

GLOBAL POLITICS
AGRARIAN SOCIETIES:
ECOLOGY, CAPITALISM, AND THE STATE

AG 531
Spring, 2018

Moodle site: <https://moodle.cc.sophia.ac.jp/course/view.php?id=4116>

Facebook site: www.facebook.com/sophiaepa

Instructor: Takeshi Ito
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Office: 10-530

Class meeting: Tue 1:30-4:45pm@2-413
E-mail: takeshi.ito@sophia.ac.jp
Office hours: by appointment

Important Dates

July 24 Final Paper

GENERAL GUIDELINE

Course Description

This course explores through a multi-disciplinary perspective the modernization process of the countryside first begun in Europe in the 1500s and subsequently in Asia, Africa, and the Americas. By the late twentieth century, the modern world order based on the contentious nation-state system and the capitalist mode of production was firmly established, incorporating peripheries and the countryside and reordering the relationship between nature and human beings. The multi-disciplinary exploration of this process provides us an alternative view of the modern world that the process through which the modern world order was established is by no means inevitable or complete. Therefore, our task in this course becomes evident—to critically examine how and why the modern world order has come to take the current shape. In other words, only through the critical analysis of agrarian change can we fully understand the complex nature of global challenges including climate change, hunger and poverty, inequality, and peace and conflict.

Requirements and Grading

1. Class Engagement: Plus%

A main goal of this class is to nurture critical thinking. Although the class will be structured around lectures, I try to create as many opportunities as possible for students to actively participate in discussions. Students' participation is evaluated based on their contributions to group-based discussions. Please come to class prepared, having completed your readings and ready to discuss them. Ask each other hard questions, listen to your peers' responses and respect the opinions of instructors and classmates. My hope is that the course will stimulate your intellectual curiosity and help you find your academic interests that you'd like to pursue in depth. Remember, there are no wrong answers; but you must be able to support your argument with sound reasoning!

Attendance is very important. I expect you to attend every class. Missing class will hurt you in two ways. First, you will miss the thesis of the readings that we will take up in class. This

will have significant impact on what you get out of this course. Second, I will dock five points from your final grade for each unaccounted absence. Should you be forced to miss a class because of sickness or family emergency, you must present a letter from a doctor or the Chair of FLA. Should you be forced to miss class because of athletic and other activities, you must inform the instructor ahead of time and present a letter from your supervisor. More than three undocumented absences will automatically result in a failing grade (no credit).

2. Summaries: 30%

Students are expected to write a short summary (around 3-400 words) of the readings for each session and to submit to the course website on Moodle by 9 am each class the readings are due. This is a great way to organize your thoughts and to check your comprehension. Students' summaries are evaluated on the basis of comprehension and timeliness: Two points for an excellent summary; one point for a summary of acceptable quality; and zero point for late or non-submission. Plagiarism automatically results in a failing grade for the entire course (see Academic Conduct).

3. Analysis, Critique, and Appreciation: 30%

I designed this seminar to be oral-intensive. I like to call on students in class. You must be prepared to make a five-minute analysis, critique, and appreciation of the readings. In addition, designated students will be asked to take formal responsibility for organizing the discussion of the readings. Time allocated for the discussion is 30 minutes. To create a lively discussion environment, you can pose questions, present data, and quote interesting, powerful, thought-provoking sentences. In preparing your discussion, please keep in mind:

- a) Discussants are good listeners—we all listen to one another with respect, and have tolerance for differences. We build on the strengths and weaknesses of arguments.
- b) Discussants are critical thinkers—we make constructive criticism and make connections between readings by identifying where authors agree/disagree and make sense of scholarly arguments.

4. Final Paper: 40%

Students are expected to write a research paper that examines the relation between natural systems and state-capitalism systems at local, national and/or international levels. The paper should be between 5-6,000 words and not exceed 8,000 words (including References). How and where should you begin your research? First, you need to find a topic related to the course (possibly a tentative title) that you want to explore. The topic is something of passion. When you know it, you'll keep on exploring. Second, you need to create a literature review on your topic to identify what people have done on the topic so far and what needs to be done. This is a tentative list of your bibliography. Third, you need to be able to draw an outline of your research. This could be a summary (3-400 words) of your main argument and/or headings and subheadings in your paper. The title, argument, outline, literature review, and bibliography constitute the so-called *research design*. Lastly, you need to begin your research based on the research design, and complete your paper. At any stage of your research, I am more than happy to meet you and discuss your research!

Grade Distributions

Class engagement:	Plus%
Summaries:	30%
Analysis, Critique, and Appreciation:	30%
Final Paper:	40%

Grade cutoff points are as follows: A = 91-100%; B = 81-90%; C = 71-80%; D = 61-70%; F = < 60%.

Expectations and Responsibilities

I am excited about this course! I expect you to be excited about the course, too. This excitement carries us through the entire semester. However, sustaining the excitement is not easy. There are times when you are distracted by what surrounds you in everyday lives. But I want you to keep focused on what you are doing throughout the semester. I want you to engage with the readings which may seem sometimes abstract and challenging to you at this early stage in your college education. Never give up on the readings! If you cannot comprehend at all, try to pick up some key points, and try to capture a big picture that the author is trying to put together. In other words, you should not be bogged down by every detail, and come to class with your thoughts and questions. It is my hope and responsibility that some disconnected ideas make a sense by the end of the semester. Therefore, I encourage you to keep up with your good work because only such a work habit can bear fruit in the long run.

I expect you to come to class prepared to engage. I believe that active and intelligent class participation is essential part of effective learning. Being able to address your thoughts in class is an important skill that you will need to develop in/beyond this semester. Getting the readings done does not mean that you have something to say about them. **This class requires at least five to six hours of preparation each week**, depending on your familiarity with key concepts in the field. I strongly suggest that after finishing the reading assignment for each class session, you spend 15-20 minutes on writing a summary of the readings. This short time helps organize your thoughts that you might want to address in class. In addition, it is important to know that what I expect from you is not accuracy but your effort to engage with the readings.

You can expect me to work very hard to create a valuable learning environment for you. **I am always open to suggestions as to how we can make our class a better environment for you to learn.** I will give you my feedback on your paper promptly, meet with you for advising, and write you reference letters (e.g., internships, graduate school, and scholarships) in/beyond this semester. In other words, I will make time for you.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind are strictly forbidden. Plagiarism entails borrowing ideas from others without attributing source. FLA community has zero tolerance for plagiarism and cheating. Please read carefully the Red Sheet. Any misconducts will automatically result in no credit.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability and require accommodations for this course, please speak with me as soon as possible so that your needs may be appropriately met.

Cell Phones, Laptops, and Late Work Policies

To create an effective learning environment, the use of the Internet with your cell phones and laptops is forbidden. **If the instructor or the TA finds students using cell phones and laptops, we will dock 5 points from your final grade (100 points) for each time you use cell phones and laptops.** We will not warn you or call your name in class. To avoid any unnecessary misunderstanding, please put away your cell phones and laptops in your bag. Late works will not be accepted under any circumstances. I will dock your grade third a letter grade (e.g., an B- to a C or from a C to a C-) for each day. Special Arrangements will only be made in the case of sickness (requiring a doctor's note) or family emergency (requiring a Chair's note).

Important Etiquettes

In order to create a pleasant study environment for everyone, please follow these etiquettes. Please turn off your cell phones when you enter the classroom. Cell phones must be put away at any time during the class. Please come to the class on time. During the course, we treat one another with respect and courtesy. If problems continue to disturb the proper procedures of class, I will ask disruptive students to leave class.

Appointments with the Instructor

Meeting with professors could be challenging for students. Although I know exactly how you feel, I encourage you to TALK to me in person on any subjects related to class. My office is located at 10-530. If you cannot make it during my office hours, please email me for an appointment. In principle, I use my email to make appointments rather than consultations. I am also available for coffee/tea. If chatting in informal situations alleviates some of your anxiety, please let me know.

Textbooks

The following two books are required textbooks. In addition to these, the reading materials are available on the course website. Please make sure to sign up for the course to download them.

Scott, James. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Hall, Derek. 2013. *Land*. Cambridge: Polity Press

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Tuesday, April 17

Introduction to the course

Savory, Allan. 2013. "How to fight desertification and reverse climate change." TED Talk.

Schmitz, Oswald. 2016. "How 'Natural Geoengineering' Can Help Slow Global Warming" *Yale Environment 360*. http://e360.yale.edu/feature/how_natural_geo-engineering_can_help_slow_global_warming/2951/

I. Ecology: Man in Nature

2. Tuesday, April 24

Ecological Approaches

Geertz, Clifford. 1963. *Agricultural Involution: The Processes of Ecological Change in Indonesia*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 1-46.

Dove, Michael. 1985. "The Agroecological Mythology of the Javanese and the Political Economy of Indonesia." *Indonesia* 39(April), 1-36.

Suggested

Hayami, Yujiro. 2001. "Ecology, History, and Development: A Perspective from Rural Southeast Asia." *The World Bank Research Observer*, 16(2), 169-198.

Ito, Takeshi, Noer Fauzi Rachman, and Laksmi Savitri. 2014. "Power to Make Land Dispossession Acceptable: A Policy Discourse Analysis of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate, Papua, Indonesia." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 42(1).

Malind People. 2013. "Marind Intellectuals Oppose Corporations." AwasmIFEE

<https://awasmiffee.potager.org/?p=352>

3. Tuesday, May 1

Engineering Nature

Scott, James. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven: Yale University Press: Ch. 1 Nature and Space and Ch. 2 Cities, People, and Language (11-83) and Ch. 9 Thin Simplifications and Practical Knowledge: Metis (309-341).

Suggested

McPhee, John. 1989. *The Control of Nature*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Solomon, Steven. 2011. *Water: The Epic Struggle for Wealth, Power, and Civilization*. New York: HarperCollins.

II. Toward An Alternative Perspective of State-Society Relations

4. Tuesday, May 8

Frontiers, Nonstate Spaces, and Zomia

Scott, James. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed*. New Haven: Yale University Press: Ch. 1 Hills, Valleys, and States: An Introduction to Zomia (1-39), Ch. 2 State Space: Zones of Governance and Appropriation (40-63), and Ch. 3 Concentrating Manpower and Grain, 64-97.

Suggested

Adas, Michael. 1981. "From Avoidance to Confrontation: Peasant Protest in Precolonial and Colonial Southeast Asia." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 23(2), 217-247.

Leach, Edmund. 1960. "The Frontiers of 'Burma'." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 3(1), 49-68.

Lattimore, Owen. 1962. "The Frontier in History." In *Studies in Frontier History*. London: Oxford University Press, pp. 469-491.

5. Tuesday, May 15

Reading Day

6. Tuesday, May 22

Keeping the State at a Distance

Scott, James. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed*. New Haven: Yale University Press: Ch. 5 The Peopling of the Hills (127-177) and Ch. 6 The Culture and Agriculture of Escape (178-219).

7. Tuesday, May 29

Toward an Alternative View of History of State and Society

Scott, James. 2009. *The Art of Not Being Governed*. New Haven: Yale University Press: Conclusion (324-338).

III. Agrarian and Environmental Change

8. Tuesday, June 5

Nature and Capital

- Karl Marx. [Capital: A Critique of Political Economy](#). London: Penguin Books, 1990. Part Eight, "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation and The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population from the Land, pp. 873 - 877
- Wood, Ellen Meiksins. 2010. "Peasants and the Market Imperative: The Origins of Capitalism." Haroon Akram-Lodhi and Cristobal Kay eds. *Peasants and Globalization: Political Economy, Rural Transformation and the Agrarian Question*. London: Routledge: 37-56.
- Smith, Neil. 2007. "Nature as Accumulation Strategy." *Socialist Register*, 19-41.

For students wishing to read more

- Araghi, Farshad. 2009. "The Invisible Hand and the Visible Foot: Peasants, Dispossession and Globalization." In *Peasants and Globalization: Political Economy, Rural Transformation and the Agrarian Question*, edited by A. H. and Cristobal Kay Akram-Lodhi. New York: Routledge. Pp. 111-147.
- Bernstein, Henry. 2010. "Origins and Early Development of Capitalism." In *Class Dynamics of Agrarian Change*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing: 25-37.

Suggested

- Moore, Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press, Ch. 1.
- Araghi, Farshad . 2001. "The Great Global Enclosure of Our Times: Peasants and the Agrarian Question at the End of the Twentieth Century." in Fred Magdoff, Frederick H. Buttel and John Bellamy Foster (eds.), *Hungry for Profit: The Agribusiness Threat to Farmers, Food and the Environment*. New York: Monthly Review Press. pp. 145-160.
- Watts, Michael. 2009. "The Southern Question. Agrarian Question of Labour and Capital." In *Peasants and Globalization: Political Economy, Rural Transformation and the Agrarian Question*, edited by A. H. and Cristobal Kay Akram-Lodhi. New York: Routledge: 262-287.
- Hall, Derek. 2013. "Primitive Accumulation, Accumulation by Dispossession and the Global Land Grab." *Third World Quarterly*, 34(9), 1582-1604.
- De Koninck, Rodolphe. 2004. "The Challenges of the Agrarian Transition in Southeast Asia." *Labor, Capital and Society* 37, 285-288

9. Tuesday, June 12

Reconfiguring Space

- Castree, Noel. 2008. "Neoliberalising Nature: the Logics of Deregulation and Reregulation." *Environment and Planning A* 40, 131-152.
- Kelly, Alice. 2011. "Conservation Practice as Primitive Accumulation." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38(4), 683-701.
- Rasmussen, M.B. and C. Lund. 2018. "Reconfiguring Frontier Spaces: The Territorialization of Resource Control." *World Development* 101, 388-399

Suggested

- Warren, Carol and John McCarthy. 2009. *Community, Environment and Local Governance in Indonesia: Locating the Commonweal*. New York: Routledge.
- McCarthy, J. and S. Prudham. 2004. "Neoliberal nature and the nature of neoliberalism." *Geoforum*, 35(3), 275-283.
- Banerjee, Subhabrata Bobby. 2003. Who sustains whose development? Sustainable development and the reinvention of nature. *Organization Studies* 24 (1):143-80.

10. Tuesday, June 19

Individual Consultations about the Final Paper

I will meet you individually to discuss what you want to write and how you want to frame your final paper. Please feel free to stop by my office. Please bring your research design containing a) title, b) literature review, c) argument, d) outline, and e) bibliography.

IV. Land, Control, and Power

11. Tuesday, June 26

Theory of Land Control

- Ribot, Jesse and Nancy Peluso. 2003. "A Theory of Access." *Rural Sociology*, 68(2), 155-181.
- Sikor, T. and C. Lund eds. *The Politics of Possession: Property, Authority and Access to Natural Resources*. Chichester: Wiley & Sons). Originally published as 40(1) of *Development and Change*.
- Hall, Hirsch, and Li. 2011. *Powers of Exclusion: Land Dilemmas in Southeast Asia*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1-26.
- Hall, Derek. 2013. *Land*. Cambridge: Polity Press: Introduction (1-22).

Suggested

- Schlager, E. and E. Ostrom. 1992. "Property-Rights Regimes and Natural Resources: A Conceptual Analysis." *Land Economics*, 68(3), 249-262.
- Franz von Benda-Beckmann, Keebet von Benda-Beckman, and Melanie G. Wiber eds. 2006. *Changing Properties of Property*. New York: Berghahn Books.
- Seed, Patricia. 1995. *Ceremonies of Possession: Europe's Conquest of the New World, 1492-1640*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Diener, A.C. and J. Hagen eds. 2010. *Borderlines and Borderlands: Political Oddities at the Edge of the Nation-State*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.

12. Tuesday, July 3

The Politics of Land Control

- Hall, Derek. 2013. *Land*. Cambridge: Polity Press: Interstate Struggles (23-51), and Frontiers (52-81), Land Booms (82-111),

Suggested

- Postigo, Julio. 2014. "Japanese Large-Scale Land Deals as Drivers of Socio-Ecological Change in the Global South." *Global Environmental Research* 18(2), 171-176.
- Borras, S.M. 2010. "The Politics of Transnational Agrarian Movements." *Development and Change*, 41(5), 771-803.
- Bernstein, Henry. 2001. "The Peasantry in Global Capitalism". In *Socialist Register 2001: Working Classes, Global Realities*, ed. Leo Panitch and Colin Leys. New York: Monthly Review Press: 25-51.
- Weis, Tony. 2007 *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming*. London: Zed Books. (Pp. 88-127; "From Colonialism to Global Market Integration in the South").

13. Tuesday, July 10

Research and Writing

14. Tuesday, July 17

Updated on April 18, 2018

The Politics of Conservation

Hall, Derek. 2013. *Land*. Cambridge: Polity Press: Tilting and Conservation (112-138), Social Movements (139-166), and Conclusion (167-174).

Suggested

Down to Earth. 2012. Indonesia's One Map Policy. <http://www.downtoearth-indonesia.org/story/indonesia-s-one-map-policy>

Hutchison, Jane. 2008. "Land Titling and Poverty reduction in Southeast Asia: Realising Markets or Realising Rights?" *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 62(3), pp. 332-344.

15. Tuesday, July 24

*****Final Paper Due 11:59pm*****

Please submit both a hard copy (my mail box) and an electronic copy (Turnitin).

Additional topic

Agrarian Question

Akram-Lodhi, A.H. and C. Kay. 2009. "The Agrarian Question: Peasants and Rural Change." Haroon Akram-Lodhi and Cristobal Kay eds. *Peasants and Globalization: Political Economy, Rural Transformation and the Agrarian Question*. London: Routledge: 3-34.

Agrarian Reform

Patel, Raj. 2013. "The Long Green Revolution." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 40(1), 1-63.
Moyo, S. 2011. "Three Decades of Agrarian Reform in Zimbabwe." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38(3), 493-531.

Suggested

Lappe, Frances Moore. 2013. "Beyond the Scarcity Scare: Reframing the Discourse of Hunger with an Eco-Mind." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 40(1), 219-238.
McMichael, Philip. 2006. "Peasant Prospects in an Age of Neo-Liberalism," *New Political Economy*, 11 (3): 407-418
Francis Moore Lappé, et. al., "Myth 1: There's Simply Not Enough Food" from *World Hunger: 12 Myths* (Grove Press: New York, 1998), pp. 8-14.

Clientelism

van Klinken, G. 2009. "Patronage democracy in provincial Indonesia." In: Tornquist, O., N. Webster, and K. Stokke eds. *Rethinking Popular Representation*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan: 141-159.
Roniger, Luis. 2004. Review: Political Clientelism, democracy, and Market Economy. *Comparative Politics*, 36(3), 353-375.

V. Agricultural Development Policy

Agricultural Development and Public Policy

Chang, Ha-Joon. 2012. "Rethinking Public Policy in Agriculture—Lessons from History, Distant and Recent." In Ha-Joon Chang ed. *Public Policy and Agricultural Development*. London: Routledge, 3-68.

Suggested

World Bank. 2007. *World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development*. Washington DC: World Bank.
Deininger, Klaus. 2003. *Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction*. Oxford: World Bank and Oxford University Press.
Deininger, Klaus. 2011. "Challenges posed by the new wave of farmland investment." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 38(2), 217-247.

- McMichael, Philip and Mindi Schneider. 2011 "Food Security Politics and the Millennium Development Goals." *Third World Quarterly* 32(1), 119-139.
- Cotula, Lorenzo et al. 2012. *Tipping the Balance: Policies to shape agricultural investments and markets in favour of small-scale farmers*. London: Oxfam International.
- Weis, Tony. 2013. "The Meat of the Global Food Crisis." *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 40(1), 65-85.
- Bush, Ray. 2010. "Food Riots: Poverty, Power and Protest." *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 10(1), 119-129.
- McMichael, Philip. 2009. "The World Food Crisis in Historical Perspective." *Monthly Review*, 61(3) (July-August).
- Audio: Charles, Dan. 2011. "How Fear Drove World Rice Markets Insane" NPR, November 2. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2011/11/02/141771712/how-fear-drove-world-rice-markets-insane>

Maize

- McCann, James. 2001. "Maize and Grace: History, Corn, and Africa's New Landscapes, 1500-1999." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 43(2), 246-272.

Root crops

- Boomgaard, Peter. 2003. "In the Shadow of Rice: Roots and Tubers in Indonesian History, 1500-1950." *Agricultural History*, 77(4), 582-610.

State-Peasant Relations

Thailand

- Turton, Andrew. 1989. "Thailand: Agrarian Bases of State Power." In G. Hart, A. Turton, and B. White eds. *Agrarian Transformations: Local Processes and the State in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 53-69.

Suggested

Colonial Java

- Kumar, Ann. 1980. "The Peasantry and the State on Java: Changes of Relationship, Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries." In J.A.C. Mackie ed. *Indonesia: The Making of a Nation*. Canberra: Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.

The Philippines

- Fegan, Brian. "The Philippines: Agrarian Stagnation Under a Decaying Regime." In G. Hart, A. Turton, and B. White eds. *Agrarian Transformations: Local Processes and the State in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 125-143.

Indonesia

- Husken, Frans and Benjamin White. 1989. "Java: Social Differentiation, Food Production, and Agrarian Control." In G. Hart, A. Turton, and B. White eds. *Agrarian Transformations: Local Processes and the State in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 235-265.

Malaysia

Lim, Teck Ghee and M.I. Said. 1989. "Malaysia: Rice Peasants and Political Priorities in an Economy Undergoing Restructuring. In G. Hart, A. Turton, and B. White eds. *Agrarian Transformations: Local Processes and the State in Southeast Asia*. Berkeley: University of California Press: 181-192.

Suggested

Gomez, E.T. 2009. "The Rise and Fall of Capital: Corporate Malaysia in Historical Perspective." *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, 39(3), 345-381.

Gomez, E.T. and Jomo K.S. 1999. *Malaysia's Political Economy: Politics, Patronage, and Profits*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.