play in the production of inequality in an era of market expansion and technological change.

Research papers will be informed by student interest. However, global food supplies, fresh water provision, health care and employment are current areas where many analysts debate the costs and benefits of different poverty reduction strategies. It would be interesting to look at the way international organizations and civil society understand poverty eradication in relation to these four staples.

Week 1: Introduction –Progress and Prosperity in the Twenty-First Century: the Best of All Possible Worlds?

Required reading: 116 pages

Relevant Further Reading


Week 2: Methodological Frames and Theoretical Propositions for the Study of Poverty

What is poverty? Key theoretical concepts and competing paradigms. Required reading: 104 pages


**Relevant Further Reading**


**Week 3: The Difficulty with Measuring Poverty**

*Empirical challenges of measuring income poverty. What are social inclusion and human development? Required reading: 111 pages*


**Week 4: Globalization and National Poverty**

*Economic, political and social interdependence—from the Washington Consensus to the Battle in Seattle. How does globalization introduce new poverty challenges? Required reading: 106 pages*
Week 5: Trade and Poverty – the Economic Interface

What are the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction? Is trade liberalization the culprit? Required reading: 101 pages


Relevant Further Reading


Week 6: Path Dependency and National Growth: History Matters

Why do states matter in the poverty equation? Market regulation and international governance. Required reading: 126 pages


Relevant Further Reading


Week 7: Governance, Institutions and Globalization – Bringing the State Back In

Can the state be an effective counterweight to globalization? Required reading: 103 pages


Trebilcock, Michael J. "Trade Liberalization, Regulatory Diversity and Political Sovereignty." Toronto: Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, 2002. (24 pgs)


Naim, Moises. "New Economy, Old Politics." Foreign Policy, January/February 2001. (2 pgs)

Week 8: Politics, Poverty and Multilateralism

The expansion of global markets and the evolution of international institutions make poverty an issue that transcends the rarified domain of diplomats and negotiators. Is poverty the result of global indifference or institutional breakdown? Required reading: 110 pages


Relevant Further Reading

Week 9: Matching Goals to Outcomes at the WTO

Do the institutional structure and political function of the WTO produce the appropriate outcomes for poverty reduction? If not, why don’t they? Required reading: 105 pages


Relevant Further Reading


Week 10: Democratizing the Great Poverty Debate – Civil Society and the North/South Divide

Can the knowledge economy work for the poor? Required reading: 117 pages


Week 11: Balancing Private Interests and Public Need

Is the international trade regime equipped to protect the public domain? Required reading: 83 pages


