UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
Political Science 5338
Spring 2014

Professor
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College of Liberal Arts
Office: Benedict Hall 301
Office Hours: 9-10am Mondays & 10-11am Tuesdays; and by appointment
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Class Time/Location: M 6-8:50 pm/BEND 205

Catalog Description
Examines the political and economic effects of the interaction of national policies in the global economy, with special attention paid to theory, evidence, and national policies. Topics include: trade policies, monetary policies, financial crises, multinational corporations, intergovernmental economic organizations and treaties, free trade areas, and other issues of economic development.

Course Content
The aim of the course is to introduce the main theories and evidence found in the subfield of International Political Economy. Scholars approach the study of IPE in various ways. However, the scholarship does have a long history in the utilization of a science based epistemology, one that we will deeply tap into during the semester. In addition, the subfield, by its nature, is interdisciplinary because it draws from both economic and political science research. We will study and judge various theories and approaches by first examining what they are attempting to explain, how well they explain, and if the empirical evidence supports their explanation.

After a relatively brief discussion of methodology, the course will tackle one broad question: Why do some states readily cooperate in the IPE while others find it difficult to do so? The course is designed around a mix of topics and approaches. Effort has been made to answer more specific questions using a variety methods and theories. Given the broad nature of the subfield, it would be impossible to examine each and every topic and theory of IPE during one semester. Instead we will look at those topics and theories that have a greater saliency in the academic community with the idea that students will master the subject matter to the point where individual investigation is possible.

After completing this course students can:
• Understand the connection between politics and economics in the international setting;
• Be able to use the major theories of IPE to explain various phenomena;
• Develop a rich literature review of the major contributions to the field of IPE
Course Policies
We will follow policies outlined in the 2013-2014 Graduate Catalogue (http://catalog.utep.edu/index.php?catoid=9). In addition, all participants are expected to follow a professional decorum at all times.

Course Texts and Readings


Additional readings are listed in this syllabus. It is the responsibility of each student to locate and download each if the readings using the services found at the UTEP library.

Course Obligations
There is a mix of obligations you must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) participation in discussions; 2) five essays on the course readings; 3) seminar paper. Late assignments will be accepted only under extreme circumstances.

All assignments that are completed outside the seminar are to be typed using the following format: 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, and 7) citations (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography when necessary.

Only hardcopies of written assignments will be accepted. Please do not email me electronic versions.

Participation
What distinguishes a seminar format from the lecture variety is the degree of student participation. You must complete all the readings prior to the seminar meeting and be prepared to offer quality contributions. I will present the ideas of the weeks’ readings and pose several questions that will begin our discussion. While I have certain broad goals each evening, there will be a degree of flexibility to where the discussion will take us. The aim is to leave each evening with a deeper understanding of the readings so that you can synthesize and offer a constructive critique of the research and research agenda of the scholarship.

Essays
You will need to write five essays that synthesize and critique a particular week’s readings in five to seven pages. Each essay is due one week after the particular week you choose. Which week you choose is up to your discretion with one the exception: please do not write an essay based on the first night’s readings.
A synthesis and critique needs to answer the following questions, but organized in a thematic manner. First, what are the major points of the readings? What are the authors trying to explain and what are the explanations? While it is tempting to create a ledger of all that was said, recall that you only have five to seven pages. Instead present the answers to the latter questions in the critique. The critique should answer the following: What are the major problems of the readings? What can be done to improve the explanations and/or testing of the theories? We will discuss the essays’ content on the first night and follow-up as the semester progresses.

Seminar Paper
The culmination of your work this semester will be evaluated in the seminar paper. You are to examine the effectiveness of regional integration organizations in any key area of your choice using a science based epistemology that utilizes your training in masters program’s methods courses. The choice of qualitative or quantitative research method is up to you. You will be evaluated based on theoretical rigor, sound research design, and empirical evidence. The seminar paper is due on or before May 9.

Grades
Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students’ final grades for the course. Letter grades will be based on the absolute scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Paper</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>40 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Essays</td>
<td>Students Discretion</td>
<td>40 percent (8 percent each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>All Meetings</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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Readings
January 27 – The Scientific Study of International Political Economy
1) Gilpin chapters 1-3.

For those that have never taken a graduate level methods course in the social sciences, I recommend that you read one or more of the following books:
February 3 – Neoclassical Economics
1) Gilpin chapters 4-6

February 10 – State Power
1) FLB chapter 1, 8, and 14

Recommended:

February 17 - Domestic Institutions and Foreign Economic Policy
1) Gilpin chapter 7
4) FLB chapter 20

Recommended:

February 24 – Trade
1) Gilpin chapter 8
2) FLB chapters 21, 23, and 24.
March 3 – International Trade: Cooperation and Conflict

March 10 – Spring Break

March 17 – International Organizations and Regimes
1) Gilpin chapter 15
2) FLB chapter 4

March 24 – Regional Integration
1) Gilpin chapter 13
2) FLB chapter 19
March 31 – European Regional Integration
1) FLB chapter 17

April 7 – International Monetary System
1) Gilpin chapter 9
2) FLB chapters 13, 15, and 16

Recommended:

April 14 – International Financial System
1) Gilpin chapter 10
2) FLB chapter 18

April 21 – The Power of MNCs
1) Gilpin chapter 11
2) FLB chapters 9-11

April 28 – The IPE of Development
1) Gilpin chapter 12
2) FLB chapters 3, 25, 26, and 27

May 5 – Labor Mobility
1) FLB chapter 22

Seminar Paper due May 9 by 5pm