

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

International Studies 201
Winter 2009
Room N208

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Office Hours: Daily at 11:30, or by appointment at other times (my classes are at 9:30, 10:30, and 12:30).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the global economic and political system that emerged after World War II. The course is a primer on issues of globalization – trade agreements, movements of capital, and global inequality. We will study the relationship between states and markets in an era of globalization, and the politics and economics in the international monetary and trade systems (IMF, World Bank, GATT/WTO), paying attention to how these have evolved and are managed. We pose questions such as: Whose interests are served by these institutions? Do they render the modern state increasingly less relevant today?

We will analyze attempts at regional economic integration such as the European Union, the shifting global division of production, the role of the multinational corporation and capital markets, and trends in the international distribution of power and wealth in the post-Cold War era. We will study the issue of global poverty, the debt crisis and strategies for economic development of less developed economies. In particular, this quarter, we will spend some time on the problems of the global environment.

This course is interdisciplinary. Although the primary approach to the material is economic, we will be using much History and Political Science to analyze issues as well. We will be able to discuss national differences in currency, economic policy and environmental policies, and to analyze contemporary events in each of these areas. We will thus confront critical issues of public policy related to globalization, and differing perspectives on these issues.

TEXTBOOKS

- *International Political Economy*, Thomas Oatley.
- *How to Rule the World*, Mark Engler.
- *Common Wealth*, Jeffrey Sachs.

CLASS SESSIONS

Class lectures will present the historical background of the world economy, the theoretical models of international political economy, and various interpretations of global economic and political phenomena. I will go over the basics of economic theory, which is essential to understanding our postwar world. (You do not have to have an economics background to understand this course, I will explain the necessary ideas.)

I will help you make connections between the readings, and between the readings and lectures. But, in the final analysis, integrating the material of the course is your responsibility.

I would like our class time together to be as interactive as possible. Please read the assigned material beforehand, and be prepared to discuss it. Come prepared with questions or comments. I will be asking you questions, to generate discussion of the readings. Your success in the course partly depends on your active involvement, including class attendance, class participation, seeing me outside of class. Take advantage of office hours.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

A. Exams.

There will be four one-hour exams during the quarter, and a two-hour final exam. In-class exams will consist primarily of short essay questions. These will have you briefly explain a concept, or apply the concept to a situation. These exams will be based on all the reading and lectures for that segment of the course.

Each exam will count 75 points toward your final grade. The final will count for 100 points. Please do not miss an exam. If an emergency arises and **you notify me before-hand**, and you complete the rest of the course work, you may be able to make up a missed exam at the end of the quarter. This exam will be significantly different than the original, most likely two or three extended essay questions.

B. Class Discussion

I will base a significant part of your grade – 100 points – on your class participation. The course has a lot of reading to understand. One of the best ways to do that is to discuss the ideas in these books. That can take a variety of forms – I can assign particular questions for you to analyze in groups, or there might be a controversial issue for discussion (either in smaller groups or as a whole class). Or we can “seminar” on a section of a book, where you bring up and discuss those issues that are most of interest to you.

When I “lecture”, I also expect that you will participate by asking questions, or by citing examples, or bringing up a current news item that is relevant to the material we are studying. In order to participate in discussion, you absolutely have to keep up with the reading. You may have to overcome a natural shyness about speaking in front of groups. It will be everyone’s responsibility to encourage everyone to participate – this is not a competition to see who says the most.

Clearly, it will be important to be in class. I do not take “attendance”, but by the end of the quarter I will have a very good idea of who is there (in spirit as well as body), who is struggling to understand the readings and discuss them, and who is playing a role in furthering the overall class’s ability to master the concepts and books.

We will decide, together, early in the course, how you wish to earn the class discussion points.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The following chapter assignments are from your textbooks.

IPE: *International Political Economy*, Oatley.

CW: *Common Wealth*, Sachs.

HRW: *How to Rule the World*, Engler.

WEEK 1 (Jan. 5 – 9)	IPE, chapters 1 and 2; HRW, Intro.
WEEK 2 (Jan. 12 – 16)	IPE, chapters 3 and 4; HRW, ch. 1.
WEEK 3 (Jan. 20 – 23)	IPE, ch. 5; HRW, 2 and 3.
WEEK 4 (Jan. 26 – 30)	IPE, 10; HRW, 4 and 5.
WEEK 5 (Feb. 2 -- 6)	IPE, 11; HRW, 6 and 7.
WEEK 6 (Feb. 9 – 13)	IPE, 6; CW, 1 to 3.
WEEK 7 (Feb. 17 – 20)	IPE, 7; CW, 4 to 6.
WEEK 8 (Feb. 23 – 27)	IPE, 14; CW, 7 - 8.
WEEK 9 (Mar. 2 – 6)	IPE, 15; CW, 9 - 10.
WEEK 10 (Mar. 9 – 13)	CW, 11 - 12; HRW, 8 and 9.
WEEK 11 (Mar. 16 -- 18)	CW, 14; IPE, 16; HRW, 10 and Conclusion.

EXAMINATIONS

In – class exams:	Tuesday	January 20 th .
	Friday	February 6 th
	Wednesday	February 25 th
	Friday	March 13 th .

Final exam Friday, March 20th, at 9:30 a.m.

GRADES

Your grade will be based on the number of points you earn:

A 460 - 500	B+ 420 - 439	C+ 360 - 379	D+ 300 - 319
A- 440 - 459	B 400 - 419	C 340 - 359	D 280 - 299
	B- 380 - 399	C- 320 - 339	

I do not allow “extra-credit” assignments. Your grade is based on the quality of your work, not its quantity. If you are unhappy with your grade, increase or improve your studying -- I do take account of improvement in your performance over the course of the quarter.

CLASS OUTCOMES

Here is what you should be able to do by the end of this quarter:

- Show a good grasp of the core concepts and theoretical frameworks associated with the study of international political economy.
- Identify and critically examine key policy issues and challenges (as well as opportunities) posed by globalization of the world economy.
- Understand the main economic and political trends in the world system since the end of World War II.
- Identify the critical international currency, trade and finance institutions (such as the WTO, IMF, World Bank, etc.), the roles they play and the forces influencing them.
- Gain an understanding of the interaction between states and markets in determining the creation and distribution of power and wealth in the world system.
- Identify and evaluate strategies for cooperation and conflict, and for political and economic development, undertaken by nation-states in the global system.
- Critically evaluate writing and debate in the field of international political economy, through written assignments and class discussion.