

PSCI 283 (Fall 2012)
International Political Economy

1:00-2:20 T, Th (DWE2527)

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The underlying assumption of “political economy” is that economic phenomena are influenced by political factors and have political consequences. International political economy (IPE) explores the interaction among state, society and market forces in international economy. This course provides an introduction to the study of IPE. After an overview of the historical evolution of the global economic order, we will examine several competing theoretical perspectives on IPE, including Realism, Liberalism and Critical Theory. We will then use these theories to examine substantive issues, ranging from international finance to international trade and from global production to development. The goal of the course is to enable students to grasp the basic concepts of IPE and develop ways to think critically and theoretically about the politics behind international economic phenomena.

Readings:

We will use one textbook: Theodore Cohn, *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 6th edition (Pearson 2012).

*The bookstore made a mistake with the textbook order. Some books should arrive the first week of class. When they come, we will put three copies on reserve in Porter Library. More copies of the book will arrive in the bookstore in two weeks.

We will also be reading a number of journal articles, which you can access online, through UW library.

Requirements:

Attendance and participation: You should attend class, participate in discussions, and help evaluate the presentations of fellow students.

Readings and responses: You need to complete the assigned readings before each class. Beginning with the reading assignments for 9/18, please post your response – comments and/or questions of 100-200 words – regarding any five reading assignments on Learn (D2L). This should be done by 8 pm the day before class, so that some of your comments and questions can be incorporated in the lecture the next day.

Debate and short paper: There will be 12 debate sessions beginning on 10/9. In each debate, there will be two teams arguing for contending positions on an important contemporary IPE issue. As a team member, you will write a short paper (2-3 pages, double-spaced) arguing one aspect of your team's position. Members of each team should coordinate their presentations to maximize the persuasiveness of the team's position. Once both teams finish their presentations, they will challenge the other team and defend their own position. Each team's performance will be peer-evaluated. Your grade will be based on the grade given to your team and your individual paper.

Students will be randomly assigned their debate topics. Specific debate questions will be given one week before the debate. As you write your short papers and prepare for the debate, please coordinate with your teammates and consult your TAs. All the short papers are due by 8 pm the day before your debate session.

Tests and final exam: We will have two tests during the semester and a final examination at the end of the semester. There will be a review tutorial before each of the two tests. There will also be a review session before the final examination.

Important: You will not be able to make up for missed assignments, presentations, tests or examination except circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness and other types of emergencies, for which you need to show official documentation). Student travel plans are not acceptable grounds for granting an alternative final examination time (see <http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/finalexams.html>).

Grading:

Attendance and participation	10%
Responses to readings	10%
Debate and short paper	10%
Tests	2x20%=40%
Final examination	30%

Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infousec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to "group work" and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

See also the following resource: Avoiding Academic Offences (http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html).

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Schedule:

9/11 Course Introduction

9/13 What is IPE?

Cohn chapter 1;

E. Helleiner (2011), "Understanding the 2007-2008 Global Financial Crisis: Lessons for Scholars of International Political Economy."

9/18 Institutional Framework of Postwar Global Economy

Cohn, Chapter 2

U. Brand (2011), "Dakar 2011: The World Social Forum and Its Future."

9/20 The Realist Perspective

Cohn, Chapter 3

J. Kirshner (2012), "The Tragedy of Offensive Realism: Classical Realism and the Rise of China."

9/25 The Liberal Perspective

Cohn, Chapter 4

R. Wade (2009), "Beware of What You Wish For: Lessons for International Political Economy from the Transformation of Economics."

9/27 Critical Perspectives

Cohn, Chapter 5

W. Robinson (2005), "Gramsci and Globalisation: From Nation State to Transnational Hegemony."

10/2 Tutorial (review)

10/4 Test #1

10/9 -11 International Monetary Relations

Cohn, Chapter 6
Debate #1 (10/9) The future of the RMB
Debate #2 (10/11) An Asian Monetary Fund
10/16-18 Global Trade Relations
Cohn, Chapter 7
Debate #3 (10/16) Intellectual property rights
Debate #4 (10/18) Agricultural subsidies
10/23-25 Regionalism
Cohn, Chapter 8
Debate #5 (10/23) NAFTA
Debate #6 (10/25) Trans Pacific Partnership
10/30-11/1 Global Production
Cohn, Chapter 9
Debate #7 (10/30) MNCs and labor standards
Debate #8 (11/1) MNCs and the environment
11/6 Tutorial (review)
11/8 Test #2
11/13-15 International Development
Cohn, Chapter 10
Debate #9 (11/13) Foreign aid and development
Debate #10 (11/15) Washington Consensus v. Beijing Consensus
11/20-22 Debt and Financial Crisis
Cohn, Chapter 11
Debate #11 (11/20) Asian Financial Crisis (1997-8)
Debate #12 (11/22) Global Financial Crisis (2007-8)
11/27 Current Trends
Cohn, Chapter 12
11/29 Conclusion and Review