

## PLSC 380B: International Political Economy

Spring 2015  
Science Library 310  
TR 8:30 – 9:55am

Instructor: Katja Kleinberg  
Email: kkleinbe@binghamton.edu  
Office: LN-G 55

Office Hours: Tue & Thu 10:15 – 11:45am  
and by appointment

### COURSE INFORMATION

This undergraduate seminar provides an introduction to international political economy, the study of the interactions between politics and economics, governments and markets. We will attempt to answer the following questions: How do political processes influence economic decision-making? What influence do national and international economic forces have on political outcomes? In developing answers to these questions, we will read and discuss classic writings in international political economy, contemporary research in political science, as well as analyses of current events.

By the end of the semester, students will have acquired (1) a grasp of basic concepts in international political economy, (2) an overview of theoretical perspectives on the role of the state in the international economy, (3) an understanding of the role of economic interests and political institutions in the making of trade and monetary policy, and (4) an understanding of the role of multinational corporations in economic development.

In addition, the course is designed to engage and develop analytical, argumentation, and writing skills as students read and discuss original research in political science. The course assignments are also designed to establish habits of keeping informed about current events and of engaging sources and materials critically.

### COURSE MATERIALS

The following books are required for this course. They are available for purchase at the Binghamton University bookstore but you may purchase them from other sources, provided you buy the correct edition.

Chinn, Menzie, and Jeffrey A. Frieden. *Lost Decades*. New York, NY: WW Norton.

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and J. Lawrence Broz. Eds. 2010. *International Political Economy*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: W. W. Norton.

Rivoli, Pietra. 2009. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Additional readings are primarily excerpts from edited volumes, scholarly articles, and media reports. They will be available on the course website on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.binghamton.edu>). In the syllabus, they are marked as **[BL]**.

Class discussions in this course are designed to facilitate learning by linking our theoretical understanding of international organization to current events in world politics. Throughout the semester, I will also post additional readings for in-class discussions of current events related to the weekly topics. Students are advised to check the Blackboard course website regularly.

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). Media reports and opinion pieces will provide material for our in-class discussions.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Successful participation in this course requires active participation in class, reading comprehension quizzes, two exams, and several short written assignments. For purposes of assigning a final grade, the following weighting factors will be applied:

Class participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Written assignments (including homework)	15%
Letters to the Editor	15%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%

**Grading Scale.** Your semester grade for the course will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows:

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

**Class participation (10%).** Participating in class discussions by asking questions, answering questions, and offering opinions is one of your responsibilities as a student in this course. Your participation grade will be based both on your attendance and the quality of your 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. Be advised that class discussions are designed to clarify the material and its implications, not to introduce it. Attendance is no substitute for completing the readings.

In preparing for class, I encourage students to consider the following questions as general guidance: What is the author's main argument? What evidence does the author use to support his or her claim? How is this argument similar or different from other ideas we have discussed in class? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author's analysis? Can you think of an alternative explanation for the author's evidence?

**Quizzes (10%).** There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. They are designed to assess your understanding of the material covered up to that point. Quizzes are given at the beginning of class and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. They will not be announced in advance. Students who

arrive late to class will not be given extra time to finish the quiz. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest quiz grade (for example a 0 received for a missed quiz).

**Written assignments (15%)** will be given either in-class or as homework. These assignments will vary and will be handed out in class. In-class written assignments will generally ask you respond in no more than a paragraph to a question that arises out of the readings and/or in-class discussion for a particular week. Homework may ask you to research a particular phenomenon using materials *beyond the course readings* and report your findings in writing, citing sources appropriately.

**Letters to the Editor (5% each, for total of 15%).** Over the course of the semester students will write three mock - 'Letters to the Editor.' These letters are for this class only and do not have to be sent to that publication. Each letter will be in response to a news article or opinion piece published by a major news outlet on a topic related to the content of this course. The letter should outline a response to an important or controversial argument raised in the source article. Due dates for the letters are indicated in the syllabus.

**Midterm exam (25%).** The midterm exam is tentatively scheduled for **March 3, 2015** during our regular meeting time. It will cover all readings and lectures through that date, including current events related to our course topics that were discussed in class.

**Final exam (25%).** The final exam is scheduled for **May 14, 2015 from 8-10am** in our regular classroom. The exam will cover materials from the entire semester, including both the assigned readings listed in the course schedule and additional texts assigned for in-class discussion through the semester.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Attendance.** Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Although I will not take roll to enforce this policy, 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 participate if you are not present. You are also responsible for 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. Make-up exams will be provided on a case-by-case basis and will be scheduled once at the discretion of the instructor.

**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. All work submitted in this course must be original work. Sources must be properly cited. You may use any citation style of your choice, as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. You may not give or receive any unauthorized assistance during exams, quizzes, or assignments. 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. You can find out more about the Honesty Code in the bulletin: <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu> (Click on Academic Policies and Procedures - All Students).

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

- Be on time.
- Be prepared for class.
- Turn off your cell phone/Blackberry/etc.

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 class, please come speak to me.

**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 re-scheduled.

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, Phone: 607-777-2686 (voice/TTY), Fax 607-777-6893. Email: [bjfairba@binghamton.edu](mailto:bjfairba@binghamton.edu).

\*\*\*\*\*

**A Note on Stress and Anxiety.** You are not alone. You don't have to deal with stress and anxiety all by yourself. If you are experiencing undue personal or academic stress at any time during the semester or need to talk with someone about a personal problem or situation, I encourage you to seek support as soon as possible. I am available to talk with you about stresses related to your work in my class. Additionally, I can assist you in reaching out to any one of a wide range of campus resources, including:

University Counseling Center:	607-777-2772
Decker Student Health Services Center:	607-777-2221
Interpersonal Violence Prevention:	607-777-3062
Office of International Student & Scholar Services:	607-777-2510
University Police:	911
Harpur Advising:	607-777-6305
Dean of Students Office:	607-777-2804

\*\*\*\*\*

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS

(Dates are subject to change. I reserve the right to add/change readings.  
Any changes will be announced through Blackboard.)

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Tuesday, January 27: Course Policies

- Syllabus

Thursday, January 29: What We Study & Why We Study It

- Gilpin, R. 1987. Excerpts from *The Political Economy of International Relations*. In: *International Political Economy*, edited by Goddard, C. R., P. Cronin, and K. Dash. p. 9-24. [BL]

### **Week 2: Capitalist Production & International Trade**

Tuesday, February 3: Basics

- Smith, A. 1776. Excerpt from *The Wealth of Nations*. In: *International Political Economy*, edited by Goddard, C. R., P. Cronin, and K. Dash. p. 33-47. [BL]
- Frieden, J.A., D. Lake, and J. L. Broz, [hereafter FLB] Chapter 19 (Coughlin)

Thursday, February 5: A Critical View

- Marx, K., and F. Engels. Excerpts from *Capital* (1867) and *The Communist Manifesto* (1848). In: *International Political Economy*, edited by Goddard, C. R., P. Cronin, and K. Dash. p. 151-165. [BL]

**Friday, February 6 – Drop/Add deadline**

### **Week 3: The Domestic Politics of Trade**

Tuesday, February 10: The Role of Interests

- FLB, Chapter 20 (Rogowski), Chapter 21 (Alt and Gilligan),

Thursday, February 12: The Role of Institutions

- FLB, Chapter 2 (Eichengreen), Chapter 5 (Schonhardt-Bailey)

### **Week 4: Trade and International Institutions**

Tuesday, February 17

- FLB, Chapter 1 (Krasner) and Chapter 23 (Deardorff and Stern)

Thursday, February 19

- Homework research assignment

**\*\*LETTER TO THE EDITOR #1 DUE February 19\*\***

### **Week 5: Trade and International Institutions, continued**

Tuesday, February 24

- Review FLB Chapter 23 (Deardorff and Stern)

Thursday, February 26

- Debate: Free Trade Agreements are Stepping-Stones toward Global Free Trade v. Free Trade Agreements are Stumbling Blocks **[BL]**

### **Week 6: The Politics of US Trade – Case Study**

Tuesday, March 3

- Rivoli, Pietra. 2009. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. Part I (King Cotton) and Part III (Trouble at the Border)

Thursday, March 5:

- Rivoli, Pietra. 2009. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. Part III (Trouble at the Border)

### **Week 7: Midterm Exam & Foreign Investment**

Tuesday, March 10 – **MIDTERM EXAM**

Thursday, March 12: Foreign Investment – Basics

- FLB, Chapter 9 (Caves), Chapter 7 (Frieden)

### **Week 8: Foreign Investment – The View from ‘Over there’**

Tuesday, March 17

- FLB, Chapter 10 (Tarzi), Chapter 11 (Elkins, Guzman, and Simmons)

Thursday, March 19

- Rivoli, Pietra. 2009. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy*. Part II (Made in China)

### **Week 9: Economic Development – Basics**

Tuesday, March 24

- Dos Santos, T. 1970. Excerpt from *The Structure of Dependence*. In: *International Political Economy*, edited by Goddard, C. R., P. Cronin, and K. Dash. p. 167-177. **[BL]**

Thursday, March 26

- FLB, Chapter 3 (Sokoloff and Engerman), Chapter 26 (Acemoglu)

**\*\*LETTER TO THE EDITOR #2 DUE March 26\*\***

**Friday, March 27 – Deadline for Course Withdrawal (with a ‘W’) & Change-of-grade Option**

**Week 10: Economic Development & International Institutions**

Tuesday, March 31

- No readings

Thursday, April 2

- FLB, Chapter 28 (Sally)

**Week 11: International Monetary Relations**

Tuesday, April 14

- FLB, Chapter 16 (Frieden)

Thursday, April 16

- FLB, Chapter 13 (Eichengreen), Chapter 14 (Broz)

**Week 12: International Monetary Relations, continued**

Tuesday, April 21

- FLB, Chapter 15 (Cohen) and Chapter 17 (Gabel)

Thursday, April 23

- FLB, Chapter 18 (Schmukler)

**Week 13: The Politics of Economic Crisis – Case Study**

Tuesday, April 28 & Thursday, April 30

- Chinn, Menzie D., and Jeffrey A. Frieden. 2011. *Lost Decades*. Chapters 1-7.

***\*\*LETTER TO THE EDITOR #3 DUE April 30\*\****

**Week 14: The Politics of Economic Crisis – Case Study, continued**

Tuesday, May 5 & Thursday, May 7

- Chinn, Menzie D., and Jeffrey A. Frieden. 2011. *Lost Decades*. Chapters 8&9.
- FLB, Chapter 32 (Johnson)

**FINAL EXAM DATE: MAY 14, 2015, 8-10am**