

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PLSC: 380B, §01
Class Meeting: (07.09.12–08.10.12)
Course Material: Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to international political economy, the study of the interaction between politics and economics, government and market. We will explore how political processes impact economic decision-making and how economic forces influence political decisions and outcomes. More specifically, the course will focus on such topics as: theories of political economy, foreign economic policies, international monetary policy, globalization and international trade, international organizations (the World Trade Organization the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund); multinational corporations (MNCs), economic development, and economic power. A special goal of this course will be to teach students how to critically assess and evaluate economic policies and a variety of concrete issues in the contemporary political economy environment.

READINGS

Readings for the course will consist of books and a set of articles (listed by week below).

Required books

1. Jensen, Nathan M. 2006. *Nation-States and the Multinational Corporation: A Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
2. Tomz, Michael. 2007. *Reputation and International Cooperation: Sovereign Debt across Three Centuries*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

Articles and selected chapters will be posted in the appropriate topic folder in the course documents section on Blackboard.

Key

The readings listed below use the following abbreviations (listed in bold as a superscript after the citation)

- (B): Available online on Blackboard.
 - (R): Book is required for class.
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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Read the syllabus!

The Syllabus is for the benefit of the class, and informs you of required readings, grading expectations, course policies, how to contact me, required assignments, and any other general information pertaining to this class.

Grading

Most important to the course is keeping up with the reading material and being able to assess and compare the theoretical arguments you encounter in the literature. So the most important thing you must do is keep up with the reading. Grades for the class will be based on:

Short Reviews (2 total)	◇ 15 % ea.
Research Paper Proposal	◇ 10 %
Final Research Paper	◇ 30 %
Online Class Participation (3 weeks)	◇ 10 % ea.
Total	◇ 100 %

Grading Scale

Students will be assessed according to the following Binghamton University grade scale:

A (93-100)	A- (90-92)	B+ (87-89)	B (83-86)	B- (80-82)
C+ (77-79)	C (73-76)	C- (70-72)	D (66-69)	F (< 65)

ASSIGNMENTS

Short Review Papers

Each student will write 2 short reviews during the semester. You may write on any of the readings from the week. However, note that the expectation is that you elaborate on what you are writing about in the reviews, so don't write on all the readings (ideally 1-2, and no more than 3). With the reading(s) you select, you will write a critical review of no more than 2 pages (Times New Roman, 12pt, 1 inch margins, double space) in which you address the following:

1. Summarize the article (**very briefly**). What are the main claims/findings? **Write no more than 1/2 to 3/4 page.**
2. What are the implications of the reading(s)? What testable hypotheses (if any) arise from the paper? (Do not list all hypotheses, but discuss a few important hypotheses and how they follow from the argument). **Again, write no more than 1/2 to 3/4 page.**
3. Evaluate/critique the article (**This is all you, make an argument**). This can come from tying the paper into previous literature that makes a different argument, by proposing your own argument, or by applying this argument to another topic.

The reviews are due to me electronically by midnight (Eastern Standard Time) on Sundays. On Blackboard, upload your review paper within the **Assignments** tab in the appropriate week folder. This is a Turnitin assignment, so you must upload the paper to the Turnitin link inside the appropriate week folder. Each of the 2 reviews constitute 15% (ea.) of your final grade. They will be evaluated on the basis of their thoughtfulness, and how effectively they evaluate the reading(s) they review. A guideline for these reviews will be distributed on Blackboard. **Note: the last possible review paper is due on Friday, August 10 instead of Sunday, August 12. This is for final grading purposes.**

Discussion

Discussion is essential to this class. However, you may have noticed this is an online course! Therefore, discussion is slightly different, as is participation. In order to receive the full 10% of your weekly participation, you are required to post a brief comment on what you found relevant in the material assigned during the prior week. **This is due by each Sunday at midnight (Eastern Standard Time). The same time as reviews.**

You are required to post discussion comments in 3 separate weeks. Only **1** of those discussion posts may be in the same week you submit a review paper. Your response should take up between 7 to 10 sentences, and should focus on evaluating what you found to be the important points from the readings. You will be graded on the thoughtfulness of your responses, and will receive no credit for inappropriate or disrespectful responses. Post discussion comments in the appropriate week folder within the **Discussion** tab on Blackboard. A guideline for the discussion responses will be distributed on Blackboard. **Note: the last possible discussion assignment is due on Friday, August 10 instead of Sunday, August 12. This is for final grading purposes.**

Final Paper

Students will be required to submit a final paper (8–10 pgs., double spaced, 12pt, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins) worth 30% of your final grade. This paper will have the primary focus of evaluating existing literature, and constructing a sound theoretical argument that, at some point in the future, may be taken a step further with data. Since this course lasts only five weeks, it will be difficult for students to find reasonable data to evaluate (while completing the required coursework, and writing the final paper). Therefore, the final paper will consist of an attempt to make a theoretical argument framed in the international political economy literature. It is expected that you will frame your argument within existing literature, citing other research when necessary. Students will be expected to put thoughtful effort into their argument, suggesting testable hypotheses when applicable. The final paper is **due August 10 at midnight (Eastern Standard Time)**. A rubric that outlines grading expectations will be provided on Blackboard. There will be a folder for the final paper in the **Assignments** tab on Blackboard. You will submit the paper to the Turnitin link in that folder.

Paper Proposal

Before the final paper is turned in, students are required to submit a paper proposal, worth 10% of their final grade, that describes the following:

- The research question
- Where the paper fits in the literature
- What you are arguing
- Broader merit of this research project

This assignment will consist of no more than a 2 page paper (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12pt, Times New Roman) with a separate page for cited references. Students will not be able to proceed with their theoretical paper without (1) turning in the paper proposal, and (2) my approval. Students will turn in their paper proposal by **July 20**, and will know if they can proceed with their paper topic by **July 23**. Submit the paper proposal in the paper proposal folder under the **Assignments** tab on Blackboard. In that folder you will submit the assignment to Turnitin.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All late assignments will be penalized according to the following procedure:

Up to 1 hour past deadline	◇	1/2 letter grade (e.g. B+ = B-)
Each additional hour	◇	1 letter grade (e.g. B+ = C+)
6 hours past deadline	◇	Will not be accepted (will be given a 0)

Students will be expected to fully understand the implications of turning in their assignments late. There are no excuses that will be accepted for late assignments.

ONLINE LECTURES

Since this is an online course, there is no classroom to hold a lecture or discussion. I will post, for each course topic, lecture slides that reflect important information that students should take away from each topic. These lecture slides can be accessed under the **Course Documents** section on Blackboard. Note, these lecture slides will address important information, however, they will not be the only information students will be expected to acquire. Other information will come from the readings assigned for the class. There will be a total of 7 online substantive lecture slides posted, and these lectures will cover the following topics:

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic 0	09–10 July	Introduction (No Slides)
Topic 1	11–12 July	Power & Trade
Topic 2	13–18 July	Domestic Politics of Trade
Topic 3	19–20 July	International Institutions
Topic 4	23–27 July	Foreign Direct Investment
Topic 5	30 July – 02 Aug.	International Lending
Topic 6	03–08 Aug.	Economic Policymaking
Topic 7	09–10 Aug.	Economic Development

COURSE DEADLINES

All assignments are due on the due date at midnight (Eastern Standard Time). Students are expected to prepare accordingly. Since I will not post surprise assignments, and all assignments have at least 5 days for completion, I am not adjusting due date times for different time zones.

Sunday, July 15	◇ Critical Review (July 09–13) (Reviews of Topic 0 not allowed)
	◇ Online Participation
Friday, July 20	◇ Theoretical Argument Paper Proposal
Sunday, July 22	◇ Critical Review (July 16–20)
	◇ Online Participation
Monday, July 23	◇ Students will know if they can proceed with final paper topic
Sunday, July 29	◇ Critical Review (July 23–27)
	◇ Online Participation
Sunday, Aug. 5	◇ Critical Review (July 30–Aug. 03)
	◇ Online Participation
Friday, Aug. 10	◇ Final Theoretical Argument Paper
	◇ Critical Review (Aug. 6–10)
	◇ Online Participation

Note: Students are expected to choose **2** of the **5** weeks above to write a review paper, and **3** of the **5** weeks to post online discussion.

READING SCHEDULE

Topic 0: Introduction

◇ Monday, 07.09

1. **Read** Syllabus.^(B)
2. **Read** Online Participation Guidelines.^(B)
3. **Read** Review Paper Guidelines.^(B)
4. **Read** Paper Proposal Guidelines.^(B)
5. **Read** Final Paper Guidelines.^(B)
6. Send me questions about any of the above.

◇ Tuesday, 07.10

1. Frieden, Jeffrey A. and David A. Lake. 2000. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. Psychology Press. Chapter 1.^(B)

Topic 1: Power & Trade, (07.11 – 07.12)

1. Viner, Jacob. 1948. Power Versus Plenty as Objectives of Foreign Policy in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. *World Politics* 1(1):1–29.^(B)
2. Narizny, Kevin. 2007. *The Political Economy of Grand Strategy*. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1.^(B)

Topic 2: Domestic Politics of Trade, (07.13 – 07.18)

1. Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade. *The American Political Science Review* 81(4):1121–1137.^(B)
2. Frieden, Jeffrey A. and David A. Lake. 2000. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. Psychology Press. Chapter 6.^(B)

3. Hiscox, Michael J. 2002. *International Trade and Political Conflict*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.^(B)
4. Hiscox, Michael J. 1999. The Magic Bullet? The RTAA, Institutional Reform, and Trade Liberalization. *International Organization* 53(4):669–698.^(B)
5. Bailey, Michael A., Judith Goldstein, and Barry R. Weingast. 1997. The Institutional Roots of American Trade Policy: Politics, Coalitions, and International Trade. *World Politics* 49(3):309–338.^(B)

Topic 3: Political Economy of International Institutions, (07.19 – 07.20)

1. Rosendorff, B. Peter and Helen V. Milner. 2001. The Optimal Design of International Trade Institutions: Uncertainty and Escape. *International Organization* 55(4):829–857.^(B)
2. Allee, Todd L. and Paul K. Huth. 2006. Legitimizing Dispute Settlement: International Legal Rulings as Domestic Political Cover. *American Political Science Review* 100(2):219–234.^(B)

Topic 4: Foreign Direct Investment, (07.23 – 07.27)

1. Biglaiser, Glen and Karl DeRouen Jr. 2007. Following the Flag: Troop Deployment and U.S. Foreign Direct Investment. *International Studies Quarterly* 51(4):835–54.^(B)
2. Jensen, Nathan M. 2006. *Nation-States and the Multinational Corporation: A Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1–5.^(R)

Topic 5: International Lending, (07.30 – 08.02)

1. Tomz, Michael. 2007. *Reputation and International Cooperation: Sovereign Debt across Three Centuries*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1–5.^(R) (Note: chapter 9 is suggested but not required)

Topic 6: Economic Policymaking, (08.03 – 08.08)

1. Eichengreen, Barry. 2008. *Globalizing Capital: A History of the International Monetary System*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 & 4–5.^(B)
2. Bruton, Henry J. 1998. A Reconsideration of Import Substitution. *Journal of Economic Literature* 36(2):903–936.^(B)

Topic 7: Economic Development, (08.09 – 08.10)

1. Dollar, David. 2005. Globalization, Poverty, and Inequality Since 1980. *The World Bank Research Observer* 20(2):145–175.^(B)
2. Acemoglu, Daron. 2003. Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development. *Finance & Development* 40(2):27–30.^(B)
3. Acemoglu, Daron and James A. Robinson. 2006. Economic Backwardness in Political Perspective. *American Political Science Review* 100(1):115–131.^(B)

GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious matters that, should they occur, will be pursued to the limits of University rules. Moreover, academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course. For details regarding the University's policy on cheating and plagiarism and academic dishonesty more generally, see the University Handbook. Students are advised to retain all course material for all course work for at least two weeks after grades are received.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should register with the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (607.777.2686), University Union (Room 119), ssd@binghamton.edu. Extra time and necessary arrangements can be made in conjunction with that office and the instructor.

Course Website

Please visit the course web site on Blackboard. I'll update it weekly with electronic versions of the readings, and with chapters from books that are not listed as *required*.

Syllabus

The online version of the syllabus is the official syllabus for this course as it is updated periodically. I reserve the exclusive right to alter the syllabus if I feel such changes are necessary for the class. Visit the course website to view the most recent version of the syllabus (updated date is located at the lower right corner of the document). You will be notified in your Binghamton email of any changes to the syllabus. **You** as the student are responsible for having the most updated copy of this document, and I will make sure you are notified of any changes.

Internet Access

This is a distance learning course, and, as such, internet access is essential. Failure to complete an assignment because of a faulty or lacking internet signal will not be excused. Assignment dates and times are posted well in advance, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you will have adequate access to Blackboard during those and other times required to fulfill discussion requirements.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be provided for this course, and I will not respond to requests for extra credit.