

**POLS 372i: International Political Economy, Spring 2009**  
Department of Political Science, Southern Illinois University

## 1 Instructor Information

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Office: FANER 3178  
Office Hours: 9:30-11:00 AM MWF  
Class Location: FANER 1222  
Course Time: 3:35-4:50

## 2 Course Overview and Objectives

This course serves as an introduction to the understanding of the global market and how winners and losers in this market struggle for power. In other words, we will study the politics of international economic relations. After completing this course you should have a better understanding of the interaction between political actors and economic processes on a global and local scale. Additionally, you will be able to apply this knowledge to current issues and historical events.

## 3 Course Format

The course is structured to consider various issues in the study of international political economy. We explore the politics of international trade and finance, the role of multinational corporations in the system, development, and regional issues. We do so using tools and concepts from political science and economics (political economy). It is helpful to have a background in economics but not essential. Additionally, an introductory course in international relations is also useful in preparation for this course. The readings are largely drawn from the textbook, although I will also assign short readings from other sources. I expect that you will read a newspaper with international political and economic news. The best source for this type of news is either the *Economist* or the *Financial Times*.

I hope that our sessions will be engaging, informative, and participatory. I eschew a strict lecture format. Instead, we will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, partner and group work, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, problem-solving activities, debates, and other critical thinking exercises. I value and will solicit your input on class activities both at the beginning of the semester as well as around midterm. I will make every reasonable effort to incorporate these ideas in the classroom.

## 4 Requirements

### 4.1 Required Texts

Oatley, Thomas. 2008. *International Political Economy* New York, NY: Pearson/Longman.

Epping, Randy Charles. 1995. *A Beginner's Guide to the World Economy*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.

Both books are available at the bookstore, but you can also find copies on Amazon.com or Ad-dall.com. Epping's book is especially useful for those who lack any background in economics. While the Oatley text serves as the core of the course, articles from sources such as *Foreign Affairs* are also assigned throughout the semester. These articles are available online or through Blackboard.

## 4.2 Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are worth 30% of your grade. I expect all students to attend class regularly. Each day you receive two points, one for attending and one for participating. Please finish the assigned readings *by the date* they appear in the syllabus. Read critically and be prepared to comment on the readings in class. I may call on you randomly, so be prepared each day. To have an absence excused, or one that is not counted against your participation, you must provide documentation within 48 hours.

## 4.3 Global Issues Debate

Over the course of the semester, we will have six formal debates over contentious issues in international political economy. Each student must sign up for one debate. The debate will consist of two groups. The groups are made up of two or three people who advocate a pre-assigned position to the issue at hand. Each group will make a formal opening statement that is 8-10 minutes long. This opening statement should include a powerpoint presentation. After the opening statements, each group is given five minutes of time to address issues identified by the other group or specific criticisms of their argument. Finally, 30 minutes is provided to the audience and panel members to ask questions and offer rebuttals to claims made during the debate. Audience members receive their participation score for the day by asking a germane question of one of the groups. This assignment is worth 15% of the final grade.

## 4.4 Exams

The two exams and the final exams will account for 55% of your final grade (15% for each exam and 25% for the final). Both exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer, and a long essay. The final is the same format and is cumulative.

# 5 Course Policies

## Assessment Scale

A	100-90	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	69-60	F	59 or below
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## Make-up Exams and Assignments

Unexcused absences from exams, debates or quizzes will result in a 0 for the assignment. The format of make-up tests will be several long essays.

To qualify for a make-up test or quiz a student must:

1. notify me of the absence in advance (e-mail or call me)
2. provide documentation

## Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in Southern Illinois University-Carbondales Student Conduct Code (Section II, Article A). Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense. Violations of this code can lead to failure of the course and a hearing with the university's judicial board to suspend you from the university.

## Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade.

Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly.

## Scholarly Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

## Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a persons appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructors authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

## Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## 6 *Tentative Course and Reading Schedule*

Readings for this course may be changed. For the most part this will not happen, but if so, I will give as much notice as possible. Items marked with a \* are available on Blackboard.

### **International Political Economy: What It Is, Why You Should Care**

#### **Tues. Jan. 13–Introduction**

- Discuss syllabus, outline IPE, discuss semester plans

#### **Thurs. Jan. 15–Studying IPE**

- Oatley, Chapter 1

Recommended Reading:

- Strategic Choice and International Relations–David Lake and Robert Powell
- Political Economy and Global Affairs, Sobel
- Introduction to International Political Economy, Balaam and Veseth

### **International Trade**

#### **Tues. Jan. 20–The World Trade Organization**

- Oatley, Chapter 2

Recommended Reading:

- Whose Trade Organization? A Comprehensive Guide to the World Trade Organization–Lori Wallach, Patrick Woodall, Ralph Nader
- The World is Flat–Thomas Friedman

#### **Thurs., Jan. 22–Class Canceled**

- University seminar

#### **Tues., Jan. 27–The Case for International Trade**

- Oatley, Chapter 3

#### **Thurs. Jan. 29–Domestic Sources of International Trade**

- Oatley, Chapter 4

#### **Tues. Feb. 3–The State and International Trade**

- Oatley, Chapter 5

**Thurs. Feb. 5–Resistance to International Trade**

- \*Buchanon, Patrick J. “Free Trade is not Free Trade.”
- \*Weisbrot, Mark. “Globalism on the Ropes.”
- \*Marcos, Subcomandante. “Our Word is Our Weapon.”
- \*International Forum on Globalization. “Alternatives to Economic Globalization”

**Tues. Feb. 10–Resistance to International Trade–Film**

- “This is What Democracy Looks Like”

**Thurs. Feb. 12–Debate: Does Free Trade Reduce Poverty?**

- \*Harf and Lombardi, 249-265.

**Tues. Feb. 17–*Exam #1*****Trade and Development****Thurs. Feb. 19–Trade and Development I: Import Substitution Industrialization**

- Oatley, Chapter 6

**Tues. Feb. 24–Trade and Development II: Neoliberal Reform**

- Oatley, Chapter 7

**Thurs. Feb 26–Debate: How Can the Gap Between Rich and Poor Countries be Reduced?**

- \*Drachman and Shank, 159-173.

**Multinational Corporations****Tues. March 3–Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy**

- Oatley, Chapter 8

**Thurs. March 5–The Politics of Multinational Corporations**

- Oatley, Chapter 9

**Tues., March 10 –Spring Break****Thurs, March 12–Spring Break****Tues, March 17–Debate: Is Child Labor a Necessary Evil?**

- \*Drachman and Shank, 137-158.

**International Finance****Thurs. March 19–The International Monetary System**

- Oatley, Chapter 10

**Tues. March 24–Exchange Rate Systems**

- Oatley, Chapter 11

**Thurs. March 26–Monetary and Exchange Rate Politics: Society**

- Oatley, Chapter 12

**Tues. March 31–Monetary and Exchange Rate Politics: The State**

- Oatley, Chapter 13

**Thurs. April 2–No Class–Midwest Political Science Association Meeting****Tues. April 7—Debate: Are Global Institutions Necessary for Managing Financial Globalization?**

- Drachman and Shank, 111-136.

**Thurs. April 9–Exam #2****Developing Countries and International Finance****Tues. April 14–The Latin American Debt Crisis**

- Oatley, Chapter 14

**Thurs. April 16–Debate: Has NAFTA been Good for Mexico?**

- \*Oatley, 2005, Chapter 2, *The Global Economy: Contemporary Debates*

**Tues., April 21: Crises in Asia and Argentina and Now**

- Oatley, Chapter 15

**Thurs., April 23: The IMF and the East Asian Crisis**

- \*Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Chapter 4, 89-133

**Conclusion****Tues., April 28: Debate: Should the US Government Bailout the Auto Industry?****Thurs., April 30: Final Exam Review****Thurs., May 7: Final Exam, 3:10 – 5:10**