

POLI 4046: International Political Economy
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-2:50pm Fall 2020
139 Allen

Instructor

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- Office Hours: Online via Zoom Wednesdays from 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment. Zoom Meeting ID and password will be posted to the course Moodle site.

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. 2012. *International Political Economy*. 5th edition. Pearson Longman.

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 and may also be available on the course Moodle page. When available, books have been placed on reserve in Middleton Library.

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.

COVID-19 Statement: We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.
2. In order to protect all campus community members, the University requires everyone to wear facemasks/cloths on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you have to cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.
5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current [CDC guidelines](#).

Daily Symptom Checker: You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given feedback on whether or not you are certified to return to campus and attend your classes. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report it in your daily symptom checker application.

Resources for Students: Your health and safety are LSU's top priority. If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support. General health care and mental health support are available for all enrolled students through telehealth appointments.

Unexpected Changes to Courses: Due to the unpredictable nature of the current situation, the format of the course and/or requirements may be forced to change, and if this is the case that students will be given appropriate notification.

Grading Policy: The grading breakdown is as follows:

Graded Elements

- Attendance: 15%
- Discussion Papers: 20%
- Mid-term Exam: 20%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Critical Analysis Project: 35%

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 may accrue attendance credit by either attending class or watching a recording of the missed class on Moodle (if a recording is available). If a class (or classes) is moved online for any reason, students may also gain attendance by logging into the live stream of that class session via Zoom.
- Students are allowed 3 absences without penalty and the attendance grade will be calculated as $[(\text{Number of classes attended})/(\text{Number of classes in which attendance was taken}-3)]*100$. Absences after the third may be forgiven with written evidence that the absence complies with [LSU Policy Statement 22](#) or LSU's guidelines regarding COVID-19. Written documentation for the first three absences is not necessary as they are automatically forgiven.
- Missed exams may not be made up without appropriate documentation of a valid excuse for absence as defined by LSU Policy Statement 22 or LSU's guidelines regarding COVID-19..
- 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.

Discussion Papers: Students will be asked throughout the course to write brief (3-5 page) discussion papers on an assigned work, for which specific prompts and due dates will be given as the semester progresses. Each submission will be evaluated on the thoroughness, accuracy and quality of the argument relative to the assigned reading, as well as the quality of style and grammar.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be posted to Moodle throughout the semester and will jointly constitute 10% of each student's grade.

Critical Analysis Project: Each student will submit a paper which critically analyzes a contemporary issue in IPE using material from the course. More details on this project can be found at the end of the syllabus.

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

Part I: History and Theories

Week 1 – August 25 & 27 – Introduction

- August 25: Syllabus Review and Course Introduction
- August 27: Video: “Commanding Heights”

Week 2 – September 1 & 3 - History

- January 18: Oatley – Chapter 1
- Cohn – Chapter 2

Week 3 – September 8 & 10 – 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 15 & 17– Theory of International Trade

- Oatley: Chapter 3

Week 5 – September 22 & 24 - Politics of International Trade

- Oatley: Chapters 4 & 5
- Crook, Clive. 2007: “Beyond Belief.” *Atlantic Monthly* 300(3): 44-46.

Week 6 – September 29 & October 1 – Alternative Views of International Trade

- September 29: Polanyi – Introduction (by Fred Block), Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 21
- October 1:
 - Ruggie, John Gerard. 1982. International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order. *International Organization* 36(2): 379-415.
 - Rodrik, Dani. 2017. It's Time to Think for Yourself on Free Trade. *Foreign Policy*. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/27/its-time-to-think-for-yourself-on-free-trade/>

Week 7 – October 6 & 8

- October 6: Midterm Exam Review Session
- October 8: Midterm Exam

Week 8 – October 13 & 15 – Alternative View of International Trade (continued)

- October 13: List: Book 2, Chapters 11, 13-16; Book 3, Chapter 31
- October 15: Farrell, Henry and Abraham L. Newman. 2019. Weaponized Interdependence. *International Security* 44(1): 42-79.

Part III: International Monetary Relations

Week 9 – October 20 & 22 - The System of International Monetary Relations

- Oatley: Chapters 10 & 11

Week 10 – October 27 & 29 - The Politics of International Monetary Relations

- Oatley – Chapters 12 & 13

Week 11 – November 3 & 5 – The Politics of International Monetary Relations, cont'd

- November 3
 - Collins and Gagnon – Rethinking the Phillips Curve
 - Copelovitch, Mark. This Time Should Have Been Different. Working Paper.
 - Avent, Ryan. 2017. Making Monetary Policy Great Again. *Democracy* 45 (Summer).
- November 5: Strange, Susan. 1971. "The Politics of International Currencies." *World Politics* 23(2): 215-31

Part IV: LDC's and the IFIs

Week 12 – November 10 & 12 – 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.

Part V: Modern Monetary Theory

Week 13 – November 17 & 19

- November 17:
 - Blanchard – Public Debt
 - Matthews – Modern Monetary Theory, explained
 - Despain – Book Review - The Deficit Myth
 - Econofact – What is Modern Monetary Theory
 - Whittaker – The Conversation – MMT
- November 19:
 - Krugman – What’s Wrong With Functional Finance
 - Krugman– How Much Does Heterodoxy Help Progressives
 - Quiggin – MMT Neither Modern, Nor Monetary, Nor (Mainly) Theoretical
 - Rogoff – Modern Monetary Nonsense
 - Breunig – What’s the Point of Modern Monetary Theory

Week 14 – November 24 & 26 – Thanksgiving Week

- November 24: Film – “Life and Debt”
- November 26: No class, Thanksgiving Day

Week 15 – December 1 & 3

- December 1: Unscheduled day for remaining course material
- December 3: Critical Analysis Project Workshop Sessions

Week 16 – Final Exam Week

- Critical analysis project must be submitted via Moodle by 5pm Central Time on Tuesday, December 8th.

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 8-10 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.