Course Description

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the core concepts, processes, theories, and issues of the international political economy. The focus will be on how changes in the international economy affect politics within and among states. Divergent theoretical approaches broadly categorized under two analytical traditions, namely structural (systemic) and domestic political approaches, along with institutional and constructivist approaches to the international political economy, will guide us through the critical debates and issues of the international political economy. Our objective is to gain a thorough understanding of the politics of international trade, international monetary relations, international finance, and globalization.

The course is divided into five parts. Part I tackles definitional, conceptual, theoretical issues and introduces contending approaches to the international political economy. Part II introduces the political economy of international trade, focusing on distributional issues and discussing in detail institutional, structural, and domestic political approaches to the study of international trade. Part III moves the debate to the political economy of international monetary relations. In Part IV, the political economy of international finance will be the main focus of inquiry. Finally, in Part V, we will discuss the impact of globalization on the nation-states capacity to act and debate whether globalization leads policy convergence among states with a specific focus on the welfare state policies and the banking industry in advanced economies.

Key topics for the course include (but are not limited to) the following: hegemonic stability theory, international regimes and institutions, embedded liberalism, the ascension of neo-liberal economic thought, the role of domestic and international institutions, the tragedy of commons and collective action theories, politics and globalization of international trade, money, finance, economic stabilization programs, debt, and global inequality and poverty.

Course Requirements

This course will follow a lecture format. Requirements for this course are: 1) to attend all class meetings; 2) to participate actively in the class and recitation discussions; 3) to do all of the assigned reading for each week before the class and post at least two discussion questions on the blackboard; 4) to write a 7-page critical review (double spaced, 12 point) on the political economy of international trade due on November 4, 2013; 5) to write an original 15-page research paper (double spaced, 12 point) focusing either on the theoretical and conceptual issues covered in the course or on the application of these theories and concepts to one or more case studies that fit students’ own research interests; 6) to submit a research paper proposal describing your topic for my approval no later than November 11, 2013; 7). The final research paper is due on December 11, 2013, 12:00 PM.
Grading Criteria

Research Paper (50%)
Critical Review (20%)
Class & Recitation participations (30%)

Readings

There are several books and many articles required for this course. Most of the books and articles are available online at ebrary, JSTOR, ProQuest, Lexis-Nexis, other electronic databases, or will be posted on the NYU Blackboard.

Required Books


Topics and Readings

I. Introduction: Concepts, Issues, and Theoretical Approaches

Week 1 (September 9): Introduction and sign-ups for presentations

Assigned Readings:

Week 2 (September 16): Introduction II—Historical Background

Assigned Readings:

Week 3 (September 23): Approaches to the International Political Economy I

Assigned Readings:

Recommended Readings:


II. The Political Economy of International Trade

**Week 4 (September 30): Institutional and Structural (Systemic) Approaches I**

**Assigned Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 5 (October 7): Institutional and Structural Approaches II**

**Assigned Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Week 6 (October 21): Domestic Political Approaches I

Assigned Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Week 7 (October 28): Domestic Political Approaches II

Assigned Readings:


Recommended Readings:


III. The Political Economy of International Monetary Relations

Week 8 (November 4): Institutional, Structural, and Domestic Political Approaches Review Papers are due

Assigned Readings:


**Recommended Readings:**


**IV. The Political Economy of International Finance**

**Week 9 (November 11): Constructivist Approaches**

**Research Paper Proposals are due**

**Assigned Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 10 (November 18): Structural and Domestic Political Approaches**

**Assigned Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 11 (November 25): International Finance and Development**
Assigned Readings:


Week 12 (December 2): International Financial Crises
Assigned Readings:

Recommended Readings:


V. The Political Economy of Globalization

Week 13 (December 9): Global Capital and the Welfare State

Recommended Readings:


Week 14 (December 11): Globalization and State Capacity
Assigned Readings: