POLS 323: International Political Economy
Spring 2005

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30—10:45 a.m.
Batten Arts & Letters 332

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Spring 2005 Office Hours:
T 11:00 a.m.—12:00 noon
Th 3:00—5:00 p.m.
Or
By Appointment

Blackboard Technical Support (OCCS)
http://www.odu.edu/dl/clt/bb/student_help_page.html
757-683-3192

Syllabus

Catalogue Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the primary mechanisms of the global political economy in allocating goods, income, wealth and the means to produce them, with emphasis on the international division of labor. The course emphasizes the theoretical study of the global political economy by emphasizing three theories of IPE: liberalism, realism and historical structuralism. During the semester the student will study important issues of the contemporary global economy, including the origins of the modern trade and financial systems; patterns of trade and the distribution of wealth; problems of poverty and development; causes of recent financial crises; and the relationship between economic development and democratization. Upon completion of the course the student will possess a basic understanding of most aspects of the modern international economic order, will have applied this understanding in a comprehensive research paper, and will be prepared for further advanced undergraduate or graduate study in economics and international relations.

Prerequisites

Students must be familiar with theories of international politics, as taught in either POLS 100S: Introduction to International Politics or POLS 324: International Relations Theory. In addition:

(1) Students must have completed at least six hours of other social science courses.
(2) Students must have an ODU email account and password with which to access course materials and information through the Blackboard system (http://blackboard.odu.edu). An email account with an off-campus service provider (such as Yahoo! Mail) will not provide you the access to materials you need.

(3) Students must read regularly newspapers or websites that cover international economic issues. This is necessary both for your familiarity with current global news and for our weekly “Of what is this an instance?” exercise that constitutes a portion of your course grade. I recommend you read The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Financial Times, The Economist magazine, or their affiliated websites.

Course Materials

You can purchase the following textbook at the ODU bookstore in the Webb Center (http://odu.bkstore.com). You may also find copies for a competitive price at the Dominion Bookstore on Hampton Boulevard.

Required Book


I have also assigned and recommended two articles for you to read for the weeks of March 29th and April 5th. You can download PDF versions of these articles from the course’s Blackboard page.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Student grades are based upon four elements of the course:

1. An in-class midterm exam on February 24th (20 percent of the student’s grade). This exam will cover all course materials from the beginning of the semester through February 22nd. The exam may include any one or all of the following types of question: identification, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. I will notify you of the format for the exam on February 17th.

2. A 10- to 15-page research paper due 5:00 p.m. Friday, April 1st (35 percent). In a research paper the student must address one of three questions that I will provide on February 1st. I expect each paper to (a) discuss which of the three theoretical approaches we study (liberalism, realism, or historical structuralism) best answers the question; (b) consider and refute counter-arguments and contradictory evidence; and (c) supplement your argument with ideas and information from sources other than those we have read during the course of the semester. The research must consist entirely of resources published in hard copy—peer-reviewed academic journals, university press books, government documents, or mainstream media. Internet resources are acceptable only if they are online versions of an article or resource that is published elsewhere in paper form.
For example, online copies of articles published in *International Studies Quarterly* are acceptable; Wikipedia entries are not acceptable.

3. **A final exam on Tuesday, May 3rd, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.** (35 percent). The exam will consist of a choice of six essay questions, from which the student will select three to answer. Each of these questions seeks to probe the student’s understanding of the theories and issues addressed during the semester. The exam will be comprehensive, covering material from the entire semester. Students must provide their own blue books for the final exam.

4. **Participation in class discussions and exercises** (10 percent). This includes participation in our weekly exercise called “Of what is this an instance?” Each Sunday, starting January 16th, students will email me a newspaper clipping or article about a current international economic issue. I will review your submissions and select one or two for distribution, which I will then email to your ODU email account. I expect you not only to read the article I circulate but also to consider how one can understand the event in terms of the three theories of international political economy. In other words, “Of what is this an instance?” is an in-class exercise in the application of theory that I expect students to exhibit in their research paper and final exam. There are no “right” answers for each week’s exercise: the purpose is to stimulate your mind, to encourage you to climb the ladder of abstraction, and to develop the habit of asking critical questions about contemporary global economic issues. For this reason it is valuable practice for you, and a good reason to be prepared to discuss the newspaper clipping I provide.

**Grades**

The assessment of your performance on exercises, exams and your research paper will depend upon five factors. First, I assess each work for its discussion of an appropriate topic in international political economy. That is to say, I expect each assignment to reflect a basic understanding of the subdiscipline of IPE. Second, I assess the work’s comprehension and application of relevant theories of IPE. Third, I determine where appropriate the work’s outside research, use of appropriate resources, and understanding of theoretical debates in the IPE literature. Fourth, I assess the quality of the work’s use of empirical evidence to support its argument. Finally, I assess the work’s coherence, composition, syntax, grammar and spelling. Each assignment you turn in must communicate effectively its thesis, its application of course materials, disagreements in the literature, and the empirical support or refutation of its argument.

There is no grading curve for the course. It is hypothetically possible for each student to get an A, or for each to get an F. I grade each student’s work on its merits, irrespective of the merit of other students’ work.

Based on your on-time completion of the required assignments and your adherence to the University’s honor code (see below), I will assign you a final grade from the following grade scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Final Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94–100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90–93</td>
<td>A–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87–89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
83–86  B
80–82  B–
77–79  C+
73–76  C
70–72  C–
67–69  D+
63–66  D
60–62  D–
0–59  F

Late Work

I will accept late work but will penalize you five points for each day the assignment is late, including weekend days. To avoid this penalty, you must obtain from me an extension of the due date no later than 48 hours before the assignment is due, at which time we will agree to a new due date. I reserve the discretion to grant or withhold no-penalty extensions, and will do so only for serious reasons.

Academic Integrity

I expect all students to understand and to abide by the University’s Honor Code:

“We, the students of Old Dominion University, aspire to be honest and forthright in our academic endeavors. Therefore, we will practice honesty and integrity and be guided by the tenets of the Monarch Creed. We will meet the challenge to be beyond reproach in our actions and our words. We will conduct ourselves in a manner that commands the dignity and respect that we also give to others.”


You should understand your rights and obligations, what constitutes a violation of the honor code and academic integrity, what disciplinary procedures and sanctions you may face, and what options I have should I suspect a violation. If you are unfamiliar with the honor code and disciplinary procedures, I suggest you visit the Honor Council’s web page (http://studentservices.odu.edu/hc/). You may also refer to the Code of Student Conduct, Sanctions, and Disciplinary Procedures in the Old Dominion University Catalog 2004-2006, pp. 14-19.

If you are unsure what may or may not constitute plagiarism, I suggest you visit http://www.csubak.edu/ssric/Modules/Other/plagiarism.htm.

I take the Honor Code seriously, and will pursue vigorously the adjudication of any violations I may perceive or suspect. If I suspect a student has committed a violation, I work only with the University Hearing Officer to determine whether or not a violation has occurred. Under no circumstances will I discuss allegations of academic dishonesty with the individual student.
Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the University’s policies and procedures, I will work to accommodate students with disabilities. If you require such accommodations, please contact me by email, phone or during office hours as early in the semester as possible.

Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of Old Dominion University to provide students and employees with an environment for learning and working that is free of sexual harassment, whether by members of the same sex or the opposite sex, which is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. I expect all class participants to understand and abide by the University’s sexual harassment policy and procedures, as detailed at http://web.odu.edu/webroot/orgs/AO/PO/oeoe.nsf/pages/oeohome.

Course Plan and Schedule

Part I: Introduction—Concepts, Theories and Methods

January 11th: Course Introduction and Overview

January 13th: What is IPE?

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 1

January 18th and 20th: Liberalism’s Approach to IPE

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 4

January 25th and 27th: Realism’s Approach

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 3

February 1st and 3rd: Historical Structuralism

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 5
February 8th and 10th: A brief history of modern IPE

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 2

Part II: Issues—Trade, Finance and Poverty

February 15th and 17th: Trade and Regionalism

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 8-9

February 22nd: Monetary Relations

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 6

February 24th, 9:30–10:45 a.m.: Midterm Exam
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March 1st: Financial Crises

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 7

March 3rd: NO CLASS

Readings:
None: work on research papers

March 8th and 10th: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

March 15th and 17th: Poverty and Development

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 11

Part III: Globalization: Continuity or Change in IPE?

March 22nd and 24th: Globalization of Production

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 10
March 29th and 31st: Economic Cycles and Political Change

Readings:
International Organization 33, 1 (Winter): 1-34.

April 1st: Research Papers Due

April 5th and 7th: Democratization

Readings:
Annual Review of Political Science v. 4: 43-65.

Part IV: The Future

April 12th and 14th: The Future

Readings:
Cohn, ch. 12

April 19th and 21st: Course Review

Readings:
None

April 26th: Semester Ends

May 3rd, 8:30—11:30 a.m.: Final Exam
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