

PLSC 380K: History of the Global Economy (Fall 2023)

Tue & Thu 8:30am-9:55am

Science Library 310

Instructor: Prof. Katja B. Kleinberg

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Office Hours (Zoom): Mon 10-11:30am & Tue 2:30-4pm

Office Hours (in person, LNG 55): by appointment only

Overview

Trade wars. Declining poverty. Economic booms and recessions. Increasing inequality. For better or worse, the interaction between *national* governments and a *global* economy is shaping the lives of more than 7.9 billion people today. This undergraduate course provides a political economy perspective on the history of the modern world economy since the beginning of the 20th century.

We will attempt to answer the following questions: How do technological progress, economic interests, and political processes interact to produce a variety of outcomes, such as multinational corporations, regional underdevelopment, and international monetary institutions? How has the modern capitalist economy evolved? How was it able to outlive its main competitors, socialism and fascism? What are the immediate and the long-term causes and consequences of the most recent global economic crises? In developing answers to these questions, we will engage writings in international political economy and economic history, contemporary research in political science, as well as analyses of current events.

By the end of the semester, students will have acquired (1) an understanding of the historical context of milestones in modern economic history, such as the Corn Laws, the Gold Standard, and the rise and fall of the Bretton Woods system, (2) an overview of the different ways in which relations between the states, societies, and markets have been organized in the past 200 years, and (3) an understanding of the role of security interests in international economic policy.

In addition, the course is designed to engage and develop analytical, argumentation, and writing skills. The course assignments are also designed to train students to put current events into historical and theoretical context. A final goal of this course is to establish habits of keeping informed about current events and of engaging sources and materials critically.

Course Format

The format for this course is **in-person** lecture and discussion. This course is a 4-credit course, which means that in addition to the scheduled lectures/discussions, students are expected to do at least 9.5 hours of course-related work each week during the semester. This includes time spent completing assigned readings and podcasts, preparing written assignments, and other tasks that must be completed to earn credit in the course.

Contribution to Degree Requirements

General Education Learning Objectives. This course fulfills a General Education requirement (N).

Accordingly, students in this course will demonstrate:

- knowledge of major concepts, models, and issues (and their interrelationships) of at least one of the social sciences: anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, or sociology;
- an understanding of the methods used by social scientists to explore social phenomena, including, when appropriate to the discipline, observation, hypothesis development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis by mathematics or other interpretive frameworks.

Within the Political Science Major, this course:

- helps fulfill the requirement for 10 PLSC courses for political science majors,
- fulfills the requirement of at least 1 course in international relations,
- helps fulfill the requirement for 6 upper-level courses (300- or 400-level).

Course Materials

The following book is **required** for this course. It is available for purchase at the Binghamton University bookstore, but you may purchase it from other sources.

Jeffrey A. Frieden. 2020. *Global Capitalism*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton. Revised reissue.

All other assigned readings, audio-visual material, and other resources will be available on the MyCourses page for this class. They are marked [MC] in the reading list.

For each week and topic, there will be a list of key concepts and questions shared on MyCourses to guide students' engagement with the required readings/materials. Students are strongly encouraged to consult these before and during their preparation for the week.

Students are strongly encouraged to follow current events in the global economy, including trade talks, financial crises and states' responses to them, as well as the ongoing debates about the U.S. sovereign debt. Examples of useful sources include major daily newspapers (New York Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal) and weekly journals (e.g., The Economist). Keeping up with current events will enrich class discussions by allowing us to draw parallels to historical events and developments. Moreover, it will allow students to participate in public life as informed citizens.

How to Get & Stay in Touch

General communication. Messages about the course, changes to the syllabus or deadlines etc. will be communicated through MyCourses 'Announcements' and your university email address. Make sure to check that email account and the MyCourses site daily.

Email. My email address is kkleinbe@binghamton.edu. I will respond to email during business hours (Monday through Friday 8am-6pm) and as soon as I can but you should expect answers to take up to 24 hours even during business hours.

Office hours will be virtual (via Zoom) on Mondays 10-11:30am and Tuesdays 2:30-4pm. There will be a permanent Zoom link under the 'Announcements' tab on the MyCourses page. If the regular office hours do not fit your schedule, if you prefer not to use Zoom, or if you would like to discuss something that might take a bit longer to work out, you can email me to set up a separate in-person appointment.

Course Requirements

Student performance in this course will be assessed through two exams, weekly contributions to the course discussion board, short in-class written assignments and quizzes, and participation in class. For purposes of assigning a final grade, the following weighting factors will be applied:

Midterm Exam (October 10)	20%
Final Exam (date TBA)	20%
Discussion board contributions	20%
Written assignments & quizzes	15%
Research assignments	15%
Participation	10%

Exams (20% each, 40% total). There will be two exams. The midterm is tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2023. The final exam will take place during the official exam period; details will be announced as they become available. Each exam will cover concepts and events discussed up to that week of the semester, the format will be identification and short answer. Detailed information about the exam format will be given prior to each exam.

Discussion board contributions (20%). Students will contribute in several ways to weekly discussions. Most weeks, students will simply submit a response to a discussion prompt. We will use these responses to kickstart our in-class discussions. Some weeks, students will also submit a response to a ‘further questions’ and/or ‘muddiest point’ prompt. These are designed to allow me to get feedback and provide clarification. Deadlines for discussion board contributions for each week will be noted on MyCourses.

Discussion prompts and threads will be organized by week and can be found under the ‘Discussion Board’ tab on the MyCourses page.

Written assignments & quizzes (15%). There will be at least three short written assignments throughout the semester. Written assignments will be given either in-class or as homework. They will generally ask you respond in no more than one paragraph to a question that arises out of the readings and/or in-class discussion for a particular week.

There will also be at least three quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes are intended to test whether you have read the material for a given week and may be given on Tuesday or Thursday. They are given at the beginning of class and will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. Quizzes will **not** be announced in advance. Students who arrive late to class will **not** be given extra time to finish the quiz.

Research assignments (15%). Student will have the opportunity to complete five short research assignments over the course of the semester. They **must** complete three of them. The assignments are designed to familiarize students with various sources of economic data.

Instructions for each research assignment will be listed separately in each week’s folder under ‘Content’ on the MyCourses page.

Participation (10%). Participating in class discussions is one of the responsibilities as a student in this course. Students can participate by asking questions, answering questions, and offering opinions. The participation grade will be based both on attendance and the quality of the contribution to discussion. Active and productive discussion in class requires that students complete the readings listed for each day on the syllabus before class begins. Class discussions are designed to clarify the material and its implications, not to introduce it. Attendance is no substitute for completing the readings.

Grading Scale. Individual assignments and your semester grade for the course will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows:

95-100	A	84-87	B	74-77	C		
91-94	A-	81-83	B-	71-73	C-		
88-90	B+	78-80	C+	65-70	D	0-64	F

Additional Course Policies

Classroom electronics. The use of laptops and tablets is permitted unless (or until) it becomes disruptive to class discussions. I reserve the right to ask any student to put away their electronic device should its use become disruptive (including chats and other distractions).

Attendance. Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Repeated absences will have a negative impact on your final grade. Student participation, quizzes, and in-class writing assignments are important aspect of this course. Obviously, you cannot complete these assignments if you are not present. If you miss

class, you are responsible for catching up on all readings and materials covered, as well as all any announcements made in class.

Make-up exams. You are required to be present for all scheduled exams. Exams are announced well in advance, and you are expected to plan accordingly. Make-up exams will be provided on a case-by-case basis and will be scheduled once at the discretion of the instructor.

Classroom civility. In order to create a productive learning environment in our virtual classroom, you will be asked to observe a few simple rules of behavior:

- Be on time (for class meetings and discussion board posts).
- Put away your phone.
- Be respectful and courteous.
- Disagree (or agree) with arguments, not people.
- **Before you type something, consider whether you would say it to another student's face.**

Students are strongly encouraged to contribute opinions and observations in ways that invite discussion. Please keep in mind that students in our classroom will have divergent perspectives, unique life experiences, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully. Just as importantly, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking. If at any time you are offended by something that is said in the context of our class, please let me know.

Grade appeals. All grade appeals must be made in writing. If you believe that I grade I have assigned you is incorrect, you should write a brief letter detailing your concerns and submit it to me along with the original graded assignment. I will review the materials and respond to you in writing.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You may not give or receive any unauthorized assistance during exams, quizzes, or assignments. You may not submit AI-generated material as your own work for any assignment in this class.

Any and all instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Harpur College Academic Honesty Committee for possible further disciplinary measures.

Students with Special Needs. Athletes who expect to miss classes are required to inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester as well as in advance of classes and/or assignments that need to be rescheduled. Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) 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 Services for Students with Disabilities: 607-777-2686 (voice/TTY).

A Note on Dealing With **EVERYTHING**

All of us are dealing with additional stress and anxiety. **You are not alone.** You don't have to deal with the stress and anxiety all by yourself. We all need to help one another to navigate the difficulties we face.

Please let me know about any issues **as soon as you can.** It is much easier for me to help you if I know about your situation before it critically affects your academic performance. I don't need to know details. I will not ask questions any more than necessary to assist you. Letting me know sooner rather than later, though, is key. I'm in a much better position to help you and make accommodations if you tell me when the problem arises. It is MUCH harder to do this if you wait until the end of the term. You can email me or check during office hours.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS

This reading list is a work in progress. I reserve the right to add/change readings.
Any changes will be announced at least one week in advance through Brightspace.

Week 1. August 22 & 24 – Course Orientation & Introduction

Required:

Dani Rodrik. 2000. How Far Will International Economic Integration Go? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14(1): 177-186. [MC]

Bonus material:

Remarks by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Renewing American Economic Leadership at the Brookings Institution, April 27, 2023.

CoreEcon. *The Economy*. Section 1.6 (Capitalism defined: private property, markets, and firms) and Section 1.7 (Capitalism and as economic system)

NPR Planet Money, Episode 522: The Invention of the Economy (17 min.)

Week 2. August 29 & 31 – The First Wave of Globalization: Into the Modern Age

Required:

Frieden, Prologue and Chapters 1 & 2.

Bonus material:

BBC Radio4. In Our Time: The Corn Laws (42 min., focus on the first 30 min.) [MC]

Trade Talks Ep. 173: Did Britain's slave trade help drive its industrial revolution? (27 min.) [MC]
<https://tradetalkspodcast.com/podcast/173-did-britains-slave-trade-help-drive-its-industrial-revolution/>

Trade Talks Ep. 138. Trade and the worst financial crisis of the century—in 1866 (17 min.)
<https://tradetalkspodcast.com/podcast/138-trade-and-the-worst-financial-crisis-of-the-century-in-1866/>

*** Add/Drop Deadline: September 5, 11:59pm ***

Week 3. September 7 – The First Wave of Globalization: Underlying Principles

Required

Adam Smith. 1776. From: *The Wealth of Nations*. Excerpted in: C. Roe Goddard et al. *International Political Economy*, 2nd Ed. [MC]

Bonus material:

CoreEcon. *The Economy*. Section 1.8 (The gains from specialization) [MC]

Week 4. September 12 & 14 – Economic Development (for Better or Worse)

Required:

Frieden, Chapters 3 & 4.

John A. Hobson. 1902. *Imperialism. A Study*. Part I, Chapter 6 (The Economic Taproot of Imperialism) and Part II, Chapter 1 (The Political Significance of Imperialism). [MC]

Pick ONE of the following two Trade Talks podcast:

Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE). Podcast: Trade Talks, Episode 23 (“Did Protectionism Make America Great?”) (21 min.) OR Episode 121 (“Can Infant Industry Protection Work?”) (24 min.) [MC]

<https://tradetalkspodcast.com/podcast/23-did-protectionism-make-america-great/>

<https://tradetalkspodcast.com/podcast/121-can-infant-industry-protection-work-evidence-from-napoleon/>

Bonus material:

The Economist. 2014. “Measuring economic development: How rich we really are.” [MC]

Trade Talks Episode 37: Cottoning on to Trade

Week 5. September 19 & 21 – The First Wave of Globalization Crests

Required:

Frieden, Chapter 5.

Neil Irwin. 2013. *The Alchemists*. New York, NY: Penguin. Chapters 2 & 3. [MC]

Bonus material:

NPR Planet Money, Episode 505: A Locked Door, A Secret Meeting and The Birth of The Fed (15 min.)

Week 6. September 26 & 28 – The Interwar Period: Debt & Reparations

Required:

Frieden, Chapter 6, *skim* 7.

Liaquat Ahamed. 2009. *Lords of Finance*. New York, NY: Penguin. Chapter 6. [MC]

John Maynard Keynes. 1920. *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*. New York, NY: Harcourt, Brace, and Howe. Chapters 5-7. [MC]

Week 7. October 3 & 5 – The Interwar Period: Boom, Bust, and Diverging Paths

Required:

Frieden, Chapters 7-10.

Michael Portillo, BBC Radio4. 2010. Things We Forgot to Remember 6, Episode 4: The Great Depression in the USA. [MC]

Liaquat Ahamed. 2009. *Lords of Finance*. New York, NY: Penguin. Chapters 21&22. [MC]

Bonus material:

PIIE Trade Talks, Episode 31: Trade Wars and the Smoot-Hawley Tariff: What Really Happened? (17 min.)

NPR Planet Money, The Tuesday Podcast (Feb 22, 2011): Inside the Great Depression (18 min.)

NPR Planet Money, Episode 253: Gold Standard, R.I.P. (21 min.)

NPR Planet Money, Episode 658: Strike One (15 min.)

***** Midterm Exam: October 10, during regular class time *****

Week 8/9. October 12 & 17 – Reconstruction & The Bretton Woods System

Required:

Frieden, Chapter 11 & 12

Michael Portillo, BBC Radio4. Things We Forgot to Remember 8, Episode 2: Morgenthau Plan and Post-War Germany. [MC]

NPR. 2017. Planet Money, Episode 553: The Dollar at the Center of the World. [MC]

Bonus material:

PIIE Trade Talks, Episode 9: Happy 70th GATTiversary – The Origins of Multilateral Trade (27 min.) [MC]

NPR Planet Money, Episode 500: The Humble Innovation at The Heart of The Global Economy (19 min.)

Week 10. October 24 & 26 – Economic Development, again

Required:

Frieden, Chapters 13 & 14

Bonus material:

PIIE Trade Talks, Episode 70: Nicholas Lardy on the Chinese Economy (30 min.) [MC]

Lizabeth Cohen. 2003. *A Consumers' Republic*. New York, NY: Vintage Books. Chapter 3. [MC]

Week 11. October 31 & November 2 – The End of Bretton Woods

Required:

Frieden, Chapters 15 & 16.

Robert M. Collins. 1996. The Economic Crisis of 1968 and the Waning of the “American Century.” *American Historical Review* 101(2): 369-422. [MC]

NPR Planet Money, Episode 664: The Great Inflation (24 min.) [MC]

***** Deadline for Course Withdrawal (with ‘W’): November 7, 11:59pm *****

Week 12. November 7 & 9 – Crisis and Reform

Required:

Frieden, Chapters 15 (focus on pages 351-359), 16 (all), and 17 (focus on pages 392-405).

NPR Planet Money, Episode 664: The Great Inflation (24 min.)

Bonus material:

The Economist. A Century of Decline: The Tragedy of Argentina. Print edition, February 17, 2014.
NPR Planet Money, Episodes 905 and 906: The Chicago Boys, Part I (24 min.) and Part II (27 min.)
Frieden, 16 (reread), 17 & 18.

Week 13. November 14 & 16 – The Golden Age 2.0?

Required:

Frieden, remainder of Chapter 17, all of Chapters 18 & 19
PIIE Trade Talks, Episode 21: North American Cars—Before and After NAFTA (24 min.)

Bonus material:

PIIE Trade Talks Podcast (2023), Episode 177. How the Rana Plaza Factory Collapse Changed Global Supply Chains (32 min.)
Trade Talks Ep 172: Peru’s “China shock”: Surprising turns and the women left behind
<https://tradetalkspodcast.com/podcast/21-north-american-cars-before-and-after-nafta/>
Trade Talks Ep. 177: How the Rana Plaza factory collapse changed global supply chains

Week 14. November 28 & 30 – Decades of Crisis

Required:

Reread Frieden, Chapter 16 (pages 385-391 only)
Frieden, Chapter 21 (pages 474-490 only)
Menzie Chinn & Jeffrey Frieden (2017) Borrowing, Boom, and Bust: The Capital Flow Cycle. In: Frieden, Lake, and Broz (Eds.) *International Political Economy*.

Bonus material:

BBC. 2012. Timeline: The Eurozone timeline
American Public Media. 2018. Marketplace: Divided Decade.
This American Life. 2008. The Giant Pool of Money (59 min.)
NPR Planet Money. 2009. The Giant Pool of Money: Where are they now? (24 min.)

Week 15. December 5 & 7 – Full Circle?

Required:

Frieden, Chapter 20 (all), Chapter 21 (pages 491-505)
David H. Autor. 2018. Trade and Labor Markets: Lessons from China’s Rise. IZA World of Labor.

Revisit: Dani Rodrik. 2000. How Far Will International Economic Integration Go? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 14(1): 177-186.

Bonus material:

Trade Talks Episode 181. US-China trade war fallout: This is what decoupling looks like.

See also: How America is failing to break up with China. *The Economist*, August 8, 2023.

Trade Talks Episode 168. Did Trump's trade war make China more protectionist?

PIIE Trade Talks, Episode 126: COVID-19 and Trade (25 min.) [MC]

See also: If you thought the trade war was bad for global commerce... *The Economist*, March 26, 2020.

Yanis Varoufakis. 2014. Capitalism will eat democracy – unless we speak up. TEDTalk. (19 min.)