International Political Economy (IPE)

Course Description
The study of International Political Economy (IPE) introduces students to the integral relationship between politics and economics: how politics influences economics and vice versa. While it is commonly agreed upon among IPE scholars that both political and economic forces shape the global economy, as political scientist, we are foremost focused on the political foundation upon which the global economy is constructed. As such this course seeks to explore the rules governing global exchange - where do they emerge from? Why are some societal groups winners and others losers when it comes to the rules? How are ideas and interests translated in the political process? What role do rules play in the creation of global institutions- IMF, WB, WTO? Overall this course is concerned with the overarching question “How does politics shape the resource allocation decisions of governments which have implications not just for national, but also global economic exchange?”

Course Objectives and Skills
This course is designed with three primary objectives in mind. First to introduce students to the dynamic relationship between politics and economic. Secondly to make students aware of the direct and indirect connections between IPE processes and their daily lives- what it means to live in a globalized world. Thirdly, to develop and enhance the following skills:

** reading and critical comprehension (through timely reading of texts, articles and short in Class reading reaction exercises)
** oral communication and presentation abilities (through class discussion, seminar presentations, project research summary and policy debates)
** effective writing and development of arguments (through essay exams, final Research paper and policy debates)
** comprehension of other’s views and capacity to formulate, defend one’s own position (through Readings, class discussions, extra-credit exercises, essay exams, Policy debates and research paper)
** library research and locating relevant sources (through preparing for seminar Presentations, policy debates and Final research paper)
** time management and personal responsibility (through set-up of entire course)
** Critical analysis and thinking (through readings, discussion, final project research paper, lectures of course material, in class group exercises)

Required Texts : Available at the College Bookstore


(Additionally, extra material, such as assignment information and reading materials, will be available on OAKS)
**Course Requirements**

1. **Class Participation counts for 30% of your final grade:** 10% counts towards in class written responses to reading assignments, 5% counts towards the policy debate discussion questions due the day of the policy debates in class; and the other 15% counts towards your preparation and participation in the group policy debates (further details on how to prepare and expectations for policy debates posted on OAKS)

2. **There will be a Mid-Term exam which will count for 20% of your final grade.**

3. **Each student will engage in a Research Project which accounts for 30% of your final grade.** The main purpose of the research project is for each student to examine the relationship between production and consumption in the global economy. Students will present each of their findings twice during seminar sessions, this will culminate in a final presentation during the last two weeks of class where a synopsis of your entire research project will take place. Further detailed information on what is expected at each step of this research project can be found on OAKS. (15% --- Written part of research; 10% --- final presentation; 5% -- seminar presentation in class)

4. **There will be a final take home exam which will count for 20% of your final grade. This is due Wednesday December 4th via OAKS by 11am.**

**Note:** Class begins on time. Students entering class 5mins after class has begun will not be allowed to participate in writing responses to the assigned reading material. There will be no opportunities to make up missed in class writing responses.

**Note:** Failure to show up to class on the assigned day for your mid-term exam, without a valid excuse (which is entirely at the discretion of the instructor), will automatically result in an F. Also failure to notify the instructor within 24 hours of your absence from the exam will also result in an F.

**Note:** Please ensure that all Laptops, Cell phones, hand-held electronic devices, pagers, and alarms are turned off before entering the class room. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in you being reported to the Honor's Board and the possibility of suspension from the College.

**Note:** If you have a disability of any kind- learning, physical, psychological- which requires accommodation, please let me know early so that your learning needs can be appropriately met.

**Note:** You are expected to keep abreast of “current events and issues”; reading the New York Times, USA Today and the Post and Courier (all available in your dorms) should help. I also recommend listening to All Things Considered (4-6:30 pm), Market Place (6.30-7 pm) and The World (8-9pm) on National Public Radio (WJWJ -FM 89.9) These programs are also available on line at NPR.com

**Note:** There will be a series of extra-credit opportunities on campus this semester. Should you be inclined to attended the I will grade you based on the following criteria (1) summarize briefly what happened or what you did, what you heard or saw or experienced; (2) relate the ideas discussed or portrayed at the event to a class discussion, concepts and or articles read in class; (3) finally you are expected to react to the event by relating what your overall impressions, position, and or strengths and weaknesses of the ideas presented. No less than 2 pages no more than 3 pages typed double spaced (with 1 inch margins) will be accepted. For each extra credit assignment you can receive a maximum of 3 points (providing of course you meet all of the requirements). Hence you stand the chance of receiving 6 extra points which will be added on to your final grade at the end of the semester. You may submit extra credit assignment through-out the semester at anytime. However, all extra credit submissions must be made by the last day of class. (Events, times and locations will be announced later) If there are events that you think fit this requirement please pass them by for my approval.)

Course Outline (the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this outline)

August

Wednesday – 21st  Introduction

Friday – 23rd  What is International Political Economy- Why study it?
  
  Assignment:  - Oatley (IPE), “Preface & Chapter 1
                Rivoli, “Preface & Prologue”

Monday – 26th  T-shirt Journey into Global Economy begins
  
  Assignment: - Rivoli, “Part I King Cotton” Chaps 1 &2
                (Check for questions on OAKS)

Wednesday – 28th
  
  Assignment: - Rivoli, “Part I King Cotton” Chaps 3 & 4
                (Check for questions on OAKS)

Friday – 30th  Open Session – Brainstorming for Commodity Chain project

September

  The Political Economy of the World Trade System

  Monday – 2nd  Assignment:  - Oatley (IPE) Chapters 2

  Wednesday – 4th  Assignment: - Oatley (IPE) Chapter 3

  Friday – 6th  Assignment: - Policy Debate 1

  Question:  Free Trade Agreements are Stepping Stones V. Free Trade Agreements are Stumbling Blocks
             Oately (Debates) pp 95-121

Monday – 9th  Assignment:  - Rivoli, “Part II Made in China” pp Chaps 5 & 6
               (Check for discussion questions on OAKS)
Wednesday
– 11th
Assignment: T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d
Rivoli, “Part II Made in China” pp Chaps 7 & 8
(Check for questions on OAKS)

Friday
– 13th
Assignment: Society and State centered Approaches to Trade Politics
Oatley (IPE) Chapter 4

Monday
– 16th
Assignment: Society and State centered Approaches to Trade Politics
Oatley (IPE) Chapter 5

Wednesday
– 18th
Assignment: Policy Debate 2
Question: Restrict Trade to Reduce Greenhouse Gases v. Don’t Restrict Trade to Support Climate Change Goals
Oately (Debates) pp 122 -138

Friday
– 20th
Assignment: T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d
Rivoli, “ Part III Trouble at the Border” Chaps 9 & 10
(Check for discussion questions on OAKS)

Monday
– 23th
Assignment: T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d
Rivoli, “ Part III Trouble at the Border” Chaps 11 & 12
(Check for discussion questions on OAKS)

Wednesday 25th
Assignment - Seminar (Commodity Chain) Historical Presentation

Friday 27th
Assignment - Seminar (Commodity Chain) Historical Presentation

Monday 30th
Assignment - Seminar (Commodity Chain) Historical Presentation
October

Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd}
\textit{Assignment}: - Seminar (Commodity Chain) Historical Presentation

Friday 4\textsuperscript{th}
\textit{Assignment}: - \textbf{Trade and Development: ISI & Economic Reform}
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (IPE), Chapter 6

Monday – 7\textsuperscript{th}
\textit{Assignment}: - \textbf{Trade and Development: ISI & Economic Reform}
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (IPE), Chapter 7

Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th}
\textit{Assignment}: - Policy Debate 3

\textit{Question}: The Beijing Consensus Will Replace The Washington Consensus v. The Myth of the Beijing Consensus
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (Debates) pp 331-363

Friday --11\textsuperscript{th}
\textbf{Mid-Term}

Monday --14\textsuperscript{th}
\textbf{No Class -- Fall Break}

Wednesday --- 16\textsuperscript{th}
\textit{Assignment}: - \textbf{The Politics of MNC's in the Global Economy}
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (IPE) Chapter 8

Friday --18\textsuperscript{th}
\textit{Assignment}: - \textbf{The Politics of MNC's in the Global Economy}
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (IPE) Chapter 9

Monday --- 21\textsuperscript{st}
\textit{Question}: The Multinational Corporation Race to The Bottom v. The Myth of the Multinational Corporation Race to the Bottom
\hspace{2cm} Oatley (Debates) pp 183-209

Wednesday – 23\textsuperscript{rd}
\textbf{Seminar--- (commodity chain) Political Pres}

Friday -- 25\textsuperscript{th}
\textbf{Seminar (Commodity Chain) Political Pres}
Monday
-- 28th
Seminar (Commodity Chain) Political Pres

Wednesday
-- 30th
Seminar--- (commodity chain) Political Pres

November

Friday
-- 1st
The Political Economy of Global Monetary System
readings TBA

Assignment:-

Monday
-- 4th
Developing Countries and International Finance

Assignment:-
Oatley (IPE) Chapter 14

Wednesday
-- 6th
Developing Countries and International Finance

Assignment:-
Oatley (IPE) Chapter 15

Friday
-- 8th
Policy Debate 5

Question:
Microcredit Facilitates Development v. Microcredit Does not Facilitate Development
Oately (Debates) pp 314-329

Monday
-- 11th
T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d
Rivoli, “Part IV My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market.” Chap 13 & 14
(Check for questions on OAKS)

Assignment:-

Wednesday
-- 13th
T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d Chap 15 & Conclusion
Rivoli, “Part IV My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market.”
(Check for questions on OAKS)

Assignment:-

Friday
-- 15th
Research presentations
Monday
--18th
Research presentations

Wednesday
-- 20th
Research presentations

Friday
-22nd
Research presentations

Monday
-- 25th
Research presentations

December

Monday
-2nd
Research Presentations