

INTL 4230
Political, International and Economic Relations

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Office hours: M\W, 1pm - 2pm, and by appointment.

Overview:

Over the last thirty years, the study of international political economy (IPE) has undergone tremendous change. Prior to 1970, IPE was largely nonexistent as a distinct field of inquiry. Today, academics and policymakers alike understand that IPE profoundly affects every aspect of daily life. Economists tell us how they think the world ought to work, but their plans run afoul of the choices made by political leaders. These same leaders struggle daily to understand and manipulate the economic consequences of their decisions.

In this class, we will examine the interplay of economics and politics on the international stage. I have several goals for this course. First, if I am successful, by the end of class you should understand news statements like “The value of the dollar rose on expectations of a record low inflation report to come out later in the week.” You will also know why such a statement is often true, and the implications of it. You will also come to understand that the impact of IPE, while profound, is not set in stone. Governments continuously generate political and economic choices that can make life better or worse. While you will not find a definitions of the “good life” in this course, by understanding the operation of the international political economy you will be equipped to intelligently demand of decision makers the kind of world you would like to see.

I intend this course to be challenging, but also for it to be fun. We are attempting to understand society so the each of us as individuals can act intelligently within it. There is no better topic!

Evaluation:

There will be two major exams for this class. The midterm will be administered in the eighth week. This is a take-home exam. Students will confine their response to 6 pages of text, and will have five days to complete the exam. The exam questions will demand that the student synthesize reading and lecture materials. While it is not required, students may draw upon outside material in constructing their answers. Appropriate documentation of such material is expected. The exam totals 100 points.

The final will be a cumulative essay exam. Students will have two hours to complete their answers, and will supply their own blue books. The exam totals 175 points.

There will also be three minor examinations, each totaling 40 points, that will be unannounced and administered on dates at the discretion of the instructor. Students are responsible for any material covered up to the date of the minor exam

There is no formal attendance policy, but missed exams (major or minor) can only be re-taken because of a documented medical illness, and for no other reason. Make-up exams will be administered the day of the final exam, during the third hour of the time slot for this class.

No individual extra credit is available. There may be occasions where extra credit is offered to the class as a whole. If missed, such opportunities cannot be made up.

Readings:

There is one book available at the bookstore: *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice* by Theodore Cohn. There is also a set of readings compiled in a large class packet available at Bel-Jean. A timetable for the readings is outlined below, please complete it accordingly.

Week 1: Introduction

Cohn, Ch1: Introduction

Week 2: Foundations

Classical Mercantilism

Alexander Hamilton: Report in Manufactures

Cohn, Ch3: The Realist Perspective

Classical Liberalism

Adam Smith: Of Restraints upon the Importation from foreign Countries of such

Goods as can be Produced at Home

David Ricardo: On Foreign Trade

Cohn, Ch4: The Liberal Perspective

Week 3: Trade

Comparative Advantage

Aaronson: Trade is Everybody's Business

Moon: Trade and Trade Issues

Cohn, Ch8: Global Trade Relations

Week 4: Trade

Domestic Pressures

Coughlin, Chrystal and Wood: Protectionist Trade Policies: A Survey of Theory, Evidence and Rationale

Ray: Changing Patterns of Protectionism: The Fall in Tariffs and the Rise in Non-Tariff barriers

Domestic Pressure and Trade Disputes

Putnam: Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games

Week 5 Trade

Global Institutions versus Trading Blocks

Moon: Regional Integration

Jackson: Bretton Woods, the ITO, The GATT and the WTO

Cohn, Ch9: Regionalism and the Global Trade Regime

Week 6: Monetary Politics

The Changing Value of Money

Goldstein: Money and Business

Cohn, Ch6: International Monetary Relations

Week 7 International Finance

Kapstein: Global rules for Global Finance
Cohn, Ch7: Foreign Debt

Week 8 International Finance

IMF and World Bank Under Fire

Singh: Collapse of a “Model”: The Mexican Financial Crisis
Singh: Southeast Asian Currency Turmoil: The case of Thailand
Singh: Private Profits, Public Losses: The Great Asian Bailout Programme
Lim Whose “Model” Failed?

Midterm exam distributed!

Week 9 Global Production

The Multinational Corporation

Cohn, Ch10: Multinational Corporations and Global Production
Lairson and Skidmore” Multinational Corporations in the Third World

Midterm exam due!

Week 10 Political Economy and Security

The Changing Nature of Security

Kapstein: National Security and the Global Economy
Kapstein: Defense Economics in Historical Perspective
Pearson: The Impetus to Manufacture and Acquire Arms
Steans: Feminist Perspectives on Security

Week 11 Political Economy and Environment

Quality of Life

Brown, Flavin, Postel: Uncover the Lifeboats
Karlner: The Emerald City: Advertising, Public Relations and the Production of Desire
Brown, Flaven, Postel: Better Indicators of Human Welfare
Brack: The Trade and Environment Debate
Karlner: Toxic Empire: The World Bank, Free Trade and the Migration of Hazardous Industry

Week 12 Declining Hegemony

Can the U.S. Stand Alone?

Wallerstein: The Incredible Shrinking Eagle (**in *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2002 edition) available on-line through library.**
Brooks and Wohlforth American Primacy (**in *Foreign Policy*, July/August 2002 edition) available on-line through library**

Strange: The Future of the American Empire
Stein: The Hegemon's Dilemma: Great Britain, the United States and the
International Economic Order

Week 13 Development

'Conventional Development' and Critique

Steans: The Gender Dimension of Global Political Economy and development

Cohn, Ch11:International Development

Week 14 Casino Capitalism and Globalization

Friedman: The World is Ten Years Old

Wendt: Globalization: What's New About It?

Week 15 Review for the final exam

Final Exam TBA

Make-up Exams TBA