

PLSC 145/ER&M 295/GLBL 262
Forced Labor, Human Trafficking, and Slavery in the Global Economy

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Course time: Tuesday, 1:30-3:20
Course location: Rozenkranz Hall 04
Office hours: Tuesday, 3:30-5:00 and by appointment

Course description

Forced labor, human trafficking, and modern slavery are widely considered to be growing problems within the global political economy. This course will investigate the political, economic, and social dynamics that give rise to forced labor, and its role in producing goods for both domestic and global markets.

Economists have long believed that capitalism would eradicate forced labor. Yet, the globalization of production in recent decades appears to have reinforced forced labor rather than diminished it. Furthermore, forced labor is increasing in importance as it feeds into the supply chains of major corporations, generating profits of over \$150 billion annually.¹ This course will investigate why forced labor is thriving in the era of globalization, and the role of states and corporations in creating production systems that give rise to it. We will trace the changes in the organization and governance of global production that have facilitated forced labor's emergence and resilience, and examine the politics and effectiveness of government, activist, and corporate initiatives to combat it. We will consider the business demand for forced labor, why forced labor is more prominent in some industries and supply chains than others, and the individual and systemic factors that shape vulnerability to forced labor, trafficking, and slavery in developed and developing countries and in the global economy.

The course has three key goals: 1) to examine the role of forced labor in the global political economy, and in the supply chains of various industries, including the factors that trigger a business 'demand' for forced labor, and a 'supply' of people vulnerable to it; 2) to analyze recent public and private governance initiatives to combat forced labor and consider the gaps that allow it to persist; 3) to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical approaches to understanding forced labor, and quantitative and qualitative research methods used to study it.

This is a reading and writing intensive course, emphasizing the close and critical reading of texts and persuasive writing. It will run as a student-led seminar. Over the semester students will develop and write an original research paper on a topic of their choice (within the broad theme of the drivers and governance of forced labor in the contemporary global economy, to be discussed with and approved by the instructor). The course will involve a peer-review writing workshop held two weeks before the deadline to submit research papers.

¹ International Labour Organization (2014) *Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour*. Geneva: International Labour Office, p. 22.

Readings and Course Schedule

Readings will be available on electronic and regular reserves. The books denoted with an asterisk (*) will be available for purchase at the Yale Bookstore. Required texts:

- *Beate Andrees and Patrick Belser (eds), *Forced Labor: Coercion and Exploitation in the Private Economy* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009).
- *Kevin Bales, *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (University of California Press, 2004).
- *Richard Locke, *The Promise and Limits of Private Power: Promoting Labor Standards in a Global Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).
- Electronic journal articles, reports, and primary sources will be available online.

Optional for purchase:

- Judy Fudge and Kendra Strauss (eds) *Temporary Work, Agencies, and Unfree Labour: Insecurity in the New World of Work* (London: Routledge, 2013).

Week 1 (January 19): Introductions, and Historical Roots of Contemporary Forced Labor

- Julia O’Connell Davidson, [‘The Making of Modern Slavery: Whose Interests are Served by the New Abolitionism?’](#) *British Academy Review* 24, pp. 28-31, 2015.

NB: We will read this short piece together in class. No advance reading is required for Week 1.

Week 2 (January 26): Definitions: Forced Labor, Unfree Labor, Human Trafficking, and Slavery

- Kevin Bales, ‘The New Slavery,’ in *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* (University of California Press, 2004).
- Judy Fudge and Kendra Strauss, ‘Temporary Work, Agencies, and Unfree Labour: Insecurity in the New World of Work,’ in Judy Fudge and Kendra Strauss (eds) *Temporary Work, Agencies, and Unfree Labour: Insecurity in the New World of Work* (New York and London: Routledge, 2013).
- International Labour Organization, [‘Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour’](#) (Geneva: International Labour Office, 2014).

Week 3 (February 2): The Global Political Economy of Forced Labor: Understanding Root Causes

- Beate Andrees and Patrick Belser (eds), *Forced Labor: Coercion and Exploitation in the Private Economy* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009).

Week 4 (February 9): Profit and Risk: The Business Demand for Forced Labor

- Andrew Crane, ‘Modern Slavery as a Management Practice: Exploring the Conditions and Capabilities for Human Exploitation,’ *Academy of Management Review* 38(1), 2012, pp. 45-69.

- Jean Allain, Andrew Crane, Genevieve LeBaron and Laya Behbahani, [*Forced Labour's Business Models and Supply Chains*](#), York, UK: Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2013.

Week 5 (February 16): Supplying Vulnerable Workers: Poverty, Migration, and Social Inequality

- Nicola Phillips, 'Unfree Labour and Adverse Incorporation in the Global Economy: Comparative Perspectives on Brazil and India,' *Economy & Society* 42(2), 2013, pp. 171-196.
- Julia O'Connell Davidson, 'Troubling Freedom: Migration, Debt and Modern Slavery,' *Migration Studies* 1(2), 2013, pp. 176-195.
- Stephanie Barrientos, 'Labour Chains': Analysing the Role of Labour Contractors in Global Production Networks,' *Journal of Development Studies* 49(8), 2013, pp. 1058-1071.

Week 6 (February 23): Forced Labor in Global Supply Chains

- Gary Gereffi, '[A Commodity Chains Framework for Analyzing Global Industries](#),' *Institute of Development Studies*, 1999.
- Mark Anner, Jennifer Bair, and Jeremy Blasi, 'Towards Joint Liability in Global Supply Chains: Addressing the Root Causes of Labor Violations in International Subcontracting Networks,' *Comparative Labor Law and Policy Journal* 35(1), 2013, pp. 1-43.

Primary sources:

- Verité, [Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal and Corporate Supply Chains](#) (Verité, 2015).

Week 7 (March 1): Industry Level Variation: Case Studies of Electronics and Shrimp

- Kelly Hodal and Chris Kelly, '[Trafficked into Slavery on Thai Trawlers To Catch Food for Prawns](#),' *The Guardian*, 10 June 2014. (NB: read article and watch short documentary, *How Slaves Put Prawns on Our Supermarket Shelves*).

Primary sources:

- Verité, [Forced Labor in the Production of Electronic Goods in Malaysia: A Comprehensive Study of Scope and Characteristics](#) (Verité, 2014).
- Verité, [Research on Indicators of Forced Labor in the Supply Chain of Shrimp in Bangladesh](#) (Verité, 2013).

Week 8 (March 8): The Role of States: Combatting or Sanctioning Forced Labor?

- Mike Davis, 'Fear and Money in Dubai,' *New Left Review* 41, pp. 47-68.
- Kendra Strauss, 'Unfree Labour and the Regulation of Temporary Agency Work in the UK,' in Judy Fudge and Kendra Strauss (eds) *Temporary Work, Agencies, and Unfree Labour: Insecurity in the New World of Work* (New York and London: Routledge, 2013).

- Genevieve LeBaron, 'Prison Labor, Slavery, and the State,' in Julia O'Connell Davidson and Laura Brace (eds) *Slaveries Old and New* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).

Week 9 (March 29): Slavery as Development Strategy?

- Elizabeth Frantz, 'Jordan's Unfree Workforce: State-Sponsored Bonded Labour in the Arab Region,' *Journal of Development Studies* 49(8), 2013, pp. 1072-1087.
- Mike Kaye and Aidan McQuade, '[A Discussion Paper on Poverty, Development, and the Elimination of Slavery](#)' (London: Anti-Slavery International, 2007).
- Monti Narayan Datta and Kevin Bales, 'Slavery is Bad for Business: Analyzing The Impact of Slavery on National Economies,' *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 19(2), 2013, pp. 2015-223.

Primary Sources

- US Department of Labor, '[List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor](#)' (Washington DC: US DOL, 2014).

Week 10 (April 5): The Governance of Forced Labor: Global and National Initiatives

- Nicola Phillips and Fabiola Mieres, 'The Governance of Forced Labour in the Global Economy,' *Globalizations* 2(2), 2015, pp. 244-260.
- Jens Lerche, 'A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor? Unfree Labor, Neo-Liberal Globalization and the International Labor Organization,' *Journal of Agrarian Change* 7(4), 2007, pp. 425-452.

Primary Sources

- International Labour Organization, '[Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930](#)' and '[Forced Labour Convention of 1930, C029](#).'
- United Kingdom, '[Modern Slavery Act 2015](#).'
- California, '[Transparency in Supply Chains Act of 2012](#).'

Week 11 (April 12): The Prospects and Perils of Corporate Social Responsibility

- Richard Locke, *The Promise and Limits of Private Power: Promoting Labor Standards in a Global Economy* (Cambridge University Press, 2013).

Week 12 (April 19): Writing workshop

Week 13 (April 26): The Slavery Industry? The Politics of Modern Day Abolitionism

- Joel Quirk and André Broome, '[The Politics of Numbers: The Global Slavery Index and the Marketplace of Activism](#),' openDemocracy.net, 10 March 2015.
- Joel Quirk, '[The Rhetoric and Reality of 'Ending Slavery in Our Lifetime](#),' openDemocracy.net, 30 January 2015.

- Elizabeth Bernstein and Elena Shih, 'The Erotics of Authenticity: Sex Trafficking and 'Reality Tourism' in Thailand,' *Social Politics* 21(3), 2014, pp. 430-460.