POLI 7946: Seminar in the Politics of International Economic Relations
Mondays 2:30-5:20 Fall 2013
210 Stubbs Hall

Instructor
Daniel C. Tirone
204 Stubbs Hall
Email: dtiron1@lsu.edu
Phone: (225) 578-2531
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:15-3:15, 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%
On-time submission of research design paper proposal: 10%
Research Design Paper, Final Draft: 50%

A: 90-100%  C: 70-79%  F: 59% or below
B: 80-89%  D: 60-69%

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 10am the day of 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 midnight on Sunday. Assignments will be evaluated on timeliness of submission, thoughtfulness and creativity, and general execution.

Each student will turn in a research design 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 be approximately 10 to 15 pages, and follow general journal format. This means the paper must include the following elements: Introduction; Literature Review; and Theory Section, including hypotheses to be tested. For the empirical section, you do not actually need to run an analysis, but you do need to identify how you would do this. This means specifying your dependent and independent variables (including controls), a likely sample for the analysis (temporally and spatially), and where you
would obtain the data. You also must discuss broadly how you would execute your analysis and what results would support or work against your hypotheses. In essence, this project should be the basic structure of a journal article in IPE without the actual empirical analysis. If you have any questions at all about the assignment please do not hesitate to see me.

**Course Outline & Reading Schedule**

**Week 1: August 26**
Course Introduction

**Week 2: September 2 – No Class – Labor Day**

**Part I: International Political Economy and Domestic Politics**

**Week 3: September 9 – Societal Preferences and Economic Policy Outcomes**


Part II: International Trade and Foreign Investment

Week 4: September 16 – The State, Its Citizens, and Globalization


Week 5: September 23 – Trade and Conflict


Week 6: September 30 – PTAs and Trade Organizations


Week 7: October 7 – Foreign Investment


Part III: Foreign Aid

Week 8: October 14 – Who, Why, and Does it Work?


Week 9: October 21 – How Can Aid be Improved – And Should It?


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

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

Week 10: October 28 – Aid Externalities: What Else Does Aid Do Besides Promote Economic Growth?

Research design proposal due by 1:30pm


**Part IV: International Financial Institutions**

**Week 11: November 4 – Development and roles of the IFI’s**


Week 12: November 11 - International Monetary Fund


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


Part V: Capital, Money and Exchange Rates

Week 13: November 18 - International Capital Mobility and the Impossible Trinity


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


**Week 14: November 25 – Exchange Rate Regimes**


**Week 15: December 2 – Central Bank Independence**


**Week 16: Final Exam Week, No Class**

Final draft of research design papers due by December 9, 4:30pm