

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY - POL 360 - Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Tu and Thur 12:30 - 1:45pm and by appointment

Log in to our D2L coursepage for important materials and updates

Course Description

International Political Economy (IPE) emerged in the 1970s primarily as a sub-field of international relations (IR). Since then -- and due in part to technological developments -- local, national and transnational socio-cultural, economic and political dynamics have become increasingly interconnected (AKA globalization, time-space compression, postindustrialism). The cumulative processes of globalization that cross and complicate national boundaries have more recently generated a preference 1) for characterizing the field as Global Political Economy (GPE), 2) for emphasizing the *interaction* of political, economic and socio-cultural dimensions of social reality, and hence 3) for studying the field from a cross-disciplinary orientation.

This course will survey the emergence and evolution of the 'world economy' and how that history continues to shape contemporary global dynamics. Drawing upon a range of theoretical perspectives, we will examine structural features of the contemporary global political economy and new and enduring forms of inequality at multiple levels. The course will encourage critical analyses to more adequately understand and potentially address structural inequalities between and within nation-states, the destructive effects of recurring financial crises, and the global insecurities these entail.

Course Objectives

To enhance historical knowledge and understanding, especially regarding the development of a world economy and how that history shapes current dynamics.

To become familiar with distinctions among theoretical and methodological orientations and recognize how underlying premises shape perceptions and practice.

To gain a basic understanding of practices, structures, issues and dynamics constituting IPE/GPE as a field of inquiry.

To develop critical awareness of, and critical skills in analyzing, how power operates in IPE/GPE.

To improve one's self-reflection regarding how we participate in processes of globalization.

Course Processes and Priorities

Expectations: This is an upper-division course and presumes familiarity with the basics of Political Science and International Relations. In an upper-division course students are expected not only to be well prepared (as in lower-division courses) but also to show initiative in class participation and in taking up the challenge of critical, intellectual inquiry (as is appropriate for

advanced students). I will conduct the course more as a seminar than a lecture, with the expectation of active participation by all members (note that participation is a *significant* part of your grade).

Course grade: Your course grade will be based on: 1) classroom attendance, preparation and participation [10%]; 2) short quizzes on assigned readings, at the beginning of almost every session [20%]; and 3) three exams/papers [16% each = 48%]; 4) and one final essay exam/paper [22%]. **Any new or revised information will be posted on our D2L webpage, so make sure that you check this site frequently.** If you are having trouble, ask someone in a computer lab to assist you. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding the course, please share them with me *sooner rather than later!* Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice.

Preparation and participation: Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to participate in class discussions and group meetings on the basis of an engaged and critical reading of each session's assignments *prior* to sessions. Arrive for class **on time,** and turn off cell phones and other noise-making devices during class. Students are expected to be present mentally (neither texting, nor using computers/netbooks etc for anything other than taking notes) and to participate in class discussions on the basis of an engaged and critical reading of each session's assignments *prior* to class. Because this is an upper-division course, lectures will *not* focus on 'explaining' the readings to you; I will expect you to have done the readings, **to bring questions you have to class;** and to be prepared to discuss the readings from the perspectives of analytically engaged, informed students.

Tips for optimal learning and participation: Make sure you grasp the *key points* of all readings; *integrate* the course materials (the readings are somewhat 'cumulative,' so make a conscious effort to relate readings and discussions to previous readings and sessions, as well as events/issues outside of the class); *think relationally* (e.g., how does this point link to, complement or contradict other points) and in terms of *building your own analytical/theoretical 'frame'* for thinking about IR and GPE.

In sum, I *expect students* to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and to participate actively and thoughtfully. Please note that "active and thoughtful participation" is not limited to providing "correct answers"; rather, it means any participation in discussion that is a sincere attempt to come to terms with the material and/or advance the class's consideration of the issue at hand. Such attempts may include raising your own questions about the text, pointing out connections that you see, responding to another student's comments, and so forth. "Listening respectfully" means taking the texts' and other students' ideas seriously, and making an honest effort to understand their basis, even when those ideas are not agreeable to you. **Note:** once you have chosen to remain enrolled in this class, I will assume that you are aware of and have accepted these 'ground rules' for the course.

Absences: Holidays observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored. Excused absences (illness with a doctor's note, documented family emergency, religious observance, Dean's approval) will not be counted against you. Unexcused absences *will* have a negative effect on your course grade. If you are not in class, for whatever reason, it is **your** responsibility to find out what you missed, including any new or altered assignments.

Plagiarism: all work submitted must be the student's own. You are responsible for being

familiar with the University's policies regarding plagiarism and the UA Student Code of Academic Integrity: <http://studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm>

Threatening behavior by students is not permitted at any time; you are responsible for being familiar with the University's policies in this regard:

<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>

Students with *special needs* who are registered with the S.A.L.T. Center (<http://www.salt.arizona.edu/>) or the Disability Resource Center (<http://drc.arizona.edu/>) must submit appropriate documentation to the instructor if they are requesting special accommodations.

Required text and reading assignments

O'Brien, Robert and Marc Williams. 2010. *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*. 3rd Edition. London: Palgrave. ISBN: 978-0-230-24121-3. Cited as OW in assignment schedule below.

This book is *required* and we will read the entire text; please make sure that you purchase the *correct edition* (3rd ed., 2010). All additional reading assignments are posted on D2L under Content.

Course Outline and Schedule of Topics/Assignments

You are expected to have read the assignments *prior* to, and be ready to take a quiz and discuss them, on the dates as they appear below.

Jan 10: Introduction to course; orientation, paperwork and discussion.
No reading assignment

Jan 15: Introducing GPE and theoretical perspectives
OW Intro and Chap 1 (1-29)

Jan 17: Methods and Theorists
OW Chap 2

Jan 22: More on IPE/GPE theoretical perspectives
Woods, Ngaire. 2011. International Political Economy in an Age of Globalization. In *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 246-262.

Gills, Barry K. 2001. Excerpts from 'Forum: Perspectives on New Political Economy: Re-orienting the New (International) Political Economy.' *New Political Economy* 6, 2. Read pages 233-top of 238; top of 240-middle of 242; and conclusion 243-245.

Jan 24: More on theoretical perspectives
Cohn, Theodore H. 2012. Chap 5: Critical Perspectives. *Global Political Economy*. 6th Ed. Boston: Longman. Pp. 103-130.

Jan 29: More on theoretical perspectives

Barnett, Michael. 2011. Chap 9: Social Constructivism. In *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 148-165.

Hansen, Lene. 2011. Chap 10: Poststructuralism. In *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 5th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 167-180.

Jan 31: Exam

Feb 5: History and its enduring effects

OW Chap 3

Feb 7: History and its enduring effects

OW Chap 4

Feb 12: History and its enduring effects

OW Chap 5, pp. 116-131

Feb 14: History and its enduring effects

OW Chap 5, pp. 131-146

George, Susan. 1999. A Short History of Neoliberalism. Presented at the Conference on Economic Sovereignty in a Globalizing World, Bangkok, 24-26 March 1999.

<http://www.tni.org/article/short-history-neoliberalism> Accessed 4 Jan 2012

Feb 19: Exam

Feb 21: International Trade

OW Chap 6

Feb 26: Transnational Production

OW Chap 7

Feb 28: Global Financial Arrangements

OW Chap 8

Mar 5: Global Financial Arrangements

Peterson, V. Spike. 2003. *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive, and Virtual Economies*. London and New York: Routledge.

Chap 6 (pp. 147-173 and notes)

Mar 7: Global Divisions of Labor

OW Chap 9

Mar 19: Gender Issues

OW Chap 10

Dickinson, Torry D. and Robert K. Schaeffer. 2001. Chap 2: The Meaning of Work. Pp. 23-35 in *Fast Forward*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Mar 21: Global householding

Peterson, V. Spike. 2010. Global Householding Amidst Global Crisis. *Politics and Gender* 6, 2: 271-281.

Bergeron, Suzanne. 2010. Gender, Development and Global Householding. *Politics & Gender* 6, 2: 281-288.

Mar 26: Development issues

OW Chap 11

Mar 28: Exam

Apr 2: Environmental issues

OW Chap 12

Apr 4: Environmental politics

Rosenthal, E. and A. Revkin. 2007. Science panel calls global warming 'unequivocal.' *New York Times* 3 Feb.

Joint Science Academies' Statement. 2008. www.science.org.au/policy/climatechange-g8+5.pdf
Accessed 18 Jul 2012

Anderegg et al 2010 Expert credibility in climate change. *PNAS*. 9 April.
pnas.org/content/107/27/1207.full Accessed 18 Jul 2012

Goldenberg, Suzanne. 2012. Top US companies shelling out to block action on climate change. *The Guardian*. 30 May.

Apr 9: Ideas

OW Chap 13

Apr 11: Security

OW Chap 14

Apr 16: In/securities

Peterson, V. Spike. 2008. 'New Wars' and Gendered Economies. *Feminist Review* 88, 1: 7-20.

Apr 18: In/securities

Doty, Roxanne Lynn. 2009. Why is people's movement restricted? In *Global Politics*, ed. Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss. London: Routledge. Pp. 170-191.

Apr 23: Governance issues

OW Chap 15

Apr 25: Where we are now

OW Chap 16

Houtart, Francois. 2010. The Multiple Crisis and Beyond. *Globalizations* 7, 1-2: 9-16.

Apr 30: What is to be done?

Dickinson, Torry D. And Robert K. Schaeffer. 2001. *Fast Forward: Work, Gender, and Protest in a Changing World*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pp. 275-289

Rupert, Mark and M. Scott Solomon. 2006. *Globalization and International Political Economy: The Politics of Alternative Futures*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. Pp. 133-137

May 6: Final Exam/Paper 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm