



University at Buffalo

PSC 328: International Political Economy

Spring, 2024 (Number of Course Credits: 3)

TuTh: Talbert 115, 3:30pm-4:50pm

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Professor Jieun Lee	jlee286@buffalo.edu	Park 503, By appointment
Teaching Assistant		
Andrew Brown	abbrown3@buffalo.edu	Park 512, By appointment

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.

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

Course Materials

The website for this course is on UBLearn. I will be posting class announcements, materials, and required 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.

Students with serious interests in the topics are encouraged to refer to Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy*, 6th ed. The 5th edition is acceptable as an alternative.

Outcome Assessment

The final course grade will be determined based on a mixture of written assignments, group discussions, and class participation.

1. **Group case study (30%):** You will be responsible for leading one seminar-type discussion during the course of the semester. For this, you 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 few discussion questions** to be answered by the class (for their participation points). Your presentation grade will be determined by the class (20), your groupmates (5), and the instructor (5). Presenters of the week must have their presentation idea approved by me ahead of time and send me their draft slides via email by **Monday 11:55pm** of the presenting week. I will provide feedback on your draft, which I expect you to incorporate into your final slides. You will also upload your final slides to 'Group Presentation' in **UBLearns** by **Wednesday 11:55pm** of the presenting week. Please note that non-participation in the group case study (as reported by peers) will negatively affect your individual grade. Complete non-participation will result in zero points for this assessment.
2. **Weekly virtual assessments (25%):** Each Friday morning, I will post the weekly assessment under 'Weekly Course Materials' in **UBLearns**. Each weekly assessment has a total of 25 points. 10 points is achieved by evaluating the quality of that week's group presentation and discussion. Another 15 points is achieved by answering some questions assessing your understanding of the course material covered during lecture of that week. **Responses must be submitted by 11:55pm of that Saturday.** 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 your final grade. Note that presenters are not required to submit their weekly assessment on the week of presenting.
3. **Attendance and participation (15%):** Students are expected to attend and actively participate in class discussions.
4. **Final paper (30%):** There will be a single final paper that is due on **May 10 at 11:55pm**. Details about the assignment will be announced later in the semester. Late submissions will be penalized 1 point per day.

Course Schedule

Note that I reserve the right to change the following schedule (e.g., contents, due dates for assignments) in order to accommodate student learning or other unforeseeable events. Announcements will be made if changes become necessary.

Week	Topic	Assignments	Deadline
Week 1	Course introduction	No assignment	No assignment
Week 2	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	Group assignment for weekly presentations	TBA

Week	Topic	Assignments	Deadline
	/globalization/what-is-globalization - Oatley, 47-54 (Chap 3)		
Week 3	Preferences behind trade politics - Oatley, 71-82 (Chap 4)	Virtual assessment on Week 3 lecture and group presentation	February 10, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 4	Political organization - Oatley, 82-84 (Chap 4)	Virtual assessment on Week 4 lecture and group presentation	February 17, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 5	Domestic institutions and trade - Oatley, 82-90 (Chap 4)	Virtual assessment on Week 5 lecture and group presentation	February 24, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 6	International institutions and trade - Oatley, 23-43 (Chap 2) - Oatley, 54-67 (Chap 3)	Virtual assessment on Week 6 lecture and group presentation	March 2, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 7	Development and trade - Oatley, 116-159 (Chaps 6, 7)	Virtual assessment on Week 7 lecture and group presentation	March 9, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 8	Multinational corporations and foreign direct investment Oatley, 162-175 (Chap 8)	Virtual assessment on Week 8 lecture and group presentation	March 16, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 9	No class (Spring Break)	No assignment	No assignment
Week 10	Bargaining with multinational corporations - Oatley, 175-181 (Chap 8) - Oatley, 192-205 (Chap 9)	Virtual assessment on Week 10 lecture and group presentation	March 30, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 11	No class (instructor attending international conference)	No assignment	No assignment
Week 12	Regulating multinational corporations - Oatley, 183-192	Virtual assessment on Week 12 lecture and group presentation	April 13, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 13	The “unholy trinity” and exchange rates - Oatley, 208-210 (Chap 10) - Oatley, 261 (Chap 12)	Virtual assessment on Week 13 lecture and group presentation	April 20, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 14	The political economy of exchange rate choices - Oatley, 261-276 (Chap 12)	Virtual assessment on Week 14 lecture and group presentation	April 27, Saturday 11:55pm
Week 15	Debt crises and financial crises - Oatley, 309-323 (Chap 14) - Oatley, 329-340 (Chap 15)	Virtual assessment on Week 15 lecture and group presentation	May 4, Saturday 11:55pm

Grading Chart

Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points	Letter Grade	Points
A	93-100 points	B-	80-82 points	D+	65-69 points
A-	90-92 points	C+	77-79 points	D	60-64 points
B+	87-89 points	C	73-76 points	F	< 60 points
B	83-86 points	C-	70-72 points		

Course Policies and Campus Resources

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.

Guidance for Artificial Intelligence

This class allows the use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) to supplement your studies (e.g., searching for research articles or current events in preparation of the group presentation). However, any use of generative AI in your writing assignments (i.e., final paper) is prohibited and will be considered a violation of UB’s academic integrity policy.

Academic Integrity

I take academic integrity very seriously. 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. Students must be familiar with and abide by the university’s policies and procedures on Academic Integrity, available at the following link: Academic Integrity <https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/integrity.html>.

Protecting Course Materials Disclaimer

All materials prepared and/or assigned by me for this course are for the student’s educational benefit. Other than for permitted collaborated work, students may not photograph, record, reproduce, transmit, distribute, upload, sell or exchange course materials, without my prior written permission. Course materials include, but are not limited to, all instructor-prepared and assigned materials, such as lecture notes, presentation materials, tests and assignments. Public distribution of such material may also constitute copyright infringement in violation of federal or state law. Violation of this policy may additionally subject a student to a finding of “academic dishonesty” under the Academic Integrity Policy and/or disciplinary charges under the Student Code of Conduct.

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 phone or email. All grades will be posted on UBLearns.

Accessibility Resources

If you have any disability which requires reasonable accommodations to enable you to participate in this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources in 60 Capen Hall, 716-645-2608 and also the instructor of this course during the first two weeks of class. The office will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations, which can be found on the web at: <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/who-we-are/departments/accessibility.html>.

Sexual Violence

UB is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking. If you have experienced gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), UB has resources to help. This includes academic accommodations, health and counseling services, housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and assistance with reporting the incident to police or other UB officials if you so choose. Please contact UB's Title IX Coordinator at 716-645-2266 for more information. For confidential assistance, you may also contact a Crisis Services Campus Advocate at 716-796-4399.

Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, health concerns, or unwanted sexual experiences. Counseling, Health Services, and Health Promotion are here to help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn more about these programs and services by contacting:

Counseling Services:

120 Richmond Quad (North Campus), 716-645-2720
1st floor Michael Hall (South Campus), 716-829-5800

Health Services:

4350 Maple Road (near Sweet Home Rd.), 716-829-3316

Health Promotion:

114 Student Union (North Campus), 716-645-2837