

International Political Economy

Course Overview:

This course examines the politics of international economic interactions, such as international trade and international lending and borrowing, as well as the political causes and consequences of economic globalization. The course will cover questions like why governments and citizens cooperate economically across borders and engage in commerce, how governments manage the distributive consequences of international economic exchange, and how international economic forces shape political change and vice versa. We will look at why, for instance, the political importance and influence of the automobile industry in the United States has changed over the past 60 years; why citizens engaged in anti-austerity protests and riots in Greece in 2010, what this phenomena has in common with events in Latin American in the 1980s; and why some parts of the world have made little progress to alleviate dire poverty while other countries have achieved remarkable economic growth since the 1960s. In other words, we will examine and discuss how political forces shape international economic interactions and how those interactions create stability or volatility in relations between and within states.

In order to answer these questions, we will focus on the intersection of basic economic theory and political science theories about economic interests and state policies. The course will be structured primarily as a series of lectures designed to accommodate and expand upon the course textbook, but will also include articles and news items where appropriate.

Course Structure and Policies:

Readings: The following book is required.

Patrick McDonald, Terrence Chapman, and Rob Moser, *Opening the Global System: An Introduction to International Relations*. 2021. Pearson Publishers.

This is a modularly designed textbook, meaning that it is customizable for a variety of international relations classes. We will cover a selection of the “modules,” which are short chapters that include interactive figures, charts, and some videos. We will typically cover a module in Tuesday’s class, then discuss and consider applications on Thursday.

Most topics have a few additional short, timely, current events readings. We will take some time to discuss these in the context of the theories and concepts we discuss.

You are responsible for completing the readings for the class session for which the readings are listed.

Assignments and Grading

Your grade will be composed of the following:

25% analytical paper

25% exam 1

25% exam 2

25% exam 3

Grade Scale (final grades rounded to nearest whole number):

93 and above	A
90-92	A -
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Exams: There will be three in class exams designed to assess your knowledge of material covered in class. The exams will be primarily multiple choice but will also consist of several short essay questions. These exams will be closed note, closed book, and you are not required to cite materials, although you may find it useful.

Course Calendar

1. Introduction, Course Administration, International Political Economy and Social Science

Modules 1-3 in OGS

2. Liberalism, Institutions and Domestic Politics

Modules 4 and 18 in OGS

[Insert readings/commentary on liberal international order]

3. Global Economic Integration

Module 26 in OGS

[insert readings on globalization and backlash to globalization]

4. Trade Policy

Module 27 in OGS

[insert readings on contemporary trade issues]

EXAM 1

5. Exchange Rates

Module 28 in OGS

[insert readings on contemporary monetary policy issues; international coordination of exchange rates]

6. International Financial Flows

Module 29 in OGS

[insert readings on financial crises and FDI]

7. Institutions I

Module 22 in OGS

[insert readings highlight contemporary examples of international collaboration]

8. Institutions II

Module 30 in OGS

[Insert readings on WTO and Bretton Woods System, evolution]

EXAM II

9. Poverty and Development

Module 31 in OGS

[Insert readings on foreign aid and development]

10. Migration

Module 32 in OGS

[insert readings on economic sources of migration]

11. The Environment

Module 33 in OGS

[insert readings on climate change and global efforts to reduce carbon emissions]

12. Globalization and Democracy

Module 34 in OGS

[insert readings on the rise of populism, compatibility and incompatibility of democracy and globalization]

13. Course Wrap-Up *analytical papers due*****

Exam III