

Political Science 256

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Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 M-Th

Fall 2008

TR 11:30 am-12:45 pm

## INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

### OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The general purpose of this course is to explore the relationship between politics and economics on a global scale. More specifically, we will examine the way national and international political relations have affected the operation of global markets, and how markets have influenced politics in and among nations.

In the process of exploring the complex relationship between politics and economics, we will cover several important topics. For instance, students will acquire an understanding of trade protectionism, free trade areas, foreign debt, multinational corporations, and development issues in the non-Western world. In addition, we will discuss key multinational economic institutions such as the WTO, NAFTA, the IMF, the World Bank, and OPEC, as well as the policies and political processes of individual countries (including the United States) that affect the international economy. During the course we will also examine a variety of explanations for the shape and operation of the international economy and explore arguments for and against the economic and political process known as “globalization.”

No prior courses in economics are required as prerequisites for this course.

### TEXTS

Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy* (3rd Edition) (Longman, 2007).

Jerry Z. Muller, *The Mind and the Market: Capitalism in Modern European Thought* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2002).

Nayan Chanda, *Bound Together: How Traders, Preachers, Adventurers, and Warriors Shaped Globalization* (Yale University Press, 2007).

Mark Pendergast, *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World* (Basic Books, 1999).

*The New York Times*.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

As a responsible student you will be expected to:

- 1) attend lectures;
- 2) complete **all** of the required reading;
- 3) participate in class discussions; and

4) keep abreast of current events.

The assignments for this class include:

- 1) a midterm exam (25 percent);
- 2) three thought papers (25 percent);
- 2) a research paper (25 percent);
- 3) a final exam (25 percent).

Make-up exams will be given, if necessary, to those with written medical statements, or letters of explanation from the Dean's office.

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services. **Accommodations must be agreed to before the midterm exam!**

### **ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Your presence in class signifies that you accept the basic rules of academic honesty. You must not engage in plagiarism or cheating in any form. Such conduct will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties.

### **CONDUCT IN CLASS**

Please, please, please—out of consideration for your classmates and the instructor—hold off on leaving the classroom for any purpose other than an emergency (i.e., get your Mountain Dew and go to the bathroom *before* you enter the classroom). This applies during testing periods as well as class lectures and discussions. In addition, students are not permitted to use laptop computers, cell phones or other personal hand-held electronic devices in class unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

### **GRADING**

Each assignment will be counted as indicated above. Class participation will be taken into account when determining final grades.

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

- I. What is Political Economy?  
Oatley: Chapter 1
- II. Theories of International Political Economy  
Moodle: Crane and Amawi
- III. Morality and the Market

Muller: Introduction, Chapters 1-4, 7, 11-13, Conclusion

**Thought Paper I (~Sept. 23)**

- IV. Making the International System: States and Markets  
Chanda: entire

**Thought Paper II (~Oct. 1)**

- V. International Production  
Oatley: Chapters 8-9
- VI. International Trade  
Oatley: Chapters 2-5
- VII. International Finance  
Oatley: Chapters 10-13

**Exam I (~Nov. 13)**

- VIII. Development  
Oatley: Chapters 6-7, 14-15  
Pendergrast: entire

**Research Paper—Tues., Dec. 2, 4:30 pm**

- IX. Managing Globalization  
Oatley: Chapter 16  
Moodle: selected readings

**Thought Paper III**

**Final Exam—Friday, Dec. 12, 12:00-2:30 PM**

Some seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge:  
that is curiosity;  
Others seek knowledge that they may themselves be known:  
that is vanity;  
But there are still others who seek knowledge in order to serve and edify others,  
and that is charity.  
-St. Bernard of Clairvaux