POLI 7946: International Political Economy
Graduate Seminar
Fall 2008
Assistant Professor M. Rodwan Abouharb
Dept. of Political Science

Thursdays, 9.10am-12pm
Stubbs 210

Contact Information
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I. Course Overview

This seminar explores the interaction between politics and economics in the international system, with an emphasis on the theoretical development of the sub-field of international political economy. We will investigate the effects of international institutions on economic relations, the causes of cooperation and conflict in international trade and finance, and the mutual impact of domestic and international politics. We also will attempt to identify the "state of the art" in international political economy, meaning that we sometimes will focus more on recent research than on "classics." This course is intended to lay the groundwork for future research in the fields of international political economy, international relations, and comparative political economy, as well as to help prepare students for the IPE component of the comprehensive exams in international relations.

II. Course Requirements

The principal requirement for students is to read thoroughly the assigned works and to come to seminar prepared for discussion. In addition to preparing for seminar and participating actively in discussions, the requirements for this course are:

A. Response Papers: Each student will complete five short (2 to 3 single-spaced pages) response papers. Each paper should be distributed to all seminar members, by email. Other seminar participants are expected to read the response papers prior to class; papers are due by 5:00pm on Tuesdays.

These are analytical response papers, analyzing and discussing the required readings for a particular week. While papers may begin with a (very) short summary of the readings, the main task of the paper is critical analysis. Rather than summarize the readings, your paper should focus on what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the readings; the possible intersections among the readings; and — perhaps most importantly — what theoretical issues and empirical questions for future research are raised by the readings. In weeks where there is more than one person writing a response paper, paper authors are welcome to coordinate among themselves, in terms of focusing their papers on some subset of the assigned readings.
The response papers will serve as a starting point for our seminar discussion. You may write papers for any of the substantive weeks during the course; to evenly distribute papers across weeks, we will divide up papers and weeks during the first class session.

**B. Discussion Leaders:** While all students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss each week’s readings, we will also have one official “discussion leader” for each week. Each student will be a discussion leader twice during the semester. The chief responsibility of the discussion leader is present and critique the readings providing a 1-2 page summary per article and 3 pages summary per book. The discussion leader should not present the response papers, as everyone in the class will have received them. Rather, the discussion leader could discuss whether he or she agrees with the writer’s criticisms, or propose answers to the writer’s questions, or describe how the papers help point to new research questions. Discussion leaders’ comments are intended to serve as a springboard to a broader seminar discussion, so these comments can be quite brief (5 to 10 minutes). Again, discussion leader duties will be assigned during the week of the seminar.

**C. Research Paper:** Each student will formulate a research question addressing a question in the field of international political economy. The research paper (approximately 20 pages, double spaced) should deploy theoretical literature and an empirical puzzle to set up the research question, develop hypotheses. I will expect students to empirically test their work and present it on the last day of class. To do the research paper, you’ll need to come up with a research question or puzzle (this is sometimes the most difficult part; keep this task in mind as you read for each week, and ask me if you want to read further on a particular topic); figure out what’s been done on the topic or in similar areas, or the ways in which arguments about one set of phenomena could be brought to bear on your question (a literature review); develop a set of hypotheses regarding your research question.

*For general discussions of research design in political science, you may want to consult Keohane, King and Verba’s* Designing Qualitative Inquiry (Princeton, 1994). *Research papers will be presented to the seminar at our last class meeting, on Thursday, December 11th. A draft of your research design should be circulated to the class no later than Monday, December 8th. The final, revised version of your research paper is due on Friday December 12th, 5pm, emailed to me and paper copies handed in to my office 219 Stubbs Hall.*

The Final Grade for the course is based upon participation in class discussions, including discussion leader duties (25%), Response Papers (25%), and the Research Paper (50%).

**III. Class Schedule**

Each of the substantive weeks includes required and supplementary readings. Students are expected to read all required materials carefully, and to come to class prepared to discuss these. The supplementary readings include additional theoretical and empirical perspectives, as well as examples of additional recent work; if a particular topic interests you, or if you want more background when preparing for comprehensive exams, read these materials. Several of the books listed as required readings are available for purchase at the LSU Bookstore; these are marked with an asterisk on the syllabus. You will be assigned all of some books and parts of others.
You may decide that you only want to purchase some of these, but you also may want to have these books in your collection. All books marked with an asterisk also should be available at the Library. Most of the readings for this course are articles, rather than books. These required readings are available electronically. If you cannot find a particular article or book, please let me know.

For background on the operation of the international monetary and exchange rate systems, with a focus on the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, consult Barry Eichengreen's Globalizing Capital (Princeton, 1998). If you would like more background in economic concepts (e.g. comparative advantage, open-economy macroeconomics), you may want to look at Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld, International Economics: Theory and Policy (Longman, 2005, 7th edition), or at Alan Deardorff's Glossary of International Economics (http://www.personal.umich.edu/~alandear/glossary/).

Required Books


Recommended


Week 1: August 28th

Course Introduction
Week 2: September 4th

Overview of IPE

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


Week 3: September 11

Structural Theories, State Power and International Economic Relations

Required Reading


Jacob Viner, 1948. “Power Versus Plenty as Objectives of Foreign Policy in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,” World Politics 1 (October), pp. 1-29.
Supplementary reading


On Sanctions:


Week 4: September 18th

Structural Theories: The Case for Cooperation

Required Reading


Supplementary reading


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**Week 5: September 25th**

**The Political Economy of International Trade: International Influences**

**Required Reading**


Supplementary Reading


Week 6: October 2nd

The Political Economy of International Trade, Domestic Politics (I)

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


Week 7: October 9th

NEED TO MOVE CLASS TO EARLIER DAY IN WEEK BECAUSE FALL BREAK BEGINS OCTOBER 9TH

The Political Economy of International Trade, Domestic Politics (II)

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


Week 8: October 16th

Exchange Rates and Monetary Institutions

For background on and history of the international monetary and exchange rate system, see Eichengreen, Globalizing Capital (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988).

Required Reading


Supplementary Reading


**Week9: October 23rd**

**Banking and Financial Liberalization**

**Required Reading**


Supplementary Reading


Week 10: October 30th

Portfolio (Short-Term) Capital Markets

Required Reading


Supplementary reading


Week 11: November 6th

Macroeconomic Policy and Economic Openness

Required Reading


Supplementary reading


**Week 12: November 13th**

**Foreign Direct Investment and Multinational Production**

**Required Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


**Week 13: November 20th**

**Economic Development, Economic Growth, and the Global Economy**

**Required Reading**

Stephan Haggard, 1990. Pathways from the Periphery (Cornell University Press), Chapters 1, 2 and 10.


Supplementary Reading


**Week 14: December 4th**

International Financial Institutions, Developing Nations, and Economic Reform

Required Reading


Supplementary reading


**Week 15: December 11th**

Presentations of Research Designs