

SYLLABUS

International Political Economy

Political Science 328
Spring 2022
Tu/Th 11:00am-12:20pm
Talbert Hall 115

Professor: Jieun Lee
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Office hours: Tu/Th 9-10:30am

Course Description

This course explores the politics of international economic relations. We will examine the sources of national economic policies affecting international trade, foreign investment and multinational corporations, exchange rate regimes, and regional economic integration. We will also study efforts and challenges to constructing global and regional economic orders as well as the politics of economic relations between countries at different stages of development. Throughout the course, we will focus on three interrelated facets of politics: the distributive consequences of international economic policy; political conflicts among interest groups and states; and the role of national and international institutions in channeling and ameliorating these conflicts.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will develop a broad understanding of major research topics in international political economy and apply theoretical and analytical tools to examine real world cases. Through the course, students will learn how to answer global policy puzzles such as:

- Why do governments adopt the economic policies that they do?
- Why do economic actors cooperate in some cases but not in others?
- Why do governments promote or oppose globalization under different circumstances?
- Why does globalization benefit some groups and countries more than others?

Course Website

The website for this course is on UBLearn. I will be posting class announcements, materials, and readings on the website. Student assignments are also to be submitted through UBLearn. If you have any trouble accessing UBLearn or any of the course materials, please let me know right away.

Outcome Assessment

- **Group case study: 30%.** You will be responsible for leading a seminar-type discussion virtually during the course of the semester. The discussion will be conducted remotely and asynchronously every Tuesday based on lecture material covered on the previous Thursday. Please use virtual methods (e.g., UBLearns, email, Zoom, Google Slides, etc.) to work with your group members. The presenters will create **PowerPoint slides** of the following content: **1) a brief summary** of the assigned week's class materials, **2) an in-depth case study** of a real world example that reinforces the assigned week's lessons, and **3) a single discussion question** to be answered by the class (in the form of "weekly reaction to group discussion question" below). Your presentation grade will be determined by the class (20), your group members (5), and the instructor (5). Each student should upload their final group slides to 'Group Presentation' in UBLearns by **Monday 11:55pm** of the designated week.
- **Weekly virtual assessments including reaction to group discussion question: 25%.** 10% of your grade is achieved through evaluating each week's group case study and providing a short answer to the discussion question posed by that group. 15% of this grade is achieved by answering some questions assessing your understanding of the course material covered during the previous Thursday lecture. The weekly assessments will be **posted each Tuesday morning** under 'Weekly Course Materials' in UBLearns. Due to varying levels of difficulty of the course materials (and corresponding assessment questions) as the semester progresses, **plan to review materials ahead of time**. Responses must be submitted by **11:55pm of that Tuesday**. Late submissions are not acceptable unless excused by the instructor ahead of time. No submission will result in zero points for that week. The average of all weekly assessments will be used to determine the final grade. Note that presenters of the week are not required to submit their weekly assessment on the week they are presenting.
- **Attendance and participation: 15%.** Students are expected to attend and actively participate in class discussions during the Thursday in-person lectures.
- **Final paper: 30%.** There will be a single final paper that is due on **May 13, Friday, at 11:55pm**. Details about the assignment will be announced later in the semester. Late submissions will be penalized 1 point per day.

Course Policies

Emails: Including the course number in the subject line (e.g., “PS 328 Question about group presentation”) will ensure that I get to your emails sooner.

Academic Integrity: Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cite others’ work appropriately and do not submit others’ work as your own. See <https://academicintegrity.buffalo.edu/policies.php> for more information about UB academic integrity policies. Violations will be handled through the appropriate university disciplinary procedures.

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. All grades will be posted on UBLearn.

Accessibility and Special Needs: If you have a physical or learning disability or other special need, please contact me within the first two weeks of class so that we can make any necessary arrangements for you. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. You can also contact the Accessibility Resources via <https://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/who-we-are/departments/accessibility.html> or by calling 716-645-2608.

Health and Counseling Services: You may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities, especially during the pandemic. These might include health concerns, anxiety, high levels of stress, feeling down, alcohol/drug problems, strained relationships, or unwanted sexual experiences. The University provides support in these areas. Please contact the Health Services (716-829-3316), Health Promotion (716-645-2837), and Counseling Services (716-645-2720) if necessary.

UB Portfolio: If you are completing this course as part of your UB Curriculum requirements, please select an ‘artifact’ from this course that is representative of your learning and save it in a safe location with a clear title. Your final UB Curriculum requirement, UBC 399: UB Curriculum Capstone, will require you to submit these ‘artifacts’ as you process and reflect on your achievement and growth through the UB Curriculum. Artifacts include homework assignments, exams, research papers, projects, lab reports, presentations, and other coursework. For more information, see the UB Curriculum Capstone website: <https://www.buffalo.edu/ubcurriculum/capstone.html>.

Reading Materials

There is one required textbook for the course:

Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy*, 6th ed. The 5th edition is acceptable as an alternative.

Course Schedule and Readings

2/1: Introduction

Optional: Oatley, 1-20 (Chap 1).

***Sign-up for groups (first come first served) through UBLearn using the sign-up sheet located under 'Group Presentation Sign Up.' One group (maximum 4 members) is responsible for a group case study each week.

Part I: Politics of International Trade

2/3: Globalization and Gains from Trade

What is Globalization? And How Has the Global Economy Shaped the United States (PIIE 2019)
via <https://www.piie.com/microsites/globalization/what-is-globalization>

Optional: Oatley, 47-54 (Chap 3).

2/8: Virtual Assessment on 2/3 Lecture

2/10: Preferences Behind Trade Politics

Oatley, 71-82 (Chap 4).

2/15: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 2/10 Lecture

2/17: Political Organization and Protectionism

Oatley, 82-84 (Chap 4).

2/22: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 2/17 Lecture

2/24: Domestic Institutions and Trade

Oatley 82-90 (Chap 4).

3/1: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 2/24 Lecture

3/3: International Institutions and Trade

Oatley, 23-43 (Chap 2), 54-67 (Chap 3).

3/8: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 3/3 Lecture

3/10: Development and Trade

Oatley, 116-159 (Chap 6, Chap 7).

3/15: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 3/10 Lecture

Part II: Politics of International Investment

3/17: Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment
Oatley, 162-175 (Chap 8).

(3/21-25: Spring Recess)

3/29: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 3/17 Lecture

3/31: Bargaining with Multinational Corporations
Oatley, 175-181 (Chap 8), 192-205 (Chap 9).

4/5: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 3/31 Lecture

4/7: Regulating Multinational Corporations
Oatley, 183-192 (Chap 9).

4/12: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 4/7 Lecture

Part III: Politics of International Monetary Relations

4/14: The “Unholy Trinity” and Exchange Rates
Oatley, 208-210 (Chap 10), 261 (Chap 12).

4/19: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 4/14 Lecture

4/21: The Political Economy of Exchange Rate Choices
Oatley, 261-276 (Chap 12).

4/26: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 4/21 Lecture

4/28: Debt Crises and Financial Crises
Oatley, 309-323 (Chap 14), 329-340 (Chap 15).

5/3: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 4/28 Lecture

5/5: Monetary Union and the Euro
Oatley, 247-254 (Chap 12).

5/10: Virtual Assessment and Case Study Discussion on 5/5 Lecture

5/13: Final paper due 11:55pm