

POLI 4046: International Political Economy

Tuesdays 6:00-8:50pm Fall 2016

116 Stubbs Hall

Instructor

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30pm or by appointment

Course Description: This is an advanced undergraduate course in International Political Economy (IPE), including topics such as international trade, international money, international development, and globalization. The course will focus on both technical elements of international economics as well as the international and domestic political processes which affect and are affected by international economic activities. It is expected that by the end of the course students will be able to use theories of international political economy to analyze contemporary events, and use the technical models to understand the motivations and incentives facing political and individual economic actors. Students are required to have taken POLI 2057 prior to this course, and while there are no formal economic prerequisites students will benefit from having taken an introductory course in macroeconomics. Students without exposure to one or both of these areas may find it necessary to do additional reading beyond the material listed on the syllabus.

Required Texts:

Oatley, Thomas. 2010. *International Political Economy*. 5th edition. Pearson Longman.

Sachs, Jeffrey. 2005. *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time*. Penguin Press.

Easterly, William. 2006. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. Penguin Press.

Additional Texts:

Cohn, Theodore. 2005. *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*. 3rd edition. Pearson Longman.

List, Friedrich. 1991. *National System of Political Economy*. Translated by Sampson S. Lloyd. A.M. Kelley.

Polanyi, Karl. 2001. *The Great Transformation*. Beacon Press.

Academic articles also listed on the syllabus can be downloaded via the LSU library website. Each of the included books, with the exception of the Oatley, has been submitted to Middleton library for inclusion with the course reserves.

Course Requirements: The structure of the class will be a mix of lecture as well as group discussion. To help facilitate the class discussion, it is imperative that students come prepared to each class having read that week's material. It would also be beneficial if students prepared their questions from the week's reading for discussion during class.

A few notes on participation:

1. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. Students uncomfortable speaking in front of the class are encouraged to come to office hours to discuss the material. Participation in office hours will count towards the class participation grade.

2. Many of the issues and approaches utilized in international relations are subject to debate. Students are therefore encouraged to question the material in a thoughtful and respectful manner. No student will be penalized for presenting an argument which questions the material presented; all perspectives are welcome, although they are also fair game for class discussion and debate.

3. In order to facilitate class discussion and preserve an environment in which all students are encouraged to participate, please keep the thrust of your class contributions directed at the material and arguments presented and not at fellow class members. Comments of a personal nature directed against fellow students will not be tolerated.

Grading Policy: The grading breakdown is as follows:

Attendance: 10%

Class Discussion Leadership 10%

Critical Analysis Project: 20%

Mid-term Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Letter Grades and Percentages

A+: 97-100 B+ 87-89 C+: 77-79 D+: 67-69 F: 59 or below

A: 93-96 B: 83-86 C: 73-76 D: 63-66

A-: 90-92 B-: 80-82 C-: 70-72 D-: 60-62

Additional Notes on Grading:

- Students are allowed 2 absences without penalty. The attendance grade will be calculated as $[(\text{Number of classes attended})/(\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken}-2)]*100$. This means that the maximum possible attendance grade is $100+[(2/\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken})*100]$
- Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a valid excuse for absence as defined by LSU Policy Statement 22.
- The calculated final percentage will be rounded up to the nearest integer for assignment of the course letter grade.

- If you feel that an error has been made in the grading of your assignment, a written submission specifying the contested question(s) and/or issue(s) as well as the detailed reason why you feel an error has been made, including supporting documentation, should be given to the course instructor prior to scheduling a meeting to discuss the issue. Only grading issues pertaining to the substance or format of an argument or factual error on the part of the instructor will be considered eligible for review.

General Statement on Academic Integrity:

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

Plagiarism and Citation Method:

As a student at LSU, it is your responsibility to refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting and how to properly cite each respectively. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please consult with the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats (links are also provided on the course *Moodle* page).

Group work and unauthorized assistance:

All work must be completed without assistance unless explicit permission for group or partner work is given by the faculty member. This is critical so that the professor can assess your performance on each assignment. If a group/partner project is assigned, the student may still have individual work to complete. Read the syllabus and assignment directions carefully. You might have a project with group work and a follow up report that is independently written. When in doubt, e-mail the faculty member or ask during a class session. Seeking clarification is your responsibility as a student. Assuming group/partner work is okay without permission constitutes a violation of the LSU Code of Student Conduct.

Students requiring special accommodation: Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and the instructor, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Disability Services, 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

Course Outline & Reading Schedule

Week 1 – August 23 - Introduction

Introduction

Video: “Commanding Heights”

Part I: Theories and History

Week 2 – August 30 - History

Oatley – Chapter 1

Cohn – Chapter 2

Polanyi – Chapters 1 & 2

Week 3 – September 6 - Theories of IPE

Cohn: Chapters 3-5

Fallows, James. 1993. “How the World Works.” *Atlantic Monthly* 272(6): 60-87.

Part II: International Trade

Week 4 – September 13 - Theory of International Trade

Oatley: Chapter 3

Week 5 – September 20 - Globalization

Oatley – Chapter 16

Fallows, James. 2008. “The \$1.4 Trillion Question.” *Atlantic Monthly* 301(1): 36-48.

Week 6 – September 27 - Politics of International Trade

Oatley: Chapters 4 & 5

Crook, Clive. 2007: “Beyond Belief.” *Atlantic Monthly* 300(3): 44-46.

Week 7 – October 4 - Alternative views of International Trade

Polanyi : Introduction (by Fred Block), Chapters 3, 4, 6, 19, 21

List: Book 2, Chapters 11, 13-16; Book 3, Chapter 31

Group leadership presentations and class discussion on Polanyi & List

Week 8 – October 11 - Midterm Week

Midterm Exam (in class)

Part III: Multinational Corporations & Globalization**Week 9 – October 18 - MNCs**

Oatley: Chapters 8 & 9

Part IV: International Monetary Relations**Week 10 – October 25 - The System of International Monetary Relations**

Oatley: Chapters 10 & 11

Week 11 – November 1 -The Politics of International Monetary Relations

Oatley – Chapters 12 & 13

Strange, Susan. 1971. “The Politics of International Currencies.” *World Politics* 23(2): 215-31.

Group leadership presentation and discussion on Strange

Part V: LDC’s, Aid and the IFIs**Week 12 – November 8 - Trade and Development**

Oatley – Chapters 6 & 7

Week 13 – November 15 - LDCs and IFIs

Oatley: Chapters 14 & 15

Cohen, Benjamin J. 1982. “Balance-of-Payments Financing: Evolution of a Regime”. *International Organization* 36(2): 457-478.

Group leadership presentation and discussion on Cohen

Week 14 – November 22 – IMF Conditionality: The Experience of Jamaica

Film – “Life and Debt”

Week 15 – November 29 – Competing Perspectives on Aid

December 2 - Easterly: Chapters 1, 2, 6, 10, 11

Sachs: Chapters 1-4, 12, 13, 15, 16

Group leadership presentations and discussion on Sachs & Easterly

Week 16 – Final Exam

Tuesday, December 6 beginning at 8:00pm (as determined by Registrar’s issued final exam schedule)

Critical analysis projects are due by Friday, December 9th at 9:00am.

Group Discussion Leadership

Each student will participate in a group which is tasked with leading the in-class discussion on an assigned supplementary reading. The group will give a 10-15 minute presentation summarizing the critical components of the assigned work, and also prepare an accompanying handout to be distributed to the other students in the class. Students are encouraged to conceptualize of the presentation and handout as a precis or “Cliff’s Notes” version of the reading, covering such areas as:

- What is the main thesis of the work?
- What critical assumptions does the author make, or supporting material does he or she use, to support the argument?
- How does the work relate to other material discussed in class and/or contemporary events?

Following the presentation the group members will lead an in-class discussion of the material. Assignment grades will be determined based on the thoroughness and accuracy of the presentation and handout, style and grammar, and how well they satisfy the assignment requirements (including not exceeding the time allotted for the in-class presentation).

Each student will participate in one of the following groups

Group	Date	Material
Group 1	10/4/16	Polanyi Chapters Intro, 3, 4
Group 2	10/4/16	Polanyi Chapters 6, 19, 21
Group 3	10/4/16	List
Group 4	11/1/16	Strange
Group 5	11/15/16	Cohen
Group 6	11/29/16	Sachs
Group 7	11/29/16	Easterly

Students will be assigned to groups in a manner to be discussed in class. Each group member who participates in a project will receive the same grade for each portion of the assignment, with no exceptions. Should you have difficulties with your group issues must be raised with the instructor prior to submitting the paper and/or giving the in-class presentation. Issues raised after this time will not be able to be accommodated

Critical Analysis Project

All students enrolled in the course will submit a paper which critically analyses a contemporary issue of his or her choosing in international political economy. The purpose of the project is to summarize the selected issue and apply the relevant models and theories from the course and broader IPE literature to improve understanding of the matter and potential resolutions. Questions that should be addressed in the analysis include, but are not limited to, the following:

- What is the issue of contention/interest and who are the actors involved?
- What is the history of the issue/actors?
- What are the suggested potential resolutions or outcomes for the issue?
- How does this issue relate to the materials we have studied in class and other literature? (i.e. theories, problems, etc)
- What are the primary factors which encourage or inhibit cooperation
- What are possible resolutions to the issue, and how likely is each possible outcome?

Submissions should be 10-12 pages in length (excluding figures or works cited). All work must properly cite any relevant materials, including all arguments that are not the original contributions of the author. Failure to properly attribute credit for any cited or utilized material will result in a grade reduction of at least one half letter grade or a maximum of failing the assignment. Papers must be emailed to the instructor in .pdf format by the date indicated in the syllabus.

The project will be judged on the thoroughness, accuracy and creativity of the analysis, and the appropriate use and application of the relevant scholarship on the topic including materials not discussed in class. Additional grading consideration will be given to the technical quality of the materials, including grammar, editing, and clarity.