POLI 7946: Seminar in the Politics of International Economic Relations
Mondays 9:00-11:50 Spring 2016
210 Stubbs Hall

Instructor
Daniel C. Tirone
204 Stubbs Hall
Email: dtiron1@lsu.edu
Phone: (225) 578-2531
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30, or by appointment

Course Description: This course is a seminar in the international political economy subfield of international relations. The goal for the course is to familiarize students with prominent scholarship in many of the subject areas within IPE, including issues relating to the politics of monetary systems, trade, and foreign aid. There are no prerequisites for the course, but students who have taken the graduate proseminar in international relations or who have studied economics at the undergraduate or graduate level will find themselves utilizing material they have studied in these courses. Students who have not taken these courses will still be able to access the material, as each of the major economic and theoretical concepts will be discussed in-class.

General Statement on Academic Integrity:
Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method:
As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library’s tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats (links are also provided on the course Moodle page).
**Group work and unauthorized assistance:**
All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. If a group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. You might have a project with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, e-mail the faulty member or ask during a class session. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group/partner work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

**Students requiring special accommodation:** Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

**Course Expectations:**

A few notes on participation:

1. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students are therefore expected to come to class prepared, having read all of the assigned material for that week.

2. Many of the issues and approaches utilized in international relations are subject to debate. Students are therefore encouraged to question the material in a thoughtful and respectful manner. No student will be penalized for presenting an argument which questions the material presented; all perspectives are welcome, although they are also fair game for class discussion and debate.

3. In order to facilitate class discussion and preserve an environment in which all students are encouraged to participate, please keep your class contributions directed at the material and arguments presented and not at fellow class members. Comments of a personal nature directed against fellow students will not be tolerated.
Grading Policy: The grading breakdown is as follows:

Class participation/leadership of class discussions: 25%
Weekly research questions 15%
Research paper proposal: 10%
Research paper, final draft: 50%

A+: 97-100  B+: 87-89  C+: 77-79  D: 67-69  F: 59 or below
A-: 90-96  B-: 80-82  C-:  70-72  D-: 60-62

One student each week will be responsible for leading the class discussion of the assigned materials. This student should prepare notes including summaries of the research question under analysis; the main argument of each reading; the empirical approach, including methods and measures (if applicable); and finally, the author’s primary finding and conclusion. The student must email these notes to all other class members by 10pm the day preceding class, and will be responsible for presenting these notes and leading the class discussion during that day’s seminar. Submissions will be evaluated on timeliness of submission, thoroughness and accuracy of the material covered, and overall presentation (including basic editing and grammatical style).

Students who are not leading the discussion that week must themselves prepare a brief series of research questions and responses to the assigned readings. These question and responses can be potential research topics drawn from the readings, methodological or theoretical questions which particularly struck the student as he or she read the article, or criticisms of the theory and/or research methods. Each student must submit these questions to the instructor by no later than 8pm on the day preceding class. Assignments will be evaluated on timeliness of submission, thoughtfulness and creativity, and general execution.

Each student will turn in a research paper by the end of the semester at the time noted on the syllabus. The paper must focus on an issue related to international political economy, including but not limited to the topics included in class. I highly recommend that you meet with me prior to submitting your paper proposal by the time and dated noted in the syllabus. The proposal need only be one or two pages, and should focus on identifying the research question under analysis; which subfield of international political economy the question relates to; the theory and hypotheses to be examined; and how these relate to the current literature on the topic. These proposals will be largely evaluated for grading purposes on whether the assignment meets the guidelines and was submitted on time. However, I will provide feedback encouraging you to proceed as planned, or suggesting that we meet to discuss how the project could be improved. The final project should follow the general journal format, meaning the paper must include the following elements: Introduction; Literature Review; Theory (including hypotheses to be tested); Research Design and Execution; and Conclusion. If you have any questions at all about the assignment please do not hesitate to see me.
Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Week 1: January 11- No Class – Classes begin 1/13/16

Week 2: January 18 – No Class – Martin Luther King Day

Week 3: January 25 – Introduction: What is IPE?


Part I: International Political Economy and Domestic Politics

Week 4: February 1 – Societal Preferences and Economic Policy Outcomes


Week 5: February 8 – No Class- Mardi Gras Break


Part II: International Trade and Foreign Investment

Week 7: February 22 - Trade and Conflict


Week 8: February 29 – PTAs and Trade Organizations


**Week 9: March 7 – Foreign Investment**


**Part III: Foreign Aid**

**Week 10: March 14 – Who, Why, and Does it Work?**


**Week 11: March 21 – No Class – Spring Break**
Week 12 – March 28 – How Can Aid be Improved – And Should It?
Research design proposal due by 9:00am


Easterly, William. 2006. *The White Man’s Burden: why the West’s efforts to aid the rest have so much ill and so little good*

Easterly, William. 2014. *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor*

Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*

Week 13: April 4 - Aid Externalities: What Else Does Aid Do Besides Promote Economic Growth?


Part IV: International Financial Institutions

Week 14: April 11 – Development and roles of the IFI’s


Part V: Capital, Money and Exchange Rates

Week 15: April 18 - International Capital Mobility and the Impossible Trinity


Simmons, Beth A. 1999. “The Internationalization of Capital,” in *Continuity and Change in Contemporary Capitalism*


Week 16: April 25 – Exchange Rate Regimes


Week 17: May 2 - Final Exam Week, No Class

Final draft of research design papers due by May 4th at 5:00pm
Additional Topics Which May Be of Interest

International Monetary Fund

Vreeland, James R. 2003. Chapters 1, 4-7 from *The IMF and Economic Development*.

Central Bank Independence


Additional Readings, 2013-2015

JOP


“Economic inequality and democratic support” by Krieckhaus et al. *Journal of Politics*, vol. 76, issue 1 (139-151).

“What democracy does (and doesn’t) do for basic services: school fees, school inputs, and African elections” by Harding and Stasavage, *Journal of Politics*, Issue 76, issue 1 (229-245).


“Migration and Foreign Aid” by Bermeo and Leblang, *International Organization*, vol. 69, issue 3 (627-657).


**APSR**


**AJPS**


**World Development**


“Should countries engage in a race to the bottom? The Effect of social spending on FDI” by Hecock and Jepsen, vol. 44, Apr. 2013, (156-164).


“Correlates of Maize and Land and livelihood change among maize farming households in Mexico” by Eakin et al., vol. 70, June 2015, (78-91).


“Are remittances and foreign aid a hedge against food price shocks in developing countries?” vol. 54, Feb. 2014, (81-98).


“FDI spillovers and time since foreign entry” by Merlevede et al., vol. 56, Apr. 2014, (108-126).


**International Interactions**


