1 Course Description

This course is an introduction to political economy for political science graduate students. The focus is on international political economy, but I have also included a fair bit of work in comparative political economy, which is not otherwise taught here at the graduate level. International political economy is the study of how and why international economic policies are formed, and how international factors influence domestic policy-making, while comparative political economy examines economic policy-making in a domestic context. Prior work in economics is helpful for navigating this course, but you will also learn a good bit of economic theory as we proceed. Understanding the readings will require a facility with at least basic regression analysis in statistics, and a few of the readings will require basic knowledge of game theory as well. We will deal with important contemporary topics such as foreign trade, capital flows, monetary policy and exchange rates, issues in globalization, and international organizations and institutions such as NAFTA, GATT, the IMF, and the EU.

2 Course Requirements and Grading

Your grade in this course will depend upon class participation (35%), response papers (15%), class presentations (10%), and a final paper (40%). On Week 4, we will begin student presentations. Each student will present twice during the course of the semester. On Week 2, we will work out a schedule of presentations for the rest of the term. Response papers will be due on weeks when there are no student presentations. There are a total of five response papers due, each of which should be about 300-500 words and should represent your reaction to (commentary on or questions about) a particular point in that week’s readings. (Don’t summarize the readings.) I prefer e-mailed response papers in Microsoft Word format only, and my comments will be given through the Track Changes function. If you are unwilling to use either Microsoft Word or OpenOffice.org, free software that can read and create Word documents on any platform, you may turn in hard copies.

The final paper will be a research proposal in international political economy, roughly 10-15 pages in length. A research proposal should consist of a
theoretical statement, hypotheses, and literature review, but not an actual empirical analysis. The last class will be dedicated to presentations of your research proposal drafts, with opportunities for commentary from your colleagues and myself. The final papers will be due by Monday December 19 at 4:00 PM at my office, hard copies only.

3 Readings

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. They can all be found on the class’s UBLearns website (“Course Documents”).

4 Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. Introduction and Basic Theories (Aug. 31).

2. Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives on IPE (Sep. 7) – response papers
   


3. Trade Politics (Sep. 14) – response papers
   


4. **International Investment Politics** (Sep. 21) – presentations


5. **National Politics and Global Markets (OECD)** (Sep. 28) – presentations


6. **National Politics and Global Markets (Developing Countries)** (Oct. 5) – presentations


7. **Historical Perspectives on Globalization** (Oct. 12) – response papers


8. **Macroeconomic Politics I: Political Business Cycles** (Oct. 19) – presentations


9. **Macroeconomic Politics II: Institutions** (Oct. 26) – response papers


10. **Interest-Group Politics** (Nov. 2) – presentations


11. **Economic Growth and Development** (Nov. 9) – presentations


12. **Globalization, Conflict, and Human Rights** (Nov. 16) – response papers


13. **Foreign Aid and Lending** (Nov. 30) – presentations


14. **Student Research Presentations** (Dec. 7)