

Political Science 323/492, Spring 2003
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Issues in International Political Economy

The ways we live our lives today and our future opportunities lie at the intersection of politics and economics, as played out in an increasingly global arena. We are impacted by the transnational movement of capital, goods, services and information in ways that blur the traditional distinctions between politics and markets and between local and global interests. In this course we confront complex questions about political power and economic interests, nation-states and globalization. For example:

- Are the political interests of states driven by international economics or *vice versa*?
- Are economic interests shaped at the international, national or local level?
- Can national governments control their own destinies, or have economic interdependence, huge transnational corporations, global finance, and regional trading blocks made national sovereignty obsolete?
- What are the costs and benefits of free trade?
- Can underdeveloped countries prosper in the global economy? Are the solutions to poverty found at the local, national, regional or global levels?
- Should citizens expect their governments to protect them from, or lead them into the global political economy?
- What are the effects of economic globalization on fragile natural environments and traditional cultures? Can development be balanced with sustainability?
- Do we have an adequate set of theories and concepts to address the above questions?

In one semester we cannot hope to thoroughly address, let alone answer, all of these questions. But we can learn to think about them and understand how they affect us by learning the relevant concepts, theories and methods and examining some of the great historical questions, current issues and the rapidly unfolding challenges of the international political economy.

Readings:

There are two required textbooks for this class. Both are available for purchase at the bookstore. There will also be occasional assignments made available on regular reserve at Rasmuson Library or placed on electronic reserve. These will be announced in class.

Theodore H. Cohn. *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, second edition. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc. 2003.

C. Roe Goddard, Cronin, Patrick, Dash, Kishore C. *International Political Economy: State-Market Relations in a Changing Global Order*, second edition. Boulder and London: Lynne Reinner Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Course Requirements:

This course includes lectures, group discussions, student presentations and related activities. Some topics will be covered by lectures, others by discussions of assigned readings. Periodically, students will be assigned presentations or discussion questions based on assigned readings, current events and/or supplementary materials. Therefore, your attendance and participation are required for every class meeting.

Exams will consist of identification questions and/or short essays. Study guides will be provided for all exams.

Exam #1: basic concepts and theories	15%
Exam #2: money and debt	15%
Exam #3: trade (take home)	15%
Exam #4: TNCs and development	15%
Position paper and presentation (NAFTA Project)	25%*
Attendance and participation:	15%**

You are also required to stay informed of relevant current events. A list of recommended sources is attached to this syllabus.

***The NAFTA Project:**

January 2004 will mark the tenth anniversary of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). During the last few weeks of the semester, we will take the opportunity to evaluate the costs and benefits of NAFTA, using the theories, concepts and historical lessons we have learned about free trade, development, and international finance and investment. The NAFTA Project will involve additional readings (to be announced), individual and group exercises, presentations and discussions, and a “position paper.” Further details and instructions will be distributed in class.

****Important note on attendance:**

Attendance is mandatory. Six *unexcused* absences during the semester will lower your course grade by a full letter; e.g., C work + 6 unexcused absences = a D for the course.

Failure to appear for a scheduled presentation or group discussion, except in cases of documented emergencies, will result in failure for that assignment.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive on time. If you must miss all or part of a class it is your responsibility to inform the instructor of the reason and to find out what you missed that day.

You must do all reading as assigned and come to class prepared to discuss and analyze the day’s assignments. You are responsible for all assignments and information given in class, orally or in writing, whether you were in class or not.

Attendance and participation are significant portions of your grade. If you are only an occasional visitor to the class, do not expect to pass.

Course Schedule:

We will do our best to stay on schedule. Changes, if needed, will be announced in class.

Dates	Topics	Readings
1/17	Introduction	
1/20	No class; ML King Day observed	
1/22	What is International Political Economy?	Cohn, pp. 1-23 Goddard, pp. 1-24
1/24	A brief, institutional history of the IPE	Cohn, pp. 25-65
1/27	Theories and concepts: Realism, economic nationalism, and hegemonic stability	Goddard, pp. 25-32 Cohn, pp. 67-92 Goddard, pp. 85-98
1/29, 31	Theories and concepts: Liberalism and interdependence	Cohn, pp. 93-118 Goddard, pp. 33-47
2/3	Theories and concepts: Marxism, structuralism and imperialism	Cohn, pp.119-145 Goddard, pp. 151-165
2/5, 7	No regular class meeting; discussion groups on contending theories meet	Goddard, pp. 49-83, 99-149, 167-211
2/10	Group presentations: contending theories	
2/12	Exam #1	
2/14, 17, 18	The international politics of money	Cohn, pp. 147-186 Goddard, pp. 215-314
2/21, 24, 26	International finance I: borrowing and debt	Cohn, pp. 187-22 Goddard, pp. 317-366
2/28	Exam #2	
3/3, 5	International trade I: managed liberalism	Cohn, pp. 225-271
3/7, 10, 12	International trade II: regionalism and globalization	Cohn, pp. 273-317 Goddard, pp. 369-412
	Exam #3 distributed, 3/12	
3/14	Group discussion on free trade	
3/17-21	No class; Spring Break	
3/24	Exam #3 due	
	International finance II: FDI and TNCs	Cohn, pp. 319-369 Goddard, pp. 415-456
3/26, 28	No regular class meetings; discussion groups on development, N-S relations and sustainability meet	Cohn, pp. 371-414 Goddard, pp. 459-493
3/31	Group presentations on development, etc.	
4/2	Current events: presentations and discussion	TBA
4/4	Exam #4	
4/7	Conclusions	Cohn, pp. 417-438 Goddard, pp. 495-507
4/9	The NAFTA Project instructions and assignments distributed	TBA
4/11-5/5	The NAFTA Project	TBA

