

POLS 283
International Political Economy

Fall 2008
BSB Room 319
Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 12:15

Professor Yoram Z. Haftel

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Office Hours: T TH 1:30- 2:30 **and by appointment**

Course Description

This course introduces students to the politics of international economic relations. Its goal is to equip students with the necessary tools to evaluate the interaction between politics and markets at the global level. Our discussion will cover the major theoretical approaches to international political economy as well as the interaction between domestic and international interests and institutions. We will then delve into many of the historical and contemporary empirical issues that make the international political economy. We will explore the recent political history of trade liberalization, the economic rationale for international trade, and the politics of economic protectionism. We will also examine problems of economic development and the role of multinational corporations in the global economy. Finally, we will investigate the politics of the international monetary system and the sources and consequences of national and regional financial crises.

Required Readings

Oatley, Thomas. 2007. *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*. 3rd Edition, New York: Pearson Longman (henceforth: IPE).

Oatley, Thomas. 2005. *The Global Economy: Contemporary Debates*. New York: Pearson Longman (henceforth: TGE).

* Additional readings may be handed out in class.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to do the assigned readings by the date listed and participate in class discussions. Class participation will be evaluated according to the quality and frequency with which students engage in class discussion. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting the information covered in class from another student, not the instructor.

Exams: there will be two exams given during the semester: a mid-term and a final. These exams will test your knowledge of course readings, class lectures, and class discussions. There will be absolutely **NO** make-up exams given without **documented** instances of emergencies.

Presentation: each week (starting September 4) 2-3 students will present a five-minute summary and analysis of one piece from the week’s assigned chapter from *The Global Economy: Contemporary Debates*. Students should *briefly* capture the basic argument made by the author(s) and point to issues raised by the reading. The presentation may draw on the Questions for Review and Discussion offered at the end of the selected chapter. A 15 minutes class discussion will follow the presentations. The presenter will submit a one page (typed, double-spaced) summary of the presentation by the end of class. The grade on this assignment will reflect the quality of the presentation and the written summary.

The schedule of the presentation assignments will be determined in the first week of classes. Students may not alter presentation dates without my approval. Failure to present at one’s appointed time will result in a grade of zero except in cases of satisfactory documentation.

Research Paper: each student will write a research paper that analyses a topic related to the current international political economy. The paper will pose a specific “why?” question and make an argument that answers the question, using either a society-centered or a state-centered approach. The argument will be assessed in light of empirical evidence. The paper should be about 12-15 pages-long (typed, double-spaced) and is due on Tuesday, December 2 at noon. A one-page research proposal is due on Tuesday, November 4 at noon. More information and guidelines on both the paper and the proposal will be provided separately.

Course Evaluation

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|--------------------------------|-------|
| Mid-Term (October 14) | 25% |
| Presentation | 10% |
| Final (December 8) | 25% |
| Research proposal (November 4) | 5% |
| Paper (December 2) | 25% |
| Class Participation | 10% |
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| Total | 100% |

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-90); C (70-80); D (60-70); F (<60)

Academic Integrity

The university expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own and according to university and class rules. Any attempt to gain an advantage not given to all students is considered dishonest whether or not it is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, included but are not limited to failing this course. For additional information, see the Student Code of Conduct at: http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/dean_of_students/Links/UIC+Discipline+Code.htm#3

Special Accommodations

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

COURSE OUTLINE*

- August 26, 28 **Introduction: What is IPE and why should you Care?**
Read: IPE, Chapter 1
- September 2, 4 **the Multilateral Trading System I**
Read: IPE, Chapter 2
TGE, Chapter 4
- September 9, 11 **the Multilateral Trading System II**
Read: IPE, Chapter 3
TGE, Chapters 7
- September 16, 18 **the Domestic Politics of Trade Policy I**
Read: IPE, Chapter 4
TGE, Chapter 1
- September 23, 25 **the Domestic Politics of Trade Policy II**
Read: IPE, Chapter 5
TGE, Chapter 2
- September 30,
October 2 **International Trade and the Developing World**

Read: IPE, Chapter 6
TGE, Chapter 3
- October 7, 9 **International Trade and the Developing World**
Read: IPE, Chapter 7
TGE, Chapter 17
- October 14 **Midterm Exam**
- October 16, 21 **Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment I**
Read: IPE, Chapter 8
TGE, Chapter 8
- October 23, 28 **Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment II**
Read: IPE, Chapter 9
TGE, Chapter 9

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| October 30, November 4 | the International Monetary System |
| | Read: IPE, Chapters 10&11 TGE, Chapter 11 |
| | * Research proposal is due November 4 |
| November 6, 11 | Domestic Politics and Exchange Rate Policy |
| | Read: IPE, Chapters 12&13 TGE, Chapter 12 |
| November 13, 18 | Developing Countries and the International Financial System I |
| | Read: IPE, Chapter 14 TGE, Chapter 15 |
| November 20, 25 | Developing Countries and the International Financial System II |
| | Read: IPE, Chapter 15 TGE, Chapter 16 |
| December 2 | Globalization |
| | Read: IPE, Chapter 16 TGE, Chapter 19 |
| | * Paper is due December 2 |
| December 4 | Wrap Up and Review |
| December 8 (Monday, 10:30-12:30) | Final Exam |

*** Note that the course outline may be altered. Any Changes will be announced in class.**