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 Blog project 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 blog project)
  ** library research and locating relevant sources (through preparing for seminar Presentations, policy debates and research project blog post)
  ** time management and personal responsibility (through set-up of entire course)
  ** Critical analysis and thinking (through readings, discussion, final research project, lectures of course material, in class group exercises)

Required Texts : Available online and 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% (on-line and in class quizzes)
   - 5% counts towards the policy debate discussion questions due the day of the policy debates in class;
   - 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 **Blog Post Research Project** *(My Political Economy of Globalization: Commodity Chain)* 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 *(history and politics of your commodity)* sessions, this will culminate in a final presentation during the last two weeks of class where a synopsis of your entire Blog Post 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% --- Blog Post 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 9th via OAKS by 3 pm.

**Summary of Final Grade Calculation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blog Post Page Chain Research Project <em>(My Political Economy of Globalization)</em></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Class Attendance and Responsibilities**

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

**Note:** I will take role each class period. Three unexcused absences will result in you being dropped one letter grade for each absence thereafter. If you also develop a pattern of showing up to class late (5 mins after class has started) you will also be dropped one letter grade for each late attendance thereafter.

**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 (8-9 pm) 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. You are allowed to attend 2 of them for extra credit. Should you be inclined to attend 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 (s), 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/ how they challenged and or reinforced the ideas/concepts learnt in class. 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 feel free to pass them by me for my approval.

Additionally, I have created discussions boards on OAKS.

**Questions regarding course related material:** On OAKS under the discussion tag you will find a discussion thread titled student lounge. In here you will post any questions regarding the course material; e.g. questions about course requirements, expectations, due dates, exam dates, extra credit opportunity questions etc. The expectation here is that any class member can jump in and help to facilitate the clarification of information.

Responses to class readings: On OAKS under the discussion tag you will find discussion threads titled: Argentina’s ISI Experience and Oatley Chapter 8. In these threads you will post your reactions to the visual and reading materials. I will provide more details regarding the specific expectations for each of these assignments.

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

**August**

Wednesday – 26th  
*Introduction*

Friday – 28th  
**What is International Political Economy- Why study it?**

*Assignment:*  
Oatley, “Preface & Chapter 1  
Rivoli, “Preface & Prologue”  
*(Take Quiz 1 on OAKS)*

Monday -- 31st  
**T-shirt Journey into Global Economy begins**

*Assignment:*  
Rivoli, “ Part 1 King Cotton” Chaps 1 &2 and Chapter 1 of NPR’s Planet money (watch video clip and scroll down to read [http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/cotton](http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/cotton))
(Check for questions on OAKS)

September

Wednesday -- 2nd
Assignment: Rivoli, “Part 1 King Cotton” Chaps 3 & 4 and

(Check for questions on OAKS)

Friday -- 4th
Open Session – Brainstorming for Commodity Chain project

The Political Economy of the World Trade System

Monday -- 7th
Assignment: Labor Day – no formal class. In lieu of class you are requested to attend the College’s Annual Labor Day Celebration- Alumni Center (86 Wentworth Street) from 3-4.30 PM

Wednesday -- 9th
Assignment: Oatley Chapter 2
(Take Quiz on OAKS)

Friday -- 11th
Assignment: Oatley Chapter 3
(Take Quiz on OAKS)

Monday -- 14th
Assignment: Policy Debate 1

Question: “Should the United States pursue free-trade agreements?
Oatley pp: 41-42

Wednesday -- 16th
Assignment: Rivoli, “Part II Made in China” pp Chaps 5 & 6 and Chapter 3 of NPR’s Planet money (watch video clip and scroll down to read http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/people

(Check for discussion questions on OAKS)
Friday
- 18th
Assignment:- Rivoli, “Part II Made in China” pp Chaps 7 & 8
(Check for questions on OAKS)

Monday
- 21st
Assignment:- Oatley Chapter 4
(Take Quiz on OAKS)

Wednesday
- 23rd
Assignment:- Oatley Chapter 5
(Take Quiz on OAKS)

Friday
- 25th
Assignment:- Policy Debate 2

Question: “Should the U.S. government employ industrial policy to encourage the development of green technology?”
Oatley pp: 98-99

Monday
- 28th
Assignment:- Rivoli, “Part III Trouble at the Border” Chaps 9 & 10 and

(Check for discussion questions on OAKS)

Wednesday
- 30th
Assignment:- Rivoli, “Part III Trouble at the Border” Chaps 11 & 12 and Chapter 4 of NPR’s Planet money
(watch video clip and scroll down to read http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/boxes

(Check for discussion questions on OAKS)

October

Friday
2nd

Seminar – (Commodity chain) - Historical Presentation

Monday
5th

Seminar – (Commodity chain) - Historical Presentation
Wednesday – 7th
Film: Argentina’s ISI Experience

Friday – 9th
**Trade and Development: ISI & Economic Reform**

*Assignment:* Oatley, Chapter 6
*(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

Monday – 12th
**Trade and Development: ISI & Economic Reform**

*Assignment:* Oatley, Chapter 7
*(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

Wednesday – 14th
**Policy Debate 3**

*Question:* “Should the “Washington Consensus” be replaced by the ‘Beijing Consensus” as a development model?”


Friday – 16th
**Mid-Term**

Wednesday – 21st
**The Politics of MNC’s in the Global Economy**

*Assignment:* Oatley Chapter 8
*(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

Friday – 23rd
**The Politics of MNC’s in the Global Economy**

*Assignment:* Oatley Chapter 9
*(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

Monday – 26th
**Policy Debate 4**

*Question:* “How should governments respond to the threat of a “race to the bottom” dynamic that weakens public interest regulations?”

Oatley pp: 199-200

Wednesday – 28th
Seminar--- (commodity chain) Political Pres
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**November**

**Monday**
- 2nd
  **Assignment:**
  - Oatley Chapter 14
    *(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

**Wednesday**
- 4th
  **Assignment:**
  - Oatley Chapter 15
    *(Take Quiz on OAKS)*

**Friday**
- 6th
  **Assignment:**
  - Anatomy of 2008 global financial crisis

**Monday**
- 9th
  **Assignment:**
  - Anatomy of Greek Credit Crisis

**Wednesday**
- 11th
  **Assignment:**
  - Policy Debate 5

**Question:** ‘Should the IMF attach conditions to the credits it extends to developing countries?
Oately pp: 315-316

**Friday**
- 13th
  **Assignment:**
  - Rivoli, “Part IV My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market.” Chap 13 & 14
    *(Check for questions on OAKS)*

**Monday**
- 16th
  **Assignment:**
  - Rivoli, “Part IV My T-Shirt Finally Encounters a Free Market.” And Chapter 5 of NPR’s Planet money (watch video clip and scroll down to read http://apps.npr.org/tshirt/#/you
  *(Check for questions on OAKS)*
Wednesday                      Open Session
– 18th

Friday
-- 20th                     Research Presentations

Monday
--23rd                     Research Presentations

Monday
--30th                     Research Presentations

December

Monday
--2nd                      Research Presentations

Wednesday
--4th                      Research Presentations