Course Information

Office: 304 South Hall
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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 subfield, 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 12:01 a.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


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:


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