Overview:
This course explores the relationship between capitalism as a historically constituted social formation and the realm of communications, focusing on the ways in which capitalistic power relations set limits and exert pressures on evolving communication institutions, processes, and practices on the one hand, and the role of communication in sustaining and challenging existing power relations on the other.

The course is both historical and global in its orientation and it addresses both disciplinary and substantive concerns. The first half explores the social historical and intellectual foundations for the development of a political economy perspective in communication studies. In the second part, we will examine the contours of an emerging political economy of global communication in the 21st century by examining the relationship between communication and the current global financial-economic crisis and by foregrounding communication and the dynamics of capitalistic integration in the “global South” and “global East”. Special emphasis is placed on debates on the nature of the current global order, the multifaceted formations of the nation-state, as well as new dynamics of control and resistance in a rapidly transforming global communications environment.

Required Textbooks:
- Paula Chakravartty and Yuezhi Zhao (eds.), *Global Communications: Toward a Transcultural Political Economy* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008)

Additional required readings are available on Library Reserve in book form, and/or in the School’s photocopy room.

Course Requirements:
- Seminar Participation and Presentation: 30%
- Mid-term Short-Paper and/or Book Review: 20%
- Substantive Literature Review and/or Research Paper: 50%

The school expects that the grades awarded in this course will bear some reasonable relation to established university-wide practices with respect to both levels and distribution of grades. In addition, The School will follow Policy S10.01 with respect to Academic Integrity, and Policies S10.02, S10.03 and S10.04 as regards Student Discipline (note: as of May 1, 2009 the previous T10 series of policies covering Intellectual Honesty (T10.02) and Academic Discipline (T10.03) have been replaced with the new S10 series of policies).