

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Political Science 4364

Fall 2019

Professor

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Department of Political Science

College of Liberal Arts

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 9-11am; Tuesdays 11am-noon; and by appointment

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Class Time/Location: TTh 9-10:20am/Quinn Hall 203

Catalog Description

An examination of the relationship between international politics, national policies, and economics regarding international trade, investments, debt, monetary policy and oil. Prerequisites: POLS 2310 and POLS 2311 each with a grade of “C” or better.

Course Content

This course introduces students to the theories and facts that connect national politics and the economies in the international system. The theories will guide us in understanding the relationships between politics and economics. In using empirically valid theories, we can explain the consequences of the international political economy and predict them with a degree of confidence. We will cover such theories as realism, mercantilism, hegemonic stability, power transition, liberalism, and historical structuralism (Marxism and *Dependencia*). We will cover the topics mentioned in the preceding catalog description and the issues involved under these topics. While there will not be a heavy emphasis on economics, some basic concepts and theories from economics will be introduced using an intuitive approach. By the end of the course, students, at a minimum, will understand the goals of globalization, the methods of economic cooperation, and the understanding of positive-sum outcomes.

After completing the course, students will have:

- Increased **global awareness** by understanding the connection between politics and economics at the international and regional levels;
- Engaged in **critical thinking** through the understanding of the major IPE theories;
- Enhanced **problem-solving** and **communication** skills by applying IPE theory in explaining international cooperation;
- Developed **leadership** and **teamwork** skills through collaborative assignments.

Course Text

Cohn, Theodore H. 2016. *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 7th edition. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9781317334811

Course Obligations

There is a mix of required course obligations. This includes 1) study and discussion of assigned reading materials, 2) region research report, 3) term paper, 4) mid-term exam, and 5) final exam.

Please use the following criteria when formatting all assignments completed outside the classroom and upload onto Blackboard:

- 1) double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
- 2) new times roman font (12 point),
- 3) 1 inch margins,
- 4) title page (title, course, name, and date),
- 5) page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
- 6) stapled with no plastic cover of any type,
- 7) citations (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography, and
- 8) saved as a MS Word file.

No late assignments will be accepted unless under well-documented, extraordinary circumstances.

Class Discussion of Reading Assignments:

Students need to engage in active learning. This includes

- 1) Completing the reading assignment before the beginning of lecture.
- 2) Following all developing international issues as they relate to IPE. Some suggested periodicals include the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Christian Science Monitor*. Students with knowledge of foreign languages are strongly encouraged to maintain these skills by reading foreign newspapers on the internet. This reading will be important in developing ideas for your term paper.
- 3) Active learning during class meetings.
- 4) Participate in the Q&A at the beginning of every meeting (expect the midterm exam day).

Regional Political Economy Report

Students will team up to conduct research on a region and submit a report on their findings. Teams must have 3-4 students. Regions include Europe, the Americas (North, Central, or South), Africa (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, or Central), Asia (Central, East, South, or Southeast), the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, or Oceania. The aim of this assignment is to have students become familiar with, and report on, a region's political economy. An important portion of this assignment will be the gathering and graphic presentation of data in order to organize variables of inquiry. The professor will provide more details on September 24. The report is due by October 17.

Term Paper: An Analysis of an International Political Economy Issue:

The paper is a culmination of the knowledge and analysis of the course. Students will individually analyze an issue of IPE importance using one theory and related concepts from the course material. The ten page (\pm one page) paper needs to describe the issue, explain or predict the outcome using a theory, and provide evidence. The only acceptable internet sources are on-line reports and papers. The professor will provide guidance throughout the process of developing this paper. While no formal term paper proposal is required, it is in your best interest to speak with the professor so that you can maximize your ability to do well. The term paper is due by December 5.

The following may be of importance for students who are interested in making the most of their writing in political science:

Michaels, Anne Edwards. 2001. Writing to Learn in Political Science. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill.

Schmidt, Diane E. 2009. Writing in Political Science, 4th edition. New York: Pearson Longman.

Exams

There are two exams for the course: a mid-term and final. Both exams are closed book and in-class. The midterm requires answering two essay questions concerning the major theories of the course. The final is comprehensive, requiring answers to two essay questions. The final will assess the students' ability to connect theory with the issues covered in the latter half of the course. The professor will give students potential exam questions one week prior. Exam dates are September 19 for the mid-term and December 10 for the final.

Grade Weights

Each assignment and examination have a maximum value 100 points and have the following weights in determining students' final grades for the course:

Course Requirement	Due	Weight
Mid-term Examination	September 19	15 percent
Regional Political Economy Report	October 17	25 percent
Term Paper	December 5	30 percent
Final Examination	December 10	20 percent
Class Participation	All Meetings	10 percent

All grades (including the final grade) are based on the following distribution of points:

Points	Letter
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Course Policies

The following policies are in place to manage the learning environment:

- 1) Students may record class lectures for personal use. However, do not sell or exchange of such tapes unless prior permission is given.
- 2) Cell phones must be off during class hours. Students may have them on under emergency circumstances and must notify the professor.
- 3) Chatting, e-mailing, internet browsing, or any activity not related to official class activity is prohibited.
- 4) The professor will communicate updates via Blackboard. Please monitor our course webpage on Blackboard regularly.
- 5) There is a prohibition on academic dishonesty and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable. The professor will refer student violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Please go to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html> for further information.
- 6) Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in 302 Union East within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:
 Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>
 E-Mail: cass@utep.edu
 Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Readings

August 27

Orientation; Introduction to IPE
(Cohn Chapters 1 & 2)

What is meant by IPE? What sorts of topics would one place under IPE? What is not included under IPE? What is a theory? Why are theories useful? How has global economic relations changed since WWII? Has this change been uniform throughout the world? What are the major international institutions of the global economy? What are the major institutions found in the domestic economies? How greatly do the domestic institutions vary? What is meant by globalization?

August 29 and September 3

Realism, Mercantilism, and Hegemony: The Focus on Power and Countries
(Cohn Chapter 3)

What is realism? What are the claims made by this theory? Is it only used for IPE? How has realism been applied? What is meant by mercantilism? Is it different than realism? What is a hegemonic power? How is this different from a preponderant power? How does an asymmetric power relationship between countries influence economic foreign policy? Where are the examples of this type of relationship? What happens after the hegemonic or preponderant power declines?

September 5 and 10

Liberalism: The Logic of the Market
(Cohn Chapter 4)

What are the basic tenets of liberalism? Does the term “liberal” mean the same in US domestic politics as it does in IPE? What is meant by “market forces?” What does liberalism say about trade? What is their logic? How did Keynesian political economic theory counter liberalism? Which won out in the end? Why? According to liberals, why is it important to create international regimes and institutions? How can the Nash equilibrium help us understand the need for these regimes and institutions? What is meant by a “two-level game?” What is the link between liberalism and the economic development?

September 12 and 17

Historical Structuralism: The Role of Exploitation
(Cohn Chapter 5)

What is meant by historical structuralism? Why would we place marxism under this category? What are the basic tenets of marxism? What did it try to predict with regard to IPE? How successful was it? What is meant by imperialism? What was Lenin’s contribution to this? Why was it so radical? What is *dependencia*? Why is it an example of a historical structural approach? Where was *dependencia* popular? Why? What is world-system theory? Is it any different from *dependencia*? What new insight did Gramsci have to offer?

Mid-term September 19September 24

Overview of the Regional Political Economy Report

September 26, October 1, and 3

The Power of Money
(Cohn Chapter 6)

What is meant by “monetary relations?” What is meant by balance of payments (BoP)? Why is it so important? What does it tell us? What policy tools do states have to correct BoP deficits? What were the goals of the Bretton Woods System? What was required for its success? Why did it fail? What legacies of the Bretton Woods System remain? What is an exchange rate? What is the difference between a fixed and a floating exchange rate? How are the monetary relations among European Union countries? What steps led to the development of the euro? What can you say about the roles of the euro, the yen, and the dollar?

October 8, 10, and 15

Foreign Debt and Debt Crisis
(Cohn Chapter 7)

What exactly are we talking about when we are referring to “foreign debt?” Who holds the debt? Why did these countries acquire so much of it? What is meant by a “debt crisis?” Why was there so many of them in the 1980s? What are the past and present efforts in solving the problems of foreign debt? Which institutions are involved? What do they recommend? How do they help? Have they been helpful? Why or why not?

Regional Research Report due October 17October 22 and 24

Trade and Economic Cooperation
(Cohn Chapter 8)

What is meant by “free trade?” What are the theoretical motivations for free trade? What type of trade relations existed prior to the world wars? Would you say there was more trade or less trade today than then? What events led up to the creation of the WTO? What is the GATT? Why are the GATT and the WTO important? What do they do? Why are there individuals against many, if not all, of their actions?

October 29, 31, and November 5

Regional Integration
(Cohn Chapter 9)

What is meant by regionalism? What are the stages in regional integration? What is happening when countries integrate? How does the issue of national sovereignty fit into this? Which regions around the world are integrating? Which are more developed than others? Why do we see regionalism? Does free trade among regional partners help or hinder global free trade efforts? What are the upcoming efforts, concerning integration, for the Americas?

November 7 and 12

The Influence of MNCs on Globalization and the IPE
(Cohn Chapter 10)

What is a multinational corporation? What is meant by “foreign direct investment?” Why do firms participate in FDI? What forms do they take? Why is FDI more popular now than before WWII? Where is FDI concentrated? How would you describe the capital flows? How receptive are lesser developed countries toward FDI? How has this attitude changed over the last twenty or so years? What role do MNCs play in forming foreign economic policy? What international institutions oversee FDI? How regulated is it?

November 14 and 19

The IPE of Development
(Cohn Chapter 11)

What is a lesser developed country (LDC)? What are its characteristics? Where are they mainly located? How would you compare them to the developed world? Are all LDCs the same? How would you describe the relationships among the developed and the LDCs? What domestic economic policies are often cited for the chronic poverty of the LDCs? Why did some LDCs escape their poverty? What led to the financial crisis in East and Southeast Asia? What long-term effects did it produce? What is meant by “structural adjustment?” Why is this necessary according to some? Why do LDCs not wish to undergo structural adjustment? What new strategies are LDCs employing in order to get out of their position? What new strategies are international institutions employing?

November 21 and 26

Prospects: What Can We Expect from the Global Economy?
(Cohn Chapter 12)

Will the nation-state become obsolete? If so, what will take its place? What will globalization do for global inequality? Is it at fault? What positive effects has globalization introduced? Will this trend continue? Will there be a serious effort to promote the free global movement of labor? What will the strengthening of the European Union mean to US global economic superiority? Will we see better or worse relations between the two? Will the efforts in helping the LDCs work? What are the consequences if they develop along western trajectories? What are the consequences if they do not?

November 28 – Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes

Term Papers due December 5

Final Exam: December 10 (10a-12:45p)