

*P SC 3553 – Spring 2018*  
*International Political Economy*

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Time: MW 3:00 – 4:15  
Location: Adams Hall, 304  
Office Hours: R 2:30 – 4:30  
*and by appointment.*

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## **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to International Political Economy (IPE) – the study of the interaction between states and markets. The global exchange of goods, services, and money does not occur in isolation. It is facilitated or obstructed by state agents, typically acting in pursuit of their own interests (i.e. wealth, prestige, and power). Likewise, global market forces often play a significant role in the social and political outcomes we observe, both within countries and between them. Over the semester, we will take stock of these relationships. Students will be introduced to both classic and contemporary thinking, and will use logic and evidence to critically evaluate the world trade system, multinational corporations, monetary policy, international financial institutions, and the phenomenon we generally refer to as “globalization.”

## **Course Goals**

All students who apply themselves should leave this course with a general understanding of IPE, and a more refined skill set with which to objectively evaluate events in the world economy. These are simple but important goals. The first is largely about content, and it is crucial content to know if you are to be a good, informed citizen of this increasingly interconnected world. The second is largely about how you process information and evidence and speaks to your ability to reason in an enlightened way. This payoff goes beyond knowledge about political economy, by helping you to be more thoughtful, creative, and productive – important traits to have as you transition into professional careers and life after college.

## **Learning Outcomes**

A college education is not merely about exposure to ideas and memorization of facts (though these things certainly play a part). It’s about honing your ability to *do* things; and not just anything, but the types of things that require higher-order thinking and reflection. This is only possible through practice. Here are some of the key things you will gain practice doing in this course:

- Explaining phenomena of interest using sound theory and logic
- Identifying patterns and matching them with theory
- Appraising and critiquing theory and argument
- Analyzing data and interpreting evidence

## Texts and Materials

There are three **required** books:

- (1) Thomas Oatley. 2011. *International Political Economy*. 5th ed. New York: Longman
- (2) Jagdish Bhagwati. 2007. *In Defense of Globalization*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- (3) Rodrik, Dani. 2011. *The Globalization Paradox*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co.

You may buy or borrow or rent these books, new or used, in electronic or paper format, and from the campus bookstore or a different source. All that matters is that you find a way to read the assigned material. Articles and other materials will also be assigned throughout the course. This content will be available on Canvas, downloadable from the **Files** page or linked, as appropriate. While I certainly will not add any more required books to the syllabus, I reserve the right to add other required (freely-available) content over the course of the semester. You will be made aware of this when I do.

Though not required, subscribing to a newspaper or news magazine can help you keep up with current events. Along with being a smart habit to get into, this could also help you succeed in this course (and others) by making it easier to relate to the topics we will be discussing. A few **recommended** sources for both general and IPE-specific news and commentary:

- The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>)
- The Wall Street Journal (<http://online.wsj.com/home-page>)
- The Financial Times (<http://www.ft.com/home/us>)
- The Economist (<http://www.economist.com/>)
- Foreign Policy (<http://www.foreignpolicy.com/>)
- Foreign Affairs (<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/>)

In addition, academic political science blogs can provide useful insights into specific, often timely topics. A few worth following are:

- Project Syndicate (<http://www.project-syndicate.org/>)
- The Monkey Cage (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/>)
- The Duck of Minerva (<http://www.whiteoliphant.com/duckofminerva/>)
- Political Violence at a Glance (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>)
- The Quantitative Peace (<http://www.quantitativepeace.com/>)

## Assessment

1. In-Class Exercises (20%): Though I will not keep attendance, there will be several in-class exercises assigned over the semester. I do not have a set number of these, nor a specific timeline, and they will not be announced in advance. However, figure they will occur frequently enough that missing them on a regular basis will have a detrimental effect on your grade, while missing one here or there will have little or no noticeable effect on your final grade.

- Scored on a 0 – 2 scale. 0 = Absent; 1 = Weak; 2 = Strong
- Will typically require you to respond to material covered in class that day.
- Please remember to bring pen and paper, and to write neatly!

2. Short Assignments (20%): You will be required to complete five “short assignments” over the course of the semester (each worth 4% of your final grade).

- Scored on a 0 – 4 scale, with 0 being the lowest possible score and 4 the highest.
- The nature of the assignment is variable, but it will usually reflect the readings assigned for the given topic.
- ~ 1 page in length.
- Due by class time of the day listed (submitted via Canvas). Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. Long Assignments (30%): You will be required to complete three “long assignments” (each worth 10% of your final grade). The first two will correspond with the Bhagwati and Rodrik books, respectively. The subject of the third is TBD. Prompts will be provided for each.

- 3-4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1” margins)
- Submitted to Canvas by class time of the day listed.
- 10 points will be taken from the top each day it is late.

4. Final Exam (30%): There will be a comprehensive take-home final exam due finals week (date/time TBD). It will consist largely of short-answer and essay questions, though it may include some other question types, too. 15 points will be taken from the top if it late; no late exams accepted after 24 hours.

## Final Grades

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59

## **Policies and Other Information**

1. Avoid Disruptions: If you arrive late or leave early (not advised), enter the room quietly. Turn your cell phones and other devices to silent. While I understand that many of you are capable “multi-taskers,” I ask that you refrain from using social media, texting/chatting with friends, etc... during class time. This can be disruptive to the people around you.

2. Technology: That said, I **do** encourage you to bring your laptop or tablet to class. Along with being useful learning and note-taking tools, we may also have some class activities that will be easier to do if you have your devices with you.

3. Make-up / Late Submissions: No late submissions accepted for the “short assignments.” 10 points will be deducted from the “long assignments” for each day they are late. 15 points will be deducted from the final exam if it is late; it will not be accepted after 24 hours. No exceptions to these rules. Please be mindful of due dates and times.

4. Citation Style: Use the American Political Science Association (APSA) guidelines for formatting citations and references. Bibliographies **do not** count toward page limits, where applicable.

5. Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated. All work submitted to this course must be original. Sources must be properly cited. Major written assignments (including the final exam) will be run through Turnitin. This is a program that crosschecks published sources, the internet, and other work by students. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade (F) for the assignment or even the course, and may be reported for further disciplinary measures. If you wish to use work from another class, you **must** obtain permission from both instructors. Doing so without permission will be considered cheating. Please consult the [Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity](#) if you have any questions.

6. Disability Accommodation: OU provides a wide range of assistance to enrolled students with physical, learning, or other disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#).

7. Religious Holidays: It is the policy of the university to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Please see the instructor immediately if you will need to miss class any time during the semester.

8. Contacting the Instructor: The best way to get in touch with me is through email. Of course, you can also come see me during office hours, or by appointment if necessary.

## Course Schedule

You are expected to have done the reading *by the day/week it is assigned*. While the readings from the required books are fixed, I reserve the right to add (freely accessible) articles and other reading materials to the syllabus over the course of the semester. If any such changes are made, they will be done in advance and you will be informed. **Assignments and due dates are highlighted in yellow.**

### *Topic 1 (Jan. 17, 22, 24): Introduction to IPE*

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 1 (Jan. 24)
- Assignments Due:
  - **Short Assignment #1, Jan. 24**

### *Topic 2 (Jan 29, 31; Feb. 5, 7, 12): International Politics of Trade*

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 3 (Jan. 29)
  - IPE: Ch. 2 (Feb. 5)
- Assignments Due:
  - **Short Assignment #2, Feb. 7**

### *Topic 3 (Feb. 14, 19, 21, 26): Domestic Politics of Trade*

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 4 (Feb. 14)
  - IPE: Ch. 5 (Feb. 21)
- Assignments Due:
  - **Long Assignment #1 (Bhagwati), Feb. 26**

### *Topic 4 (Feb. 28; March 5, 7, 12): The Political Economy of Development*

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 6 (Feb. 28)
  - IPE: Ch. 7 (March 5)
- Assignments Due: None

### *Topic 5 (March 14, 26, 28): Foreign Direct Investment and the Multinational Corporation*

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 8 (March 14)
  - IPE: Ch. 9 (March 28)
- Assignments Due:
  - **Short Assignment #3, March 14**
  - **Long Assignment #2 (Rodrik), March 28**

***Topic 6 (April 2, 4, 9, 11, 16): Politics of Money***

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 10 (April 2)
  - IPE: Ch. 11 (April 9)
  - IPE: Chs. 12 & 13 (April 16)
- Assignments Due:
  - Short Assignment #4, **April 16**

***Topic 7 (April 18, 23, 25): Debt, Crisis, and Reform***

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Chs. 14 & 15 (April 23)
- Assignments Due:
  - Short Assignment #5, **April 23**

***Topic 8 (April 30; May 2): Conclusion***

- Readings Due:
  - IPE: Ch. 16 (April 30)
- Assignments Due:
  - Long Assignment #3 (TBD), **April 30**

***Finals Week: Take-Home Exam***

- Due date/time TBD