

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO**

**INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**Political Science 4364**

**Fall 2022**

**Professor**

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Department of Political Science and Public Administration

Office: Benedict Hall 204

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

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Class Time/Location: W 10:30-11:50am/Psychology Building 308 (Please note that this is a hybrid-learning course, so we will only meet in-person on Wednesdays).

**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 economics in the international system. In using empirically valid theories, we can explain the consequences of the international political economy and predict events 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. 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. and Anil Hira. 2021. *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-367-51250-7

### **Study and Project Teams**

Students will form teams of three to four members for the weekly discussion sessions and term paper project. Students are welcome to self-organize and the instructor will assist students that need to join a team. Team memberships are due by August 31 at 10:30am. More information will come from the instructor.

### **Hybrid Course Details**

This is a hybrid course meaning that about half the content will be online and the other half in person. All lectures will be asynchronous voiceover presentations posted on Bb, which the instructor will have available on later than Mondays at 10:30am (MST). Wednesdays (10:30-11:50am, MST) are the days that we will meet in person for the team discussion sessions. Questions covered during discussion sessions are on the course schedule found at the end of the syllabus. More detailed instructions are found in each week's module on Bb.

### **Course Obligations**

The following is the mix of obligations the student must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course:

- 1) Weekly Team Discussion Reports
- 2) Individual Regional Political Economy Report
- 3) Midterm exam
- 4) Team term paper
- 5) Final exam

**Assignments are to be uploaded onto Bb by 11:59pm (MST) of the day they are due**

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

### Weekly Team Discussion of Assigned Topics:

Each Wednesday, we will meet to discuss the week's topic. To prepare for these team sessions, students must keep up with the assigned chapters and voiceover presentations. All topics, readings, and discussion questions are listed in the course schedule found at the end of this syllabus. To maximize the learning experience, the readings and studying the presentations should be done **before** the beginning of the team discussions. Class attendance is expected and participation should contribute to the learning process.

Teams will upload weekly reports by each Friday on Bb.

- 1) Clear presentation of the week's discussion question and its relevance.
- 2) The team's answer to the question.
- 3) Reaction of at least one other team's answer to the question.
- 4) Written from an objective prospective.
- 5) 2 pages ( $\pm$  one page) in length.
- 6) Formatted in the following manner:
  - a. double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
  - b. new times roman font (12 point),
  - c. 1 inch margins,
  - d. title page (title, course, all team names, and date),
  - e. page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
  - f. uploaded on to Bb in a ".doc" format.

In addition, students must follow IPE current events during the semester. Some suggested periodicals include the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Christian Science Monitor*. There are also numerous podcasts (*Trade Talks*, *Planet Money*, *Freakonomics Radio*, *Money Talking*, to name some). Students with knowledge of foreign languages are encouraged to read international newspapers online (*Le Monde*, *die Zeit*, etc.). These news reports and analyses may be helpful in developing ideas for your team term paper.

#### Individual Regional Political Economy Report (Due: October 7)

Students will individually conduct research on a region and submit a report on their findings. 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 October 3. The report is due by October 7.

#### Team Term Paper: An Analysis of an International Political Economy Issue (Due: December 2)

The team term paper is a culmination of the knowledge and analysis of the course. Students will 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 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 team term paper is due by December 2.

The following may be of importance for students who are interested in making the most of their writing in political science: Schmidt, Diane E. 2019. Writing in Political Science, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Routledge.

### Exams (Midterm: September 30 and Final: December 9)

There are two exams for the course: a mid-term and a final. Both exams will require essay answers that will test knowledge of key concepts and terms and assess analytical thinking of theories and facts. The mid-term will cover the material in the part one and two of course and the final will be comprehensive (parts one, two, and three). The exams are open book, open notes, and answers will be uploaded onto Bb. A list of potential essay questions will be given the Monday (September 26 & December 5) of the exam week and answers are due on the following Friday (September 30 & December 9). The instructor will email students which questions to answer on the Thursday (by 5pm, MST) before the exam is due (September 29 and December 8).

### **Grade Weights**

Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students' final grades. No "extra credit" points will be given in this course.

<b>Course Requirement</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Weekly Team Reports	Each Friday	15 percent
Individual Regional Political Economy Report	October 7	20 percent
Midterm Examination	September 30	15 percent
Team Term Paper	December 2	30 percent
Final Examination	December 9	20 percent

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

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

### **Technology Requirements**

Some of the course content is delivered via the Internet through the Bb learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Bb; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. Many, but not all, computer/laptop systems include a video camera and microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat

Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

### **Course Communication**

Here are the ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

### **UTEP COVID-19 Precautions**

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Information regarding UTEP testing and other COVID related issues can be found at <https://www.utep.edu/resuming-campus-operations/testing/>. If you test positive of COVI-19, please inform UTEP EH&S at 915-747-7162 or [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear facemasks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area and frequently on campus. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

### **Course Resources**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support: Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Bb, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text

access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

#### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA- related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

#### Course Policies

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

- Communication from me will be posted on Bb or sent to your UTEP email account. Please monitor our course page on Bb and your email regularly.
- Academic dishonesty is prohibited 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 and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. For further information, please refer to <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first week 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) (formerly known as the Disabled Student Services Office) 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](mailto:cass@utep.edu)
  - Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

## Course Schedule for Voiceover Presentations, In-Class Activities, Exams, and Assignment Due Dates

All presentations are posted on Bb

Week (Date)	Topic/Presentation	Readings	In-Class Activity
<b>Part One: Introduction</b>			
Week 1 (August 24)	Orientation	Hoover and Donovan chapters 1 & 2 posted on Bb; C&H chapter 1	How can the scientific method help us explain the global political economy?
Week 2 (August 31)	Introduction to IPE	C&H chapter 2	Describe one significance development of IPE since the end of WWII.
<b>Part Two: Contending IPE Theories</b>			
Week 3 (September 7)	Realism, Mercantilism, and Hegemony: The Focus on Power and Countries	C&H chapter 3	How does focusing on a country's relative economic power help us explain phenomena in the IPE?
Week 4 (September 14)	Liberalism: The Logic of the Market	C&H chapter 4	What are the strengths and weaknesses of liberalism?
Week 5 (September 21)	Historical Structuralism: The Role of Exploitation	C&H chapter 5	What are the strengths and weaknesses of historical structuralism?
<b>Week 6 Midterm Examination – Due September 30 – Upload onto Bb</b>			
<b>Week 7 Individual Regional Political Economy Report – Due October 7 – Upload onto Bb</b>			
<b>Part Three: Analysis of IPE Issues</b>			
Week 8 (October 12)	The Power of Money	C&H chapter 6	Which theory best answers the following question: Why are states so concerned with their exchange rates?
Week 9 (October 19)	Financial Crises	C&H chapter 7	Some scholars argue that international finance exploits poorer countries while others argue that it is a tool for helping their economic development. Choose a side on this argument and defend it using an IPE theory.
Week 10 (October 26)	Trade and Economic Cooperation	C&H chapter 8	Which IPE theory best explains the developments of international trade since the end of WWII?
Week 11 (November 2)	Regional Integration	C&H chapter 9	Why would states in regions wish to integrate their economies and political decision-making?

Week 12 (November 9)	The Influence of MNCs on Globalization and the IPE	C&H chapter 10	Why do scholars believe that MNCs are at the heart of globalization?
Week 13 (November 16)	The IPE of Development	C&H chapter 11	Use an IPE theory to explain why some economies are chronically poor while some others develop and even thrive.
Week 14 (November 23)	Prospects: What Can We Expect from the Global Economy?	C&H chapter 12	Can the poorer economies develop along the same paths as the richer ones? Use an IPE theory to explain your answer.
<b>Week 15 Team Term Papers – Due December 2 – Upload onto Bb</b>			
<b>Final Exam – Due December 9 – Upload onto Bb</b>			