

PSCI 222: International Political Economy

Fall 2018

Section A: Tuesdays 11:45-01.10 and Thursdays 12:45-02.05 Holland Hall 523

Section B: Tuesdays 1:20-2:45 and Thursdays 2:15-03:35 Holland Hall 523

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Office Hours: Mondays 1.00-3.30 & Tuesdays 9.45-11.15 or by appointment

Office Location: Holland Hall 506

Course Description

International Political Economy (IPE) is an interdisciplinary field focused on the politics of international economic relations and the interactions between political and economic realms in the contemporary world. IPE addresses many issues, including: the management and openness of the international economy, determinants of trade and financial flows, bargaining between firms and the government, and the politics of economic development. This course aims to provide students a strong theoretical background on the field of international political economy with which they can analyze how domestic and international politics influence the economic relations between countries. How do countries govern their economies and how does the international economy affects domestic politics? This course aims to answer these two interrelated questions by introducing students to theories of the politics of trade, finance, and investment; as well as contemporary debates on the role of economic organizations, regional trade agreements, migration, environment and inequality. The course will approach each topic by examining alternative theoretical approaches and evaluate these theories using historical and contemporary evidence.

Learning Environment

Most classes will be based on discussions. To participate fully in the class, your must keep up with all the reading assignments and attend class regularly. We all have a great deal to learn from the texts, but also from each other. I ask all of you to help the class one in which others feel free to contribute their ideas. I understand that not everyone is willing or feels comfortable sharing their thoughts and opinions with others in a classroom setting. However, I hope that in the first few weeks we can foster a community where everyone feels that their opinions are valid and valued. It is of utmost importance that every student feels comfortable speaking in class and that we are always respectful of one another. Students with concerns, challenges, or special circumstances of any sort are encouraged to let me know as soon as possible.

Please stay on top of what is happening in the world of IPE by going through the news - political, economic, and social - on a regular basis. This may be achieved by reading or visiting, especially the business/finance/economy sections of the news sites such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, *Financial Times* or a reputable news source of your personal choice.

Expectations

Academic Honesty

I expect you to be diligent about avoiding plagiarism or cheating in any form. I am committed to treating Honor System violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/thebook/academic/integrity/>.

Communication

While I am always happy to communicate via e-mail for quick clarification questions, e-mails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours or schedule meetings with me if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth.

Technology

The use of laptops/tablets/phones are not allowed during lectures. Besides being distracting, existing research proves that taking notes by hand improves learning outcomes. I will let you know when a specific group discussion/class activity requires you to use your laptops. If you want to have the articles, reading notes, or any other materials in front of you during class, please print them beforehand.

Disability and Access Accommodations

I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. Students seeking accommodations, please contact Disability and Access staff at 507-786-3288 or by visiting wp.stolaf.edu/asc/dac.

Preferred Gender Pronoun

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Course Material

The following required book is available in the St. Olaf Bookstore. The book is also available from other sources; so please be sure to purchase the correct edition of the book. All other readings are available electronically on the course Moodle website.

- Oatley, Thomas. 2018. *International Political Economy*. 6th Edition. New York: Routledge. [Referred to below as “Oatley”]

Course Requirements

Research Policy Paper: (35%)

You will write a research policy paper (3,000-4,000 words). Your paper should identify a political economy related policy problem faced by an individual country, or faced globally. (For instance, you can choose to focus on Argentina's recent currency crisis or WTO's failure to conclude the Doha Rounds). Your audience will be the relevant policy-maker (or a team of policy-makers) (i.e. Minister of Economy in Argentina or the Director-General of the WTO..)

Your paper should:

- identify a political economy related policy problem
- discuss why the policy problem matters.
- identify the past or current efforts to solve the problem
- offer an evaluation of the existing efforts and make policy recommendations

To help guide you as you produce this paper, we will work in stages:

1. **Proposal:** a one page formal proposal is due on **October 11** at **5pm**. You are highly encouraged to discuss your ideas with me before submitting your proposal. [**10% of your grade**]
2. **Research Presentation:** You will each present your policy paper to the class at the end of the term, either on **November 29**, **December 4** or on **December 6**. I will assign you to presentation days randomly. If you know that there are presentation days that you will have to miss, let me know as soon as possible. [**5% of your grade**]
3. **Final Paper:** The final paper is due on **December 11**. [**20% of your grade**]

Current Events Presentation and Papers: (15%)

Presentation: You will each individually present a piece of news or journalistic article at two occasions in the semester. You are expected to pick a news article or a news item that relates to international political economy prior to your designated presentation date. Your presentation should highlight the event/argument, its relevant context or history, and how the event/argument relates to our course material.

Paper: You are also expected to write a one-page paper summarizing the article/news item you chose, explaining how it relates to our class material, discussing whether you agree with the article, and presenting what new questions you have after reading the article/news item. You are expected to send me the link to your current event/article, the list of discussion questions you'll use during your presentation, and your current events paper by **8pm the**

day before your presentation date. More detailed explanations are posted on Moodle.

If you send me your paper/questions but fail to come to class to present it, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. Similarly, if you present your current event, but fail to submit the paper, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. In other words, I will grade you for the assignment only if both components (paper and the presentation) are completed on time.

There will be a sign-up sheet in my office (Holland Hall 506) on **September 10**. Please stop by sometime between 9am and 3pm to pick the days in which you want to present your current events. Please review your availability over the semester, and decide your preferred days prior to coming to my office.

Participation: (10%)

Participation and active learning are central parts of this course. Some lecturing will take place, but there are also ample opportunities for participation, debate and questions and answers. For this reason, attendance, preparation prior to class (reading, keeping up with current global events) and involvement in class discussions are essential. Participation points are assigned based upon the quantity and quality of a student's contributions to the class. If you do not understand something during class, please ask; others in the class likely will thank you for doing this!

In order to facilitate more interactive learning and track individual attendance, I will use **Poll Everywhere**, which allows you to submit responses to multiple choice or open-ended questions, which allows the aggregation and display of those responses in real time. Some questions will be based on the assigned readings; others will deal with the lecture material; and still others will ask for your opinion on current event or foreign policy issue.

I will keep track of the Poll Everywhere responses throughout the semester, as a means of gauging your attendance in the lecture meeting. I will award for responding to an item; but the response itself will not be graded. In order to participate in Poll Everywhere activities, you will need to register to Poll Everywhere through the following link. Please register before class on **September 11** and we will have our first PollEverywhere activity that day.

Note on how to use Poll Everywhere: before you can respond by text to a poll in a given day's class meeting, you must join the session for that day. You do this by texting "menevisc" (my unique ID) to the number listed at the top of the first poll. As soon as you do this, you receive a confirmation text informing you that you have joined the session. If you do not receive a confirmation that you have joined the session, your subsequent responses will not be recorded. Should you have difficulty joining by text, you also have the option of responding using an internet browser.

You are permitted two unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. You do not need to know the reason or see any documentation. However, you will be penalized for any unexcused absences beyond the two. Missing more than five classes is grounds

for failing course grade, even with passing performance on other elements of the class.

Exams: (20% x 2 = 40%)

There will be one mid-term examination as well as a final examination. The mid-term, given on **October 23**, will cover all reading and class materials through October 18, and it will account for 20% of the final grade. The final exam, scheduled for **December 18 (Section B) - December 19 (Section A)**, will account for 20% of the final grade. It will be comprehensive in scope, although questions will be weighted more heavily toward material covered during the second half of the semester. Both exams will include a combination of types of questions (short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions) based on the lectures, readings, and class discussions. The format and content of each exam will be discussed in more detail closer to the exam dates.

Policy on Unexcused Exams: You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency. If you have other unexpected emergency situations that force you to miss a scheduled exam, please contact me.

NPR Podcast - November 8:

On **November 8**, I will be attending a workshop in Austin, TX on “*Advancing the Research Agenda in Economic Statecraft*”. We will not have class that day, but instead, you will have a small ungraded task.

Instead of assigning you readings for that day and requiring you to attend class, you are expected to listen to a **NPR’s Planet Money** podcast of your choice. You can browse the list of episodes online and their short descriptions to find an episode relevant to the field of international political economy, and you are interested in. Episodes are typically 20 minutes long. Planet Money also offers a series called **Indicator**. If you choose to listen to the Indicator series, you should listen to two episodes instead of one, since they tend to be around 10 minutes long.

After finding an episode you are interested in, and listening to it, you are expected to make a forum contribution on Moodle by **10pm** on November 8. Your forum contribution should include a couple sentence summary of the podcast episode, what you learned and how the podcast content is relevant to the course content. This assignment will not be graded, but the failure to complete the assignment will result in a 1 percent deduction in your participation grade.

Evaluation Policies

Grading

I follow the College’s official grading benchmark. You can access them in the Academic catalog section on “grades.”

93 and above: A	90-92: A-	87-89: B+	83-86: B
80-82: B-	77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-
67-69: D+	64-66: D	61-63: D-	60 and below: F

Late Paper/Assignment Policy

To insure the fairness of evaluation and grading, it is essential that you complete your written work on the assigned due dates. In case of a genuine emergency, contact me as soon as you are reasonably able to do so. I may request documentation in such cases. Turning in assignments late will lead to a 5 point reduction for every 24 hours. Not being present on the days in which you are scheduled to be present at current events will automatically lead to a 0 in all non-emergency situations.

Course Schedule

In addition to chapters from the Oatley textbook, I also assign readings from other sources, often academic journals. These items are available electronically on Moodle. These readings are equally important as those from the Oatley text, and - because they are written with an audience of social scientists in mind, rather than as a textbook - they may require that you spend more time engaging with the main arguments and empirical evidence.

- Oatley, Thomas. 2018. *International Political Economy*. 6th Edition. New York: Routledge. [Referred to below as “Oatley”]

Students are expected to complete the readings prior to the course meeting on the listed date. Readings that are NOT from the textbook (Oatley) are available electronically on the Moodle course page. When no specific page numbers are indicated, the entire chapter or article is assigned.

- September 6 (Thurs): Course Introduction
 - Review Syllabus
 - Rosenberg - “Reading Games: Strategies for Reading Scholarly Sources”
 - McMahon handout on “critical reading”
- September 11 (Tues): What is International Political Economy?
 - Oatley - Chapter 1
 - Lake - “Open Economy Politics: A Critical Review”

Unit 1: Trade Policy

- September 13 (Thurs): Comparative Advantage and Gains from Trade
 - Oatley - Chapter 3. pp: 46-54

- David Dollar and Aart Kraay - “Spreading the Wealth”
- Dani Rodrik - ”Trading in Illusions”
- September 18 (Tues): Domestic Distributive Politics and Trade
 - Oatley - Chapter 4 pp.70-84; 90-91
- September 20 (Thurs): Trade Policy: Partisanship, Regime Type, and Electoral Timing
 - Milner and Judkins - “Partisanship, Trade Policy, and Globalization: Is There a Left-Right Divide on Trade Policy?” pp:95-103, 114-116.
 - Milner and Kubota - “Why the Move to Free Trade? Democracy and Trade Policy in Developing Countries” pp:107-119, 137-138.
 - Frye and Mansfield - “Timing is Everything: Elections and Trade Liberalization in the Postcommunist World” pp:371-377, 391-395.
- September 25 (Tues): Governing Trade Internationally: WTO
 - Oatley - Chapter 2 pp.22-37.
 - Davis and Blodgett-Bermeo - “Who Files? Developing Country Participation in GATT/WTO Adjudication” pp.1033-1040, 1047-1048.
 - Blustein - “Against All Odds Antigua Besting U.S. in Internet Gambling Case at WTO”
- September 27 (Thurs): Governing Trade Internationally: Preferential and Regional Trade Agreements
 - Oatley - Chapter 2 pp: 37-44
 - McBride - “What is the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)?” *Council on Foreign Relations - Background*.
 - Petri and Plummer - “The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Asia-Pacific Integration: Policy Implication”
- October 2 (Tues): Immigration and Public Opinion on Trade
 - Hiscox - Chapter 3: “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies” pp:55-57
 - Peters - “Open Trade, Closed Borders Immigration in the Era of Globalization”
 - Hainmueller and Hopkins - “The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes Towards Immigrants”
- October 4 (Thurs): Case Study: Make America Great Again - Day 1

- Readings - TBD
- October 9 (Tues): Case Study: Make America Great Again - Day 2
 - Readings - TBD
- October 11 (Thurs): Trade and Development
 - Oatley - Chapter 6 pp: 115-132 & Chapter 7 pp:138-152
 - Milanovic - “Global Income Inequality by the Numbers: in History and Now”
- ** Research Policy Paper - Proposal due.**
- October 16 (Tues): No Class: Fall Break
- October 18 (Thurs): Foreign Aid
 - Easterly - “Can Foreign Aid Buy Growth?”
 - Easterly - “Foreign Aid for Scoundrels”
 - Sachs - “The Case for Aid”
- October 23 (Tues): Midterm

Unit II: International Investment

- October 25 (Thurs): Multinational Corporations: Why FDI?
 - Oatley - Chapter 8
- October 30 (Tues): MNCs: The Race to the Bottom
 - Oatley - Chapter 9
- November 1 (Thurs): Case Study: Chinese Investments in Latin America & Africa
 - Eleanor Albert - “China in Africa” *Council on Foreign Relations - Backgrounder*”
 - David Dollar - “China’s Investment in Latin America” *Brookings Institute*

Unit III: Monetary Policy and Exchange Rate Regimes

- November 6 (Tues): International Monetary System
 - Oatley - Chapter 10 pp.207-217

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- Gough and Bradsher - “China Devalues its Currency as Worries Rise About Economic Slowdown” *The New York Times*
 - November 8 (Thurs): No Class: Peace Science Society Conference
 - See the NPR Podcast Instructions above.
 - November 13 (Tues): Monetary and Exchange Rate Policies
 - Oatley - Chapter 13
 - November 15 (Thurs): Monetary Union and the Euro
 - Oatley - Chapter 11 pp:247-253
 - Alessi and McBride - “The Eurozone in Crisis” CFR-Backgrounder.
 - Avishai - “Greece Needs the Euro”
 - November 20 (Tues): Governing Financial Crisis Internationally: The IMF
 - Masters - “International Monetary Fund” CFR-Backgrounder
 - Stone - “The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa”
 - Riddell - “Thing Fall Apart Again: Structural Adjustment Programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa”
 - November 22 (Thurs): Happy Thanksgiving!
 - November 27 (Tues): Economic Sanctions
 - Hufbauer et.al - “Economic Sanctions Reconsidered” Chapter 2.
 - November 29 (Thurs): Research Policy Paper Presentations - Day 1
 - December 4 (Tues): Research Policy Paper Presentations - Day 2
 - December 6 (Thurs): Research Policy Paper Presentations - Day 3
 - December 11 (Tues): Wrapping Up
 - *** Research Policy Paper is Due - 5pm
 - December 18, Tuesday (2-4pm): Section B - Final Exam
 - December 19, Wednesday (2-4pm): Section A - Final Exam