Course Objectives

This is an advanced graduate course on international political economy. The course is designed to introduce students to scholarship on international political economy, to guide students’ own reading, and inquiry and to develop critical faculties. I take a general “actors, interests, and institutions” approach to this course, in which we develop and test theory that explains the actions taken by individuals, firms, and states in the global economy. I teach this course in a straight seminar – I will almost never lecture and I expect a high level of participation from every student.

Understanding state-of-the-art research in IPE requires a working knowledge of international economics. Depending on their background, some students may need to read sections of an international relations textbook as part of their preparation for class each week.

IPE is a broad and diverse field. Thus, a single course cannot cover every issue and approach. In particular, this syllabus is biased toward recent work. Compared to other reasonable versions of this course, we will spend relatively more time discussing articles published in top journals in the past 2-3 years, and relatively less time discussing Marx, Weber, Tilly, and other classic political economy works. I encourage students to read the classics if they have not already, but they will not be covered heavily in class.

Enrollment by students who are not PhD students in the POIR program must be approved in advance by the instructor.

Pre-requisites

- Good understanding of international economics is strongly recommended before taking this course. Students who wish to study IPE at the graduate level but lack an undergraduate background in economics might consider taking advanced undergraduate courses in international economics and/or macroeconomics.

- Interest in and knowledge of current discussions on international affairs, international business, and political economy in general.
**Official Note**

Students requesting academic accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

**Course Structure and Assignments**

Participation in and preparation for each class are critical. Students must be prepared to discuss all readings each week. If students are unprepared for class, they will be asked to leave.

1. **Weekly Outlines.** Every week students must complete a written outline of one reading and post this to the course dropbox folder. Students will sign up for readings at the beginning of the semester such that we have at least one student providing a written outline of each reading. These outlines will be useful, among other things, in helping students prepare for their comprehensive exams.

2. **Literature Review, Theory, and Research Design.** The central assignment of the course is to write what amounts to the first half of a viable research paper.

**Books To Buy**


Menzie Chinn and Jeffrey Frieden. *Lost Decades: The Making of America’s Debt Crisis and the Long Recovery*


**Optional Purchases:**


Joe Stevens. 1994. *Economics of Collective Choice.* [I will make available a scanned version of the chapters we are using.]

Olson, M. (1977), *The Logic of Collective Action; Public Goods and the Theory of Groups.* [I will make available a scanned version of the chapters we are using.]


**Note:** I will place all articles and book sections in the course Dropbox folder.
Course Grades

During the course, students are expected to do the following:

(1) Read every assigned paper and book and participate fully in the discussion every week. 25%

(2) Submit an outline of the readings you have signed up for (1 per week). 25%

(3) Write the first half of a viable research paper in the field of IPE. 50%
Course Schedule:

1. January 10: Course Introduction

   
   Note: This is a heavy reading week and the readings are important.
   
   Theoretical Foundations:
   

   The Research Frontier:
   
   6. YIQING XU and YANG YAO. 2015. “*Informal Institutions, Collective Action, and Public Investment in Rural China*”

   
   Foundations and Empirical Overviews:
   

   Newer Work:
   

   *Note: This paper is not a traditional research paper, but it is critical for understanding what “trade” refers to in 2017. Much international trade is in services, not goods, and most
international trade occurs within multinational firms, not between firms. Firm A importing shoes made by firm B is no longer the archetype.

Newer Work:

Optional Reading:

Foundations:


Polanyi, K. (1944), The Great Transformation, pp. 3-30; 130-150; and 223-248. (BB)

Newer Work:


4. January 31: Trade 1: Individual Preferences Regarding Trade
Note: If you are unfamiliar with Stolper/Samuelson and Heckscher/Ohlin, please read up in your econ textbook or elsewhere. Be prepared to explain the basics of these models when called upon.

Foundations:


Newer Work:


Optional Reading:


5. **February 7: Trade 2: Domestic Institutions and Trade**

**Foundations:**


**Newer Work:**


**Optional reading:**


Judith Goldstein and Robert Gulotty. 2014. “America and Trade Liberalization: The Limits of Institutional Reform”

6. **February 14: Trade 3: International Institutions & Trade plus Firm & Industry Level Work**

**Foundations (international institutions and Trade):**


**Foundations (Firm & Industry-level work):**


**Newer Work:**


**Optional Reading**


Helen Milner and Edward Mansfield. 2012. *Votes, vetoes, and the political economy of international trade agreements* (Book)


7. **February 21: Financial Openness, CBI, and Exchange Rates  
****BIG READING WEEK THIS WEEK****

Background:


Newer Articles:


Cristina Bodea and Raymond Hicks. 2015. *Price Stability and Central Bank Independence: Discipline, Credibility, and Democratic Institutions*

**Optional Reading:**

Textbooks to reference as needed:


OR

Robert Carbaugh. International Economics. 2011. Chapters 10-17 (pp. 343-532)

Other important articles:


And the two replies by Jana Von Stein and Simmons in the APSR:


8. February 28: FDI and Property Rights Across Borders

Foundations:


Newer Work:


Optional Reading:


Neumayer, Eric, and Laura Spess. "Do bilateral investment treaties increase foreign direct investment to developing countries?" *World development* 33.10 (2005): 1567-1585.


9. March 7: Property Rights Across Borders (2)

Foundations


Newer Work


10. March 21: Migration

******CHECKLIST FOR YOUR FINAL PAPER IS DUE TODAY******

Foundations:


Newer Work:


**Optional Reading:**


**11. March 28: Foreign Aid**

**Foundations:**


**Newer Work:**

Elena V. McLean. 2015. *Multilateral Aid and Domestic Economic Interests*

JAMES D. FEARON, MACARTAN HUMPHREYS and JEREMY M. WEINSTEIN. 2015. *How Does Development Assistance Affect Collective Action Capacity? Results from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia*

**Optional Reading:**


Martin C. Steinwand. 2015. *Compete or Coordinate? Aid Fragmentation and Lead Donorship*

Dietrich, “Donor Political Economies and the Pursuit of Aid Effectiveness”


**12. April 4: IPE and Security**

Background:


Newer Work:


Optional Reading:


13. April 11: TOPIC TBD: Regionalism OR Human Rights OR IPE and Security 2

14. April 18: Financial Crises and Odd Fits

Financial Crises:


Odd Fits:
16


15. April 25: Final Class: Big Thoughts about the Field


Optional Reading:


Final Papers Due: Sunday, May 7 by 8pm.