ICIR 221 International Political Economy

Course Description & Aims:
This course outlines the major theories and issues in international political economy. It assesses the success and failures of international organizations, particularly those related to political economy. The course explains the bargaining between rich and poor countries. The course discusses the political and economic conditions conducive to the development of cooperative international economic behavior among countries.

It aims to introduce students to issues in international political economy including post-colonialism, IMF and World Bank lending, role of MNC’s, development, global poverty, globalization, development traps, global governance and future trajectories.

The historical development of a world political society and the structures of international diplomacy. War and peace-making between the Great Powers. The Concert of Europe. The League of Nations, the United Nations, and the Cold War. International agreements, treaties, and organizations. The principles of international law. Students will remember; understand; apply; analyze the historical development towards a peaceful world order.

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Assessment

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Course Learning Outcomes
At the completion of the course the student will be able:

1. To obtain a theoretical and conceptual understanding related to the international Political Economy, derived from the mutual interactions of state and market, economics and politics, and analyze the significance of these relationships
2. To understand major analytical and policy issues related to International Political Economy
3. To draw upon multidisciplinary sources including economics, political science, other social sciences and policy-oriented materials to assess the issues and problems of IPE and their significance in evaluating globalization of production, global economic growth and governance, regionalism, and the debates on free trade, protection, inequality, poverty, and the relationship between poor and rich countries
4. To develop critical reading, thinking, and writing of IPE topics namely global issues related to trade (legitimate and illicit), finance, and development and their impact on poverty, inequality, environment, and climate change
# Assessment Methods & Criteria

1. **Participation 10%**  
   Students are expected to actively and regularly participate during the lecture, peer presentation, class discussion exercises, and group work which are evenly distributed throughout the trimester. Punctuality, attendance, attentiveness, contribution and behavior will be taken into consideration. It is important to keep up with the course materials in order to be able do so. Relevant readings will be made available to students electronically or in print.

2. **Group Presentation 20%**  
   Students will be provided a variety of contemporary international political economy topics to select in week 2. They will research, read, synthesize and present in class. Presentations will be in powerpoint format and address issues to be assigned. Critical thinking ability, content, and delivery are important assessment criteria. The presentation shall last no more than 15 minutes, following by Q&A where the presenting group encourages discussion and participation from their listening audience. The presentations of reading materials must (a) briefly summarize the main arguments of the presented text, (b) point out problematic or questionable sections of the reading, (c) provide updated content as necessary, and (d) provide 2-3 questions for further in-class discussion in relation to the presented materials. Although it is a group presentation, students will be graded individually.

3. **Midterm examination: 30%**  
   Students will revise and discuss on contemporary IR events. The examination will comprise essay answer questions which will require students to draw on lectures, course readings and short personal research to answer questions. Students will write a structured argumentative essay with relevant reference to topics, issues and associated theoretical frameworks that have been discussed in class. Answers can be concise, but must be precise and attend to all aspects of the question (read the questions carefully!). Midterm examination will take place in week 7.

4. **Take-home Essay: 40%**  
   At the end of term, students are required to write a final essay paper on an assigned topic. A list of available essay topics will be distributed after the midterm exam. Essays need to be clearly structured and argumentative and make substantial reference to concepts and theories introduced in the duration of this course. In particular, the final essay paper must include the following aspects: (a) a brief introduction of the chosen topic, including a more descriptive section regarding background and context, (b) an analysis and discussion section with relevant references to concepts, theories and debates introduced in class, and (c) a conclusion demonstrating the ability to critically reflect and assess relevant aspects of the chosen essay topic. The essay shall not exceed 1,500 words and will be due in week 13.
Introduction: Markets and Politics

**Topic description:** The introduction on International Political Economy will be provided covering topics such as foundational aspects of economic understanding; markets and politics; and the rise of the modern world economy, 1500-1914.

**Expected learning outcomes:**
Students will be able to obtain a conceptual understanding related to the international Political Economy, derived from the mutual interactions of state and market, economics and politics, and analyze the significance of these relationships. Furthermore, students will be able to understand major analytical and policy issues related to International Political Economy.

**Readings and activities:**

**Core Readings:**

**Supplementary Readings:**

**Activities:** Students will participate in brainstorming exercise and class discussion to answer a list of review questions. These questions are designed to help students understand this week’s concepts and express their understanding in their own words. Students’ contribution will be counted toward their overall participation credits.

Perspectives on the International Political Economy

**Topic description:** This week major perspectives on the International Political Economy will be explored. The discussion also includes the origins and overview of the contemporary international economic order, the concept of FDI, inflation, monetarism, Keynesianism, and balance of payments.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will be able to obtain a theoretical and conceptual understanding related to the international Political Economy. They will also be able to understand major analytical and policy issues related to International Political Economy.

**Readings and activities:**

**Core readings:**


Supplementary readings:

Activities: Students will discuss with their peers and take turn to feed back with the lecturer their answer and opinion to the assigned questions.

International Trade and its Effects

Topic description: This week the class will discuss about international trade and its effects; trade policy and its factors and sectors; and voters and politicians. IPE topics namely global issues related to trade (legitimate and illicit) and their impact on poverty, inequality, environment, and climate change will be discussed.

Expected learning outcomes: Students will be able to draw upon multidisciplinary sources to assess the issues and problems of IPE and their significance in evaluating globalization of production, global economic growth and governance, regionalism, and the debates on free trade, protection, inequality, poverty, and the relationship between poor and rich countries.

Readings and activities:
Core reading:

Supplementary reading:

Activities: Students will discuss in group the controversial topics assigned in class and take turn to feed back to other groups.

International Trade and the Developing Countries

Topic description: This week the class examines topics such as international trade and the developing countries; trade policy- international institutions and their interaction with domestic institutions; and foreign direct investment.

Expected learning outcomes: Students will be able to draw upon multidisciplinary sources including economics, political science, other social sciences and policy-oriented materials to assess the issues and problems of IPE and their significance in evaluating international trade,
FDI and the developing countries. Students will learn to develop critical reading, thinking, and writing of IPE topics namely global issues related to trade, development and their impact on poverty, inequality, environment, and climate change.

Readings and activities:
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:

Activities: Students will participate in class discussion to answer a list of review questions designed to help students understand this week’s concepts. Students’ contribution will be counted toward their overall participation credits.

**Foreign Aid**

**Topic description:** This week the class will cover foreign aid, its channels, actors, effectiveness and drawbacks.

**Expected learning outcomes:** The students will be able understand the sources and forms of foreign aid, its effects and limitations.

Readings and activities:
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:
Activities: Presentation group 1 starts this week. The audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

International Finance and Development

Topic description: This week the class surveys the dynamisms of international finance and development; wealth disparity domestically and globally; and alternatives outside the existing mainstream systems and actors.

Expected learning outcomes: Students will be able to develop critical reading, thinking, and writing of IPE topics namely global issues related to finance and development and their impact on poverty and inequality.

Readings and activities:
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:

Activities: Presentation group 2: the audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

Multinational Corporations and the Internationalization of Production

Topic description: This week the class examines historical and contemporary multinational corporations and the internationalization of production and the effects these have on a variety of individuals, nations and international systems.

Expected learning outcomes: Students will be able to understand the origin of MNCs and how their operation has changed overtime. They will obtain the knowledge about the internationalisation of production and its effects.

Readings and activities:
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:

**Activities:** Presentation group 3: the audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

**Problems of Development**

**Topic description:** This week explores problems of development including the causes such as the traditional conceptualization of development, the political divide, actors and approaches. The class will also survey the consequences of inappropriate policies and implementation such as economic decline, further conflicts and bad governance.

**Expected learning outcomes:**
Students will be able to develop critical reading, thinking, and writing of IPE topics namely global issues related to development and their impact on poverty, inequality, and conflicts.

**Readings and activities:**
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:

**Activities:** Presentation group 4: the audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

**The Political Economy of International Organizations**

**Topic description:** This week the class discusses about the political economy of international organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF, the UN as well as that of international and national NGOs. Cases will be studied.

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students will be able to discuss about the political economy of international organisations, the interactions between the governmental and non-governmental organisations.

**Readings and activities:**
Core readings:
Supplementary readings:

Activities: Presentation group 5: the audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

**IPE and Political Regime**

**Topic description:** This week the class will survey the interplay between international political economy and political regime. It looks at global markets and national politics; globalization and the decline of the welfare state in less-developed countries; IMF programs and government spending; and cooperation, cooptation, and rebellion.

**Expected learning outcomes:** The student will be able to draw upon multidisciplinary sources including economics, political science, other social sciences and policy-oriented materials to assess the issues and problems of IPE and Political Regime.

**Readings and activities:**

Core readings:

Supplementary readings:

**Activities:** Presentation group 6: the audience should be attentive to the presented content which will allow them to participate in the Q&A. Students’ contribution in the Q&A will be awarded participation credits according to the quality of their answer and discussion.

### International Migration

**Topic description:** This week will examine the political economy of international migration. This covers the discussion of labor market competition and individual preferences over immigration policy; migrant remittances; and racism, xenophobia or markets.

**Expected learning outcomes:** The student will be able to draw upon multidisciplinary sources in evaluating the interplay between globalization, inequality, poverty, conflicts, climate change and migration. Students will be able to discuss about immigration policy and the relationship about migrant remittances and development.

**Readings and activities:**

**Core readings:**

**Supplementary readings:**

**Activities:** Students will participate in brainstorming exercise and class discussion to answer a list of review questions. These questions are designed to help students understand this week’s concepts and express their understanding in their own words. Students’ contribution will be counted toward their overall participation credits.

### Globalization and Current Problems in the International Political Economy

**Topic description:** This week discusses globalization and current problems in the International Political Economy such as the environmental, economic and social problems as well as income inequality.

**Expected learning outcomes:** The student will be able to understand the political-economy interplay of globalization and current problems. They will be able develop critical thinking about various aspects of globalization and problems on the environment, society and economy.
Readings and activities:
Core readings:

Supplementary readings:
- “The Euro Crisis,” special issue of *The Political Economist* Fall 2015

Activities: Students answer a list of questions for the purpose of final review.