

Course Goals and content

The relationship between economic globalization and economic inequality is an issue of first-rate significance scientifically, politically and socially. There is considerable evidence that, since sometime in the 1980s at the earliest, a fundamental change in globalization has occurred. These changes affect both the distribution of economic activity and the returns from that activity, both between and within nations. The rise of anti-global populism around the world renders these issues even more important. Trade and migration seem to be the two flash-points for these politics.

The appropriate theoretical and empirical tools for the study of these issues is distributed more-or-less equally between trade and labor economics. Work in these fields is often seen as in conflict. In this course, although the main focus will be on trade, we will also develop some of the main lines of research on the labor market effects of migration, in both cases emphasizing the links between theoretical and empirical research.

Lecturer



Prof. Douglas Nelson is professor of economics in the Murphy Institute and the department of economics at Tulane University. His current research interests are primarily focused on the political economy of trade policy, the empirical link between globalisation and national labour markets, and the law and economics of subsidy policy.

Email: dnelson@tulane.edu

Course Content

Lectures: By lecture day

- Lecture 1: Course Introduction & Review of Basic Frameworks in Trade & Labour Econ
- Lecture 2: Globalization as Trade—Traditional GE of Trade & Wages
- Lecture 3: Economy-wide Empirics on Effects of Globalization
- Lecture 4: Globalization as Trade—Traditional GE of Trade & Unemployment
- Lecture 5: Local Market Shocks and Adjustment
- Lecture 6: Globalization as Trade—Monopolistic Competition
- Lecture 7: Globalization as Trade—Heterogeneous Workers
- Lecture 8: Globalization as Trade—Heterogeneous Firms
- Lecture 9: The Second Unbundling—Value Chains, Tasks, etc.
- Lecture 10: New Economic Geography & International Inequality

Evaluation:

Your performance in this course will be evaluated on the basis of class participation (worth 20%), presentation of published papers (worth 30%); and a research paper (worth 50%).

Readings:

Readings for the course will be drawn from the classic and current research papers on the topics. The attached syllabus contains live links to those papers.

Class participation:

This course is intended to be a seminar. That is, while I will present lectures on basic background and results in each topic, I expect there to be active discussion of the assigned material.

Presentation of published papers:

There are far more papers on the syllabus than we can discuss in any detail. However, partly as a way to induce discussion and partly to develop the skills of presentation that you will need as professional academics, everyone will present at least one of the research papers on the syllabus. Depending on the number of people registered, we might be able to get two presentations per person.

Research paper:

Every member of the course is required to produce a research paper on some aspect of the effect of globalization on labor markets and/or international inequality. These papers must be original work, plagiarism will not be tolerated. Broadly speaking, I expect papers in the 25-35 page range. To ensure that topics are well-established and suitable for the course, I require a proposal due no later than the fifth meeting of the course. You are unclear. But don't wait until the last minute, by then it is usually too late.

Grading

Class participation (20%); presentation of published papers (30%); research paper (50%).

The course is intended for PhD students. A limited number of people with relevant professional or academic interest may be also admitted.

Organization

The course is intended for PhD students. A limited number of people with relevant professional or academic interest may be also admitted.

Lecture hours: 25. ECTS: 4.

Timetable

Class hours are 16:00pm-18:30pm, Monday – Friday, from Monday 28.06 – Friday 09.07. This is an intensive course.

Place: Online, via Zoom.

Please try to do (some) readings already before the course-week starts.

Available course outlines and reading material can be found under the course listing on the Doctoral Programme webpage.

Registration

The tuition fee is **CHF 500**. A limited number of (partial) tuition fee waivers is available for participants from developing countries and WTI partner institutions.

Send your application to:
Phd.applications@wti.org