

# New Constitutionalism and Global Political Economy

York University Graduate Programs in Political Science, Geography and Environmental Studies  
Present:

## International Political Economy and Ecology Graduate Summer School, May 16-28 2011

Leading lawyers, political economists, social and development theorists will meet with graduate students in May 2011 at York University to analyze and debate a central characteristic of the global political economy: the 'new constitutionalism.' This refers to the complex of politico-judicial and constitutional frameworks, regulations and rights that have emerged as key mechanisms of global governance to regulate political economy, society and ecology in the era of neo-liberal capitalism. For example, since 1980 perhaps over 80 states and associations have adopted neoliberal constitutional reforms, including adoption of charters and bills of rights, often in tandem with neoliberal trade and investment frameworks, such as NAFTA, the WTO and some 2700 Bilateral Investment Agreements. There have also been important legal and institutional changes in macroeconomic policy, exemplified by the proliferation of politically 'independent' central banks, currency boards and balanced budget laws. These affect not only economic but also social and ecological policies and practices.

Nevertheless, the political, legal and regulatory institutions and frameworks of global capitalism may be up for revision. The deep crisis of accumulation since 2008 has, in effect, created a conjecture that offers a unique opportunity to interrogate the nature and sustainability of new constitutionalism, and to initiate ground-breaking reconsideration of alternative mechanisms for governing our political economies and societies. It also allows for reflection on the ontological and epistemological bases of comparative/international constitutionalism, political economy and environmental studies, and for critical rethinking of research agendas in these fields.

Classes will normally be held between 13:00-16:00 each day (full syllabus & times available on request). The Summer School is integrated with **two related events** that also form class sessions:

1. A one-day public event on 25 May 2011, 11:00-18:00: *The Future of Global Governance*. Please see [www.yorku.ca/lefutur/](http://www.yorku.ca/lefutur/) for further information and registration (required).
2. An SSHRC-funded international research workshop: *New Constitutionalism and World Order*. IPEESS students will be required to read the papers and offer comments and discussion on the workshop proceedings. This will be held [9:00-18:00 on the 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>](#) and [9:00-13:00 on 28](#) May 2011. Please see [www.yorku.ca/nc2011/](http://www.yorku.ca/nc2011/) for further information.

**Faculty:** The Course Director is Stephen Gill. Other faculty include: Isabella Bakker (Political Science, York); Adam Harmes (Political Science, Western Ontario); David Schneiderman (Law, Toronto); Philip McMichael (Rural Sociology & Development Studies, Cornell); Robert Albritton (Emeritus, Political Science, York); Claire Cutler (Political Science & Law, Victoria); Upendra Baxi, (Emeritus Professor of Law, Warwick & Delhi) and Richard Falk (Emeritus, International Law & Politics, Princeton; Global Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara).

**Applications: The deadline for applications is 16:25 on 3 May 2011.** Students and interested individuals are invited to apply. The course can be taken for credit. For Ontario graduate students the fee for the course is included in their regular tuition. Non-Ontario students are welcome and should write for further details and enrolment costs. For all students not seeking academic credit, the fee for the course is CDN \$600. York students should submit applications to their GPD with a short statement (100 words) with their qualifications to take the class and its contribution to their program of studies. GPDs should then forward applications to Judy Matadial, Political Science. All other applicants should submit their applications directly to Judy Matadial, [matadial@yorku.ca](mailto:matadial@yorku.ca).

**Other administrative contacts:** Peggy McGrath, FES ([peggym@yorku.ca](mailto:peggym@yorku.ca)); Yvonne Yim, Geography ([yvonne@yorku.ca](mailto:yvonne@yorku.ca)). For further information, please contact Paul Foley at: [pfoley@yorku.ca](mailto:pfoley@yorku.ca). The Summer School Director, Stephen Gill, can be reached at: [sgill@yorku.ca](mailto:sgill@yorku.ca).