

**POLS/INST 283**  
**International Political Economy**

Spring 2013  
BSB Room 381  
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:45

**Professor Ryan C. Maness**

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Office Hours: T TH 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

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**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 look into many of the historical and contemporary empirical issues that make up the international political economy. We will explore the recent political history of trade liberalization, the economic rationale for international trade, the dynamics of economic statecraft, 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. 2012. *International Political Economy*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, New York: Pearson Longman (henceforth: IPE).

Oatley, Thomas. 2012. *Debates in International Political Economy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, New York: Pearson Longman (henceforth: Debates).

- The two books are available as a package for a reduced price (ISBN-13: 9780205231348) at the bookstore or online
- 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. **I do take attendance and prolonged absences will affect your participation grade.**

**Exams:** there will be two exams given during the semester: a midterm 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.

**Class Memo:** each Thursday of each week (starting January 24<sup>th</sup>) students will prepare a one-page memo (typed, double-spaced) that includes a summary and analysis of one or both pieces from the week's assigned Debates in International Political Economy chapter. Students should briefly capture the basic argument made by the author(s) and point to issues raised by the reading(s). The memo may draw on the Points to Ponder offered at the beginning of the selected chapter. The memo writers will be expected to lead a 15 minutes class discussion of the readings and submit their memos by the end of class. The grade on this assignment will reflect the quality of the discussion and the written summary. **Two memos are required from each student.**

**The schedule of the memo assignments will be determined in the first week of classes. Students may not alter dates without my approval. Failure to submit the memo 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 9-15 pages-long (typed, double-spaced) and is due on Thursday, May 2 in class. A one-page research proposal is due on Sunday, April 7 by midnight. More information and guidelines on both the paper and the proposal will be provided separately.

## Course Evaluation

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Mid-Term (March 12)                | 25%   |
| Class Memos                        | 10%   |
| Final (May 8)                      | 30%   |
| Research proposal (April 7)        | 5%    |
| Paper (May 2)                      | 20%   |
| Class Attendance and Participation | 10%   |
| -----                              | ----- |
| 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](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\***

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| January 15, 17  | <b>Introduction: What is IPE and why should you care?</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 1<br>Debates, Chapter 1 (Liberalism, Not available for Class Memo) |
| January 22, 24  | <b>The World Trade Organization and the World Trade System</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 2<br>Debates, Chapter 2 (Trade Deficits)                      |
| January 29, 31  | <b>The Political Economy of International Trade Cooperation</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 3<br>Debates, Chapters 3 (Retrain vs. Redistribute)          |
| February 5, 7   | <b>A Society-Centered Approach to Trade Politics</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 4<br>Debates, Chapter 4 (Migration)                                     |
| February 12, 14 | <b>A State-Centered Approach to Trade Politics</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 5<br>Debates, Chapter 5 (Free Trade Agreements)                           |
| February 19, 21 | <b>Trade and Development I: Import Substitution Industrialization</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 6<br>Debates, Chapter 6 (Trade Restrictions)           |
| February 26, 28 | <b>Trade and Development II: Economic Reform</b><br>Read: IPE, Chapter 7<br>Debates, Chapter 7 (Sweatshops)  |

- March 5, 7                   **Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 8  
 Debates, Chapter 8 (MNCs and Race to the Bottom)
- March 12                   **Midterm Examination in class**
- March 14                   **The Politics of Multinational Corporations**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 9  
 Debates, Chapter 9 (Sovereign Wealth Funds)
- March 19, 21               **The International Monetary System and Cooperation, Conflict, and  
 Crisis in the Contemporary International Monetary System**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 10, 11  
 Debates, Chapter 10 (Market Regulation)  
                                   Chapter 11 (China and Imbalances)
- March 26, 28               **Spring Break, No classes**
- April 2, 4                   **A Society-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 12  
 Debates, Chapter 12 (Trade and Growth)
- April 7                      **Research Proposal Due by Midnight**
- April 9, 11                 **A State-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 13  
 Debates, Chapter 13 (Foreign Aid)
- April 16, 18                **Developing Countries and International Finance I: The Latin  
 American Debt Crisis**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 14  
 Debates, Chapter 14 (Microcredits and Development)
- April 23, 25                **Developing Countries and International Finance II: A Decade of  
 Crises**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 15  
 Debates, Chapter 15 (Washington and Beijing Consensuses)  
                                   Chapter 16 (Consequences of Crises)
- April 30                    **Globalization: Consequences and Controversies**  
 Read: IPE, Chapter 16
- May 2                        **Wrap up and Review, Research Papers Due**
- May 8                        **Final Exam (Wednesday 10:30am-12:30pm)**  
 \* Note that the course outline may be altered. Any changes will be announced in class.