

Cornell College
Department of Politics
POL 349: International Political Economy
Term 8
Monday, April 9 – Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Commons, Martin Luther King Room
Howard Sanborn, Instructor

Course Information

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Class Time: Monday through Friday, 9am – 11am & (occasionally) 1pm – 3pm

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11am – 1pm or by appointment

Course Goals

This course is an advanced undergraduate seminar that provides an overview of important topics in international political economy. Through the use of traditional texts and current journal articles, you will gain a broad understanding of economics as it pertains to the behavior of states. I will guide you through the main topics in the sub-field, offering you the chance to engage and challenge the readings in class.

We will start off with the general explanations of how scholars have understood political economy theoretically over the last several hundred years. Next, we will focus on money, as it pertains to trade and finance. I have included some readings that should give you a flavor of how the international economic system works, and the complications that arise conditional on the domestic structures in place. The last half of the course focuses mostly on development: what it is, how we explain it, and which paths, if any, lead to the most prosperous outcomes. This will blend in with our discussion of globalization. We will spend the bulk of our subsequent time assessing its effects, both the good and the bad.

Requirements and Grading

You must complete a research paper (**40%**) on a topic of your choosing. I will spend time with each of you on Monday, April 16 revising your proposed idea. The paper must be no more than 12 pages, double spaced (12 point, Times New Roman font). You should properly cite your sources and have a complete bibliography. You will present your topic in class on one of the two days set aside for presentations: Monday, April 30 or Tuesday, May 1. Your oral presentation will be considered when assessing the grade for your paper. Attendance at these presentations is mandatory for all students. I will assign those who fail to attend a 0 for the course participation grade.

I will also require each of you to submit a series of papers (**10% each; 30% total**) in response to each week's reading assignments. Your responses should be a logical

evaluation of the readings: your thoughts, your questions, your criticisms, and your overall assessment. They should NOT be summaries of the chapters; you can safely assume I have done the reading. Your responses are due by Sunday morning at 12:01a.m. after the week in which the chapters or articles are assigned. Do not feel obligated to combine a discussion of separate topics (finance and development, for example), but definitely discuss more than one article or chapter. Think broadly and relate the concerns of the authors to one another. I would suggest a length of 4 to 5 pages. Bring in any other sources you feel are appropriate. If you have any questions about the relevance or usefulness of any source for your term paper and reading responses, please e-mail me or come to my office and I will assist you.

Participation (**20%**) is very important, especially within the context of an accelerated class. I expect each of you to come to class prepared to discuss the day's readings. As part of your participation grade, you will contribute to a debate on the merits of globalization. More details will be available later this week.

I also implore you to stay on top of current events, especially as it relates to economics and politics. *The Economist* and *Financial Times* are fantastic references. I encourage you to explore both domestic and international news sources for comprehensive coverage of world events. Subsequently, I will require you to make two presentations (**5% each; 10% total**) over the course of the term. These should be short (roughly 5-10 minutes). I want you to summarize a current issue or event to the class and then relate it to the material we have covered. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please feel free to contact me.

Required Texts

Balaam, David N. and Michael Veseth. 2004. *Introduction to International Political Economy (3rd edition)*. Prentice Hall: New York. ISBN 0131895095

Sen, Amartya. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. Anchor Books: New York. ISBN 0385720270

Stiglitz, Joseph. 2002. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton & Co.: New York. ISBN 0393051242

Watson, James L. ed. 2006. *Golden Arches East: McDonald's in East Asia (2nd edition)*. Stanford University Press: Stanford, CA. ISBN 0804749892

The additional readings that are listed will be available online at the course Moodle site.

Schedule

Week 1

Monday, April 9

Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, April 10

Theories of International Political Economy

9-11: Mercantilist & Liberal Approaches

Required Reading:

Balaam & Veseth (Chapters 1 – 3)

Wednesday, April 11

Theories of International Political Economy

9-11: Structuralist views and the various critiques of IPE theory

Required Reading:

Balaam & Veseth (Chapters 4, 5)

Thursday, April 12

International Trade

9-11: Protectionism vs. Free Trade

Required Reading:

Balaam & Veseth (Chapter 6)

WTO articles

Friday, April 13

International Trade

9-11: Do Trade Sanctions Work?

Required Reading:

Lindsay, James M. 1986. "Trade Sanctions as Policy Instruments: A Re-Examination." *International Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 30 No. 2: 153-173.

Levy, Philip I. 1999. "Sanctions on South Africa: What Did They Do?" *The American Economic Review*. Vol. 89 No. 2: 415-420.

Schwartzman, Kathleen C. 2001. "Can International Boycotts Transform Political Systems? The Cases of Cuba and South Africa." *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 43, No. 2: 115-146.

Week 2

Monday, April 16

9-11: Paper Conferences

1-3: Paper Conferences

***Note: Sign up for a meeting time on the sheet outside my office. We will NOT have our regular class meeting today.**

Tuesday, April 17

Money and Finance

9-11: How do international financial institutions operate in the current economic system?

Required Reading:

Balaam & Veseth (Chapters 7, 8)

Wednesday, April 18

Money and Finance

9-11: What are the obstacles that the World Bank and IMF face?

Required Reading:

Stiglitz (Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 8)

World Bank articles

Thursday, April 19

Development

9-11: How do we assess the development of a given state?

Required Reading:

Balaam & Veseth (Chapters 15)

Bates (Chapters 1, 5, 6)

Friday, April 20

Development

9-11: Are the goals of development too broad or too narrow?

1-3: Movie

Required Reading:

Sen (Introduction, 1, 2)

Week 3

Monday, April 23

Development

9-11: Would Sen's propositions stunt the overall development of a given state?

Required Reading:

Sen (Chapters 6, 7, 9, 12)

Tuesday, April 24

Globalization

9-11: Debate meetings

Suggested Reading:

Friedman (Opening Scene, Chapters 1 – 6)

Wednesday, April 25

Globalization

9-11: In class debate

1-3: lecture by Mike Batell of Bread for the World

Suggested Reading:

Stiglitz (Chapters 4, 5)

Friedman (Chapters 14 – 16)

Thursday, April 26

Transnational Corporations

9-11: How do corporations engage foreign populations?

Required Reading:

Friedman (Chapter 12)
Watson (Introduction, Chapters 1-Beijing, 2-Hong Kong)

Friday, April 27

Transnational Corporations

9-11: How does McDonald's adjust to different governmental and economic settings?

1-3: McDonald's run?

Required Reading:

Watson (Chapters 3-Taipei, 4-Seoul, 5-Japan, Update)

Week 4

Monday, April 30

Student Work

9-11: Paper Conferences

1-3: Paper Conferences

Tuesday, May 1

Student Work

9-11: Paper Conferences

1-3: Paper Conferences

Wednesday, May 2

Papers Due at 5pm

Additional Concerns

Disabilities and Accommodations

Please let me know within the first week of class if any of you require assistance or special consideration. I can make accommodations for those who need them but must be informed of these in advance. Any requests for accommodation based on a disability must be documented with the Registrar's office. For more information, please see the following webpage: http://cornellcollege.edu/academic_affairs/disabilities.

Academic Honesty

All work completed in your name must be yours and yours alone. Any work you borrow or ideas you gather from other sources must be cited properly. Please see me if you are concerned about proper citation style.

Any attempt to present someone else's work as your own will be met with the harshest consequences. You will receive an F for the assignment and an F for the course. For further information, please see the College's webpage:

http://www.cornellcollege.edu/student_affairs/compass/2006academicpolicies.shtml