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. Second 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, taking-sides debates, and group project research summary)
** effective writing and development of arguments (through essay exams, taking sides, final research paper )
** comprehension of other’s views and capacity to formulate, defend one’s own position (through Readings, class discussions, extra-credit exercises, taking sides , essay exams, and research paper)
** library research and locating relevant sources (through preparing for taking sides presentations and Final research paper )
** cooperative work and learning (through taking sides preparation, in class debates, an group project Research paper and presentation )
** time management and personal responsibility (through set-up of entire course)
** Critical analysis and thinking (through readings, discussion, final group project research paper, lectures of course material, in class group exercises)

Required Texts : Available at the College Bookstore


Thomas Oatley, **Debates in Interantional Political Economy** (New York: Pearson/Longman, 2010)

Rivoli, Piertra, **The Travels of A T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Market, Power and Politics of World Trade**. (New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2009 )

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(Additionally, extra material, such as assignment information and reading materials, will be available through the library Electronic Reserve (ERes). All material designated by (ERes) means that it can be found on electronic reserve. The password for accessing this information is ipef09.)

**Course Requirements**

1. **Class Participation counts for 30% of your final grade:** 10% in class written responses to reading assignments, 5% counts towards the taking sides discussion questions due the day of the taking sides in class. **Note:** taking sides questions must be typed. I will not accept questions not typed. Furthermore failure to show up to class before the taking sides debates starts will result in your taking sides questions not being accepted. The other 15% is granted based on your preparation for in class Taking Sides debates (further details on how to prepare for taking-sides to follow on ERes).

2. **There will be a Mid-Term exam which will count for 20% of your final grade.** There will be approximately four to six questions of which you will be responsible for answering two.

3. **Each student will take part in a Group Research Project which accounts for 30% towards your final grade.** The main purpose of the group research project is to have students employ Thomas Oatley’s framework and apply it to a topic that has global economic exchange implications. **This is due no later than Monday December 8th by 3 PM in the Political Science Department (15%):**
   b) **An oral presentation of the group’s research project is scheduled during the last four class meetings (15%).** Further detailed information on what is expected at each step of this group research project to follow on ERes.

4. **Each student is expected to do a book review of Rivoli’s T-Shirt in the Global Economy. This will account for 20% of your final grade.** Details of what is expected to follow on ERes. **Note:** this book review is due on Thursday December 10th by 3.00 PM in the Political Science Department.

**Note:** Class begins on time. Students entering class 5mins after class has began 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 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 online at NPR.com

**Note:** Extra Credit; This semester there are a number of events promoting Global Awareness on campus. Extra credit will be offered for attending a maximum of 3 (three) events. For each event you are required to (1) summerize 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 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 9 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 Dec. 4th. (Events, times and locations will be announced later. If there are events that you think fit this requirement please pass them by me for my approval.)


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

August

Tuesday
– 25th

Introduction

Thursday
– 27th

What is International Political Economy- Why study it?

Assignment: - Oatley, (2009) “Preface & Chapter 1
Rivoli, “Preface & Prologue”

September

Tuesday
– 1st

What is International Political Economy cont/d: ideas shaping study

Assignment: - Robert Cox, “ Social Forces, States and World Order: Beyond International Relations Theory.” (ERes)
Jeff Faux, ‘Without Consent Global Capital Mobility and Democracy.” (ERes)
(Check for discussion questions on ERes)

Thursday
– 3rd

Video Presentation – Commanding Heights series: Battle of ideas

Tuesday
– 8th

T-shirt Journey into Global Economy begins

Assignment: - Rivoli, “ Part 1 King Cotton” pp 1– 73
(Check for discussion questions on ERes)
Thursday – 10th

**The Political Economy of the World Trade System**

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Chapters 2 & 3

Tuesday – 15th

**T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont’d**

*Assignment:* Rivoli, “Part II Made in China” pp 75-139
(Check for discussion questions on Eres)

Thursday – 17th

**Society and State centered Approaches to Trade Politics**

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Chapter 4 & 5

Tuesday – 22nd

**1st Taking Sides – Policy Analysis and Debate: Trade Adjustment?**

“How should governments respond to the economic dislocation caused by trade?”
Protectionism Or Adjustment Assistance

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Re-read Chapter 4 pp 75-76
Oately (2010) Chapter 1 & 2

Thursdays – 24th

**In Class Brainstorming (collectively and small groups) Group Project Research**
(This is based on each class member being responsible for conducting independent exploratory research -Further details available in Group Project Research Handout on ERes )

Tuesday 29th

**T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont’d**

*Assignment:* Rivoli, “ Part III Trouble at the Border” pp 141- 211
(Check for discussion questions on Eres)
October

Thursday  
1st
Trade and Development: ISI & Economic Reform


Tuesday   
– 6th
Can the Millenium Goal Eradicate Poverty
MDG necessary strategy OR New Approach to Poverty needed?

Assignment: Oatley (2009) Re-read Chapter 6 pp 134

Thursday
– 8th
Mid -Term Exam

Tuesday
– 13th
No-Class Fall Break

Thursday
– 15th  Multinational Corporations

Assignment: Group Project Research Individual Annotated Bibliography Due
At the beginning of class.
Video presentation – The Corporation

Tuesday
– 20th  The Politics of MNC's in the Global Economy

Assignment: Oatley (2009) Chapter 8 & 9
Thursday – 22nd

**3rd Taking Sides – Policy Analysis and Debate: The Race to the Bottom**

‘How should governments respond to the threat of a “race to the bottom” dynamic that weakens the public interest regulation’?

International Regulatory Rules OR National Restrictions

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Re-Read Chapter 9 pp 210-211  
Oatley (2010) Chapter 7 & 15

Tuesday – 27th

**T-shirt Journey into Global Economy cont/d**

*Assignment:* Rivoli, “Part IV My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market.”  
(Check for discussion questions on Eres)

Thursday – 29th

**The Political Economy of Global Monetary System**

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Chapter 10 & 11

November

Tuesday – 3rd

Video Presentation – Life and Debt

Thursday – 5th

**Developing Countries and International Finance**

*Assignment:* Oatley (2009) Chapter 14 & 15

Tuesday – 10th

**4th Taking Sides – Policy Analysis and Debate: Is the IMF Still Relevant?**

“What role should the IMF have in the contemporary international financial system?”  
Eliminate lending function OR Retain leading function
Oatley (2010) Chapter 13 & 16

Thursday
– 12th
Globalization: Consequences and Controversies

Assignment:- Oatley (2009) Chapter 16

Tuesday
– 17th
“How can working conditions in developing societies be improved?”
Labor standards OR Further liberalizing trade

Assignment:- Oatley (2009) Re-read Chapter 16 pp 371
Oatley (2010) Chapter 5 & 6

Thursday
– 19th
Group Project Research Presentations

Tuesday
– 24th
Group Project Research Presentations

December

Tuesday
– 1st
Group Project Research Presentations

Thursday
– 3rd
Group Project Research Presentations