
Spring 2017

PSC 328: International Political Economy

Talbert 115

TR 9:30–10:50am

Professor Elena V. McLean

Office Hours: TR 2–3pm

<http://elenamclean.weebly.com/>

507 Park Hall

716-645-8444

elenamcl@buffalo.edu

Course Description

This course explores American foreign economic relations; American trade, aid, and investment relations; and the American role in the international economic system. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of increasingly complex interactions between political and economic realms of the contemporary world and to learn to analyze current policy as well as historical developments. Major topics that will be covered in this course include international trade, debt, economic development, regional and international integration, economic sanctions, international environmental politics, and the role of international institutions in promoting international cooperation.

Course Learning Objectives

After completing this course, a student should be able to:

- Understand major theoretical perspectives on international political economy.
- Identify and analyze components and functions of the global political economy.
- Identify the main factors that shape foreign economic policies.
- Apply conceptual and theoretical frameworks to describe and compare different models of economic growth and development in the case of Western and non-Western civilizations.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context in which democratic and non-democratic countries engaged in economic cooperation.
- Analyze explanations of economic integration in three core areas: trade, finance and foreign direct investment.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical patterns of globalization.

Outcome Assessment

The final course grade will be based on the following:

- **Pop-up Quizzes: 20%.** I will give very short quizzes throughout the semester without prior notice. The quizzes will be based on the readings assigned for that week and class material from the previous week (or two). I will drop one with the lowest score for each student at the end of the semester.
- **Exams: 60%.** There will be two non-cumulative exams held on March 9 and April 27. Specifics about each exam will be discussed later in the semester, but you can expect each exam to cover the material from both lectures and assigned readings that came before the exam. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you will get zero points for that test. All material presented in lectures, readings and class discussion is relevant for the exam.
- **Participation: 10%.** Attendance is not required, but you will receive credit for coming to class through your active participation in class. Each student begins the semester with 50 out of 100 points for participation and may earn a maximum of 100 points for meaningful participation. By “meaningful participation” I mean discussion contributions that (1) show a good grasp of the issues and substantive information relevant to the course; (2) rely on critical and logical thinking; and (3) indicate good command of factual material and assigned readings.
- **Presentation: 10%.** You will present a group report on a current issue in IPE. The report will explain the issue and consider alternative solutions. These solutions should identify likely winners and losers, both domestic and international. In general, I will look for four things in your presentations: (1) a clear and detailed explanation of the issue, (2) a well-reasoned support for proposed solutions, (3) an illustration of your position with case studies and/or data, and (4) the use of the relevant literature covered in the course. I will present a list of issues that you will be able to choose from, provide more detailed instructions and give you an opportunity to form groups and choose your issues during the second week of the semester.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Measure
Understand major theoretical perspectives on international political economy.	Exams 1 and 2; quizzes; presentations; discussion participation
Identify and analyze components and functions of the global political economy.	Exam 1; quizzes; discussion participation
Identify the main factors that shape foreign economic policies.	Exams 1 and 2; quizzes; presentations; discussion participation
Apply conceptual and theoretical frameworks to describe and compare different models of economic growth and development in the case of Western and non-Western civilizations.	Exam 1; quizzes; discussion participation
Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context in which democratic and non-democratic countries engaged in economic cooperation.	Exams 1 and 2; quizzes; discussion participation
Analyze explanations of economic integration in three core areas: trade, finance and foreign direct investment.	Exams 1 and 2; quizzes; discussion participation
Demonstrate knowledge of the historical patterns of globalization.	Exam 2; quizzes; discussion participation

Course Policies

- **Technology Policy:**
The use of laptop computers, tablets, cellphones, smartphones, or any other electronic device is prohibited during lectures and exams. If I catch you using an electronic device during lecture, I will ask you to stop immediately. The second time I catch you, I may ask you to leave the room. I put this policy in place because there is ample evidence that the use of electronic devices distracts not only the user, but those around him/her. If you need to use electronic devices for medical or disability reasons, please contact me as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.
- **Exam Attendance:**
There are no excused absences for exams short of a documented medical emergency that you could not foresee or a formal UB-sanctioned athletic event for members of UB's athletic teams. If you are a member of a UB athletic team, speak with me within the first two weeks of class if you will be missing classes during the semester because of team activities.
- **Accessibility Resources:**
If you require classroom or testing accommodations due to a disability, please contact Accessibility Resources, located at 25 Capen Hall. AR can be reached by phone at

(716) 645-2608 or by email at stu-accessibility@buffalo.edu. Please inform me as soon as possible about your needs so that we can coordinate your accommodations. For more information, visit <http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/>

- **Course Materials Copyright:**
This syllabus, lecture slides and any handouts used in this course are copyrighted. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy and distribute course materials, unless I expressly grant permission.
- **Academic Integrity:**
Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the course and possibly further punitive action. You may find more information about academic dishonesty at: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>
- **Grade Disclosure:**
All personal information concerning students’ performance in this course is governed by federal privacy legislation, known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). No grades or status information can be provided to students by telephone or email.
- **Grading Scale:**

A	93–100%	B	83–86.9%	C	73–76.9%	D	63–66.9%
A-	90–92.9%	B-	80–82.9%	C-	70–72.9%	F	0–62.9%
B+	87–89.9%	C+	77–79.9%	D+	67–69.9%		

Note that I will not use a curve when calculating grades. There will be no extra credit assignments or make-up exams.

Reading Materials

The following book is assigned for the course:

- Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Lawrence Broz. 2010. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. 5th edition. W.W.Norton. (Note: This reading will be abbreviated as FLB.)

Readings not included in the textbook can be found through the University library. I expect that every student will do all the readings assigned for a given week **before** the week begins. In addition, I encourage you to read on the regular basis at least one of the following news sources: the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times, the Economist, or a comparable publication. Note that I will not provide outlines of my notes or PowerPoint slides to students.

Course Schedule

Note that I reserve the right to change the following schedule in order to ensure that we spend adequate time on each topic. If such changes become necessary, I will make an announcement in class.

Week 1 (Jan 30–Feb 3): Course Introduction

- FLB: Introduction, pages 1–19.

Week 2 (Feb 6–10): What is IPE?

- FLB: Chapters 1–4, pages 21–86.

Week 3 (Feb 13–17): International Trade and its Effects (Part I)

- FLB: Chapters 5–6, pages 83–118.

Week 4 (Feb 20–24): International Trade and its Effects (Part II)

- FLB: Chapters 19–21, pages 337–392.
- ISA Conference Feb 22–25

Week 5 (Feb 27–Mar 3): International Trade and its Effects (Part III)

- FLB: Chapters 22–24, pages 393–442.

Week 6 (Mar 6–10): IPE of Development and Transition

- FLB: Chapters 25–28, pages 443–504.
- Mar 9 – Exam #1

Week 7 (Mar 13–17): International Financial and Monetary Relations (Part I)

- FLB: Chapter 13, pages 217–245.

Mar 20–25: Spring recess

Week 8 (Mar 27–31): International Financial and Monetary Relations (Part II)

- FLB: Chapters 14–15, pages 246–287.

Week 9 (Apr 3–7): International Financial and Monetary Relations (Part III)

- FLB: Chapters 16, 18, pages 286–296, 314–336.

Week 10 (Apr 10–14): Multinational Corporations

- FLB: Chapters 9–12, pages 153–216.

Week 11 (Apr 17–21): Globalization

- FLB: Chapters 30–32, pages 536–582.

Week 12 (Apr 24–28): Economic Power

- Hufbauer, Gary Clyde, Kimberly Ann Elliott, Tess Cyrus, and Elizabeth Winston. 1997. “US Economic Sanctions: Their Impact on Trade, Jobs, and Wages.” Working Paper Series Working Paper Special (2), Peterson Institute for International Economics.
- Tingley, Dustin. 2010. “Donors and domestic politics: Political influences on foreign aid effort.” *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* 50(1):40–49.
- Werker, Eric. 2012. “The Political Economy of Bilateral Foreign Aid.” Harvard Business School BGIE Unit Working Paper No.13-026.
- **Apr 27 – Exam #2**

Week 13 (May 1–5): IPE of Environment and Natural Resources

- FLB: Chapter 29, pages 507–535.
- Hardin, Garrett. 1968. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” *Science* 162:1243–1267.
- Frankel, Jeffrey A. 2012. “The Natural Resource Curse: A Survey of Diagnoses and Some Prescriptions.” HKS Faculty Research Working Paper Series RWP12-014, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
- Prakash, Aseem, and Matthew Potoski. 2006. “Racing to the bottom? Trade, environmental governance, and ISO 14001.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50(2):350–364.

Week 14 (May 8–12): European Integration

- FLB: Chapter 17, pages 297–313.