



International Political Economy

**Academic year 2019,
Full Semester**

Class Times:

Instructor: Dr. Pierfrancesco Moscuza

Telephone contacts:

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Grading:

Credits: 3

I. Rationale:

Economics is one of the four social sciences and probably the one that more closely affects the life of each one of us. No matter what is one's profession, economy is always a fundamental part of everyday contemporary life. Every single day we interact with other human beings through economic relations, sometimes in formal ways some other in informal ways. Political economy is the branch of economics that study the interactions of politics with economics, the crossing point when the activities and theories of politicians meet the activities and theories of economists. This class will explore the deep relation between political power and economic relations in the contemporary international system.

For this class students will be required to participate actively and regularly; to work on their own and in groups; to link economic and political theories together; to analyze and understand the political decisions of main actors and the economic consequences of them.

II. Course Description, Purpose, Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment

A. Course Description

This course provides the students with the analytical tools needed in order to understand how international politics and international economics work. In specific, this course will analyze: how political decisions are taken, why they differs from country to country and what ideological, rational or economics motives lay behind them. The objectives stated above will be achieved through: the study of international political economy theories, and, the historic evolution of political and economic relations amongst modern nation-states. Students are required to participate in class seminars and to lead panel discussions on assigned reading topics. They will also be required to choose particular subject areas to develop their expertise, conduct oral presentations and submit a research essay approved by the teacher.



B. Purpose of the Course

Specifically, students will gain familiarity with the origins and development of international political economy theories, which are strictly related to theories in other fields of social sciences such as, sociology.

C. Specific Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Develop social and political interaction skills for making a more positive impact on group cohesiveness and group processes

Assessment Methods: Class participation, discussions, group exercises.

- 2) Acquire a greater understanding of political and economic issues related to the workings of states, international organizations and diplomatic relations, such as:
 - a. The interaction of national governments in the International Monetary Fund, The World Bank and the World Trade Organization.
 - b. The economic and political factors that motivates the foreign policy decision-making process.
 - c. The linkages between domestic, regional and international political economy.
 - d. The political and economic instruments used to guarantee global economic stability, security and promote peace.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.

- 3) Acquire a more advanced knowledge of mainstream theories in the study and analysis of international political economy and social sciences in general.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.

- 4) Recognize the sources of international, regional and sub-regional economic and political conflicts.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, discussions, case studies, reading assignments, essay composition and final examinations.



- 5) Gain experience in presenting information to a wide and not always friendly audience by:
- choosing the appropriate language,
 - understanding the dynamics of publicly expressing themselves both verbally and in writing,
 - importance of body language,
 - tone manner, active versus passive listening,
 - gaining acceptance for ideas,
 - self-control techniques and effective face-to-face interaction with others.

Assessment Methods: Class participation, group exercises, engagement in group discussions, oral presentations.

- 6) Develop an understanding of the required research skills, critical thinking, and writing skills based on:
- the rational and logical construction of theory-building,
 - methodology,
 - gathering primary and secondary research data,
 - formatting a written formal style in papers or research essays.

Assessment Methods: Class participation and discussions; reading assignments and general academic papers such as, books and journal articles; compose written assignment.

D. Instructional Strategy

The format of the classes for this course will be divided in three stages:

Stage 1) lecture given by the teacher;

Stage 2) one oral presentation (**15-20 minutes long**) given every week by a different student;

Stage 3) seminars and discussion to be attended weekly by all students, but will also include: videos, PowerPoint presentations and the use of internet in order to gather relevant material for research.

E. Description of Course Requirements and Assessment Methods

The grading system follows the university's general policy in measuring student performance for grades in the course. Subjective performance is measured by attendance, punctuality, participation, and the willingness to assume leadership roles in course activities, e.g., discussions, etc.



Course Requirements	Notes	Evaluation Weights	Percent Grade
Seminars	In class		25%
Oral Presentation	In class		25%
Midterm Exam quiz	In class		25%
Final Exam quiz	In class		25%
Total:			100%

Oral Presentation (50 possible points, 25% of final grade)

There will be one or more oral presentations, (15 to 20 minutes long) in class, consisting of a critique or summary of a weekly topic developed by each student.

Scoring Table for Oral Presentation	Points Possible %	Points
Poise and Confidence	1%	
Knowledge and Preparedness of Material	20%	
Engagement of Participation	3%	
Mode and Effectiveness of Delivery	1%	
Total	25%	

Presentations, once scheduled and committed, will not be rescheduled without teacher authorization and will be graded as 0 Points, if not completed. All presentations should have copies of summaries to all of the class at the time of the presentation, in order to achieve the highest result. Students are invited to use all the means available to them, to deliver the presentation; these include: Power Point presentation, lecture style presentation, use of videos, acetates, photocopies and any other mean they may think useful for a good final outcome.



Students can review a List of Topics presentations, or select a relevant scheduling presentations after the accept the earliest and/or remaining available dates.

that can be used for their oral topic of their own. Students initial scheduled time must

Seminars (25 possible points 12.5% of final grade)

During seminars all students should participate. Students are expected to give contributions, ask questions to the student presenting the oral presentation for that week and engage in discussion with other students expressing their opinions with references to the assigned reading. Students who will show knowledge of extra sources of information, besides those

III. Course Readings and Materials

Please remember that the books listed below contain only the basic notions for this class. Additional material up to date will be given in classroom. Students proactive in the research of recent material on the week topic will be rewarded with extra points.

Ravenhill, J., 2011. *Global Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Gilpin, R., 2001. *Global Political Economy: Understanding The International Economic Order*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Homework assignments, class readings, or articles may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Students should also make use of internet based resources, in order to get hold of journals articles and other relevant sources to the topic discussed each week.

IV. Policies and Procedures:

Behavioral Expectations/Attendance

1. Policies Related To Class Attendance, Lateness, Missed Exams or Assignments

Each student is responsible for all academic work missed during absences. See the University Catalogue for the complete policy on attendance. Classes will vary in their analyses of the readings having material presented by students and/or the instructor for lectures and group participation, e.g. videos, overhead transparencies, PowerPoint, etc. For that reason, attendance is recommended.

2. Information on Participation/types of participation required by the course

Readings and participation are the central elements in the course. The assignments provide details for class discussions, small and large work groups; and will vary on each assigned topic. This is an interactive course and students are expected to read the assigned material prior to class. The amount and quality of participation in activities and discussions will be reflected in the students' final grades.



3. Responsibility to Keep Copies

Remember – it is good practice to keep copies of ALL major assignments/papers you turn in. On rare occasions, work may be lost because of computer failure or other mishaps.

4. Respectful Speech and Actions

Universities, by mission and practice, are committed to fair and respectful consideration of all members of our community, and the greater communities surrounding us. All members

of the University must treat one another as they would wish to be treated themselves, with dignity and concern. As an institution of higher education, we have the obligation to combat racism, sexism, and other forms of bias and to provide an equal educational opportunity.

5. Academic Code of Conduct and Ethics

The University is committed to principles of scholastic honesty. Its members are expected to abide by ethical standards both in their conduct and in their exercise of responsibility towards other members of the community. Each student's conduct is expected to be in accordance with the standards of the University.

V. Course Schedule:

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings
Week-1	Intro to the Syllabus	None
Week-2	The Evolution of International Political Economy and the New Economic Global Order Changes in the world economy The State centric Realist perspective	Gilpin Chap. 1
Week-3	Classic Theories of IPE and the Nature of the Political Economy Liberalism and IPE	Gilpin Chap. 2
Week-4	The Neoclassic Theory and its impact on IPE The discipline of neoclassical economics John Maynard Keynes and the Bretton Woods economic system The Economic and Financial crisis of 1929-1939	Gilpin Chap. 3



Week-5	International Regimes and Hegemony The theory and Politics of international regimes	Gilpin, Chap. 4
Week-6	New Theories of IPE Change and Neoclassical Economics New Theories of IPE	Gilpin Chap. 5
Week-7	The State and the economic domestic dimension National governments and domestic economies Monopoly, Oligopoly and hegemonic powers in national economies Distortion in the free-competition market-based system	Gilpin Chap. 6
Week-8	Midterm	
Week-9	National Systems of Political Economy The American System The Japanese System The Chinese System The European Social System	Gilpin Chap. 7
Week-10	The Trading System The importance of trade for the economy The birth of multinational companies and the European trade based empires Postwar trade regimes and the WTO	Gilpin chap. 8
Week-11	The International Monetary System The origin of money and the meaning of Seignorage The British monetary system The post-war Bretton Woods Gold standard System The current monetary system	Gilpin chap. 9
Week-12	The International Financial System The partial globalization of international finance The nature of financial crises The East Asian financial crisis Regulation vs. no state control	Gilpin Chap. 10
Week-13	The State and the Multinational Corporations Foreign Direct Investments Different type of global corporations The role of MNC in the national and international	Gilpin Chap. 11



	economic systems	
Week-14	Economic development and Regional Integration Neoliberalism vs. Development economics Sustainability and the Millennium development Goals The EU, NAFTA, ASEAN and the different forms of regionalism	Gilpin Chap. 12, 13
Week-15	Final Exam	