# International Political Economy

## Prof. Rocco W Ronza

[The programme is borrowed from the Linguistic Sciences Graduate Degree Programme with the title: *Economic Geography (graduate degree programme)*]

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to *International Political Economy* (Ipe), with a focus on the debates examining the polarity between ‘centres’ and ‘suburbs’ in the global economy and the system of international relations. At the end of the course, students will have acquired knowledge of the main theoretical and research traditions in Ipe, and assess the differences and the possible points in common between ‘classical’ and ‘critical’ traditions. Furthermore, they will be able to recognise the importance of positionality in the production of economic and political thought, and assess the role played by metropolitan areas in the *governance* of global economy.

***COURSE CONTENT***

* International Political Economy: the discipline and its schools.
* The liberal theories of international politics and economics.

– From the theories of Imperialism to *world systems analysis*.

* Harold Innis and the Canadian tradition of Political Economy.
* Cultural imperialism, media imperialism, and technological revolutions.
* Robert Cox and the ‘Neo-Gramscian school’.
* The ‘Amsterdam School’ and the transition from the ‘first’ to the ‘second American empire’.
* The crisis and the future of the Liberal international order from the point of view of Ipe: globalisation or spheres of influence?

***READING LIST***

E. Fassi, *L'International Political Economy*, in G.J. Ikenberry and V.E. Parsi (edited by), *Teorie e metodi delle Relazioni Internazionali. La disciplina e la sua evoluzione*, Laterza, 2009, 176-202.

T. Shannon, *An Introduction to the World-System Perspective*, Westview, 1992 (only p. 1-154).

P. Heyer, *Harold Innis*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2003 (only p. 1-102).

K. van der Pijl, *The Lockean Heartland in the International Political Economy*, in *Transnational Classes and International Relations*, Routledge, 1998 (only p. 65-98).

V.E. Parsi, *La fine dell'uguaglianza*, Mondadori, 2012 (only p. 45-165).

R.W. Ronza, *Periferie dell’Occidente, Italia e Sudafrica nell’ordine liberale, 1795-1996*, Vita e Pensiero, 2019.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and success stories by experts.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final assessment will consist in an oral exam. Students will have to demonstrate their knowledge of the information, the distinctions, and the key concepts related to the authors and the schools examined during classes, and find their way among the topics and the fundamental issues discussed during the course. The assessment criteria will include the relevance of the answers (40%), the use of an appropriate terminology and the ability to structure argumentation in a coherent way (30%), and the capacity to identify conceptual connections and open issues (30%). The exam aims to assess, on one hand, the knowledge of the theoretical and conceptual apparatus introduced during the course, and, on the other hand, the ability to apply the theories and the concepts to the analysis of concrete case studies and ongoing debates. For this reason, students will have to answer from two to three questions chosen by the lecturer and related to the topics discussed during classes and the textbooks included in the reading list. The questions, having equal weight, will be assessed together and will determine a single mark, corresponding to the highest mark 30 cum laude (with honours) in case of flawless answers.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this is an introductory course, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. However, students are expected to have a basic knowledge of international relations, that they should have acquired during the other compulsory courses of the degree programme.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.