I. Course Overview

This seminar explores the interaction between politics and economics in the international system, with an emphasis on the theoretical development of the sub-field of international political economy. We will investigate the effect of international institutions on economic relations, the conditions for cooperation in international trade and finance, and the mutual impact of domestic and international politics. We also will attempt to identify the “state of the art” in international political economy, meaning that we sometimes will focus more on recent research than on “classics.” This course is intended to lay the groundwork for future research in the fields of international political economy, international relations, and comparative political economy, as well as to help prepare students for the IPE component of the comprehensive exams in international relations.

II. Course Requirements

The principal requirement for students is to read thoroughly the assigned works and to come to seminar prepared for discussion. In addition to participating actively in seminar discussions, the requirements for this course are:

A. Response Papers: Each student will complete five short (2 to 3 single-spaced pages) response papers. Each paper should be distributed via e-mail to all seminar members, and are due at 5:00 pm Tuesdays. These are analytical response papers, analyzing and discussing the required readings for a particular week. While you may provide a short summary of the articles and books, the main task of the paper is critical analysis. Rather than summarize the readings (which your classmates will themselves have done), your paper should focus on what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the readings; the possible intersections among the readings; and – perhaps most importantly – what theoretical issues and empirical questions for future research are raised by the readings. The response papers will serve as a starting point for our seminar discussion. You may write papers for any of the substantive weeks during the course; to evenly distribute papers across weeks, we will divide up papers and weeks during the first and second class sessions. These papers will serve as the basis for in-class discussions, and well as presentations by discussion leaders.

B. Discussion Leaders: While all students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss each week’s readings, we will also have one official “discussion leader” for each week. Each student will be a discussion leader twice during the semester. The chief responsibility of the discussion leader is to comment on the response papers for a given week: the discussion
leader need not present the response papers, as everyone in the class will have received them. Rather, the discussion leader could discuss whether he or she agrees with the writer’s criticisms, or propose answers to the writer’s questions, or describe how the papers help point to new research questions. Discussion leaders’ comments are intended to serve as a springboard to a broader seminar discussion, so these comments can be quite brief (5 to 10 minutes). Again, discussion leader duties will be assigned during the first two weeks of the seminar.

C. Research Design: Each student will formulate a research question addressing a question in the field of international political economy. The research design (approximately 20 pages, double spaced) should deploy theoretical literature and an empirical puzzle to set up the research question, develop hypotheses, and present a methodology for testing the hypotheses. The research design does not require execution of the research project (e.g. it does not require doing statistical analyses or writing case studies); rather, it focuses on the theoretical development of a project, which might later be turned into a conference paper or article, or might be the basis for a grant or dissertation proposal. To do the research design, you’ll need to come up with a research question or puzzle (this is sometimes the most difficult part; keep this task in mind as you read for each week, and ask me if you want to read further on a particular topic); figure out what’s been done on the topic or in similar areas, or the ways in which arguments about one set of phenomena could be brought to bear on your question (a literature review); develop a set of hypotheses regarding your research question; and think about how you would test these hypotheses (qualitatively, quantitatively, or formally? With which cases or with what sorts of data?). For general discussions of research design in political science, you may want to consult Keohane, King and Verba’s Designing Qualitative Inquiry (Princeton, 1994). Research designs will be presented to the seminar at our last class meeting, on Wednesday, December 1. A draft of your research design should be circulated to the class no later than Monday, November 29. The final, revised version of your research design is due on Monday, December 13.

The Final Grade for the course is based upon participation in class discussions, including discussion leader duties (35%), Response Papers (35%), and the Research Design (30%).

III. Class Schedule

Each of the substantive weeks includes required and supplementary readings. Students are expected to read all required materials carefully, and to come to class prepared to discuss these. The supplementary readings include additional theoretical and empirical perspectives; if a particular topic interests you, or if you want more background when preparing for comprehensive exams, read these materials.

Several of the books listed as required readings are available for purchase at the UNC Bookstore; these are marked with an asterisk on the syllabus. You will be assigned all of some books and parts of others. You may decide that you only want to purchase some of these, but you also may want to have these books in your collection. All books marked with an asterisk also should be available at Davis Library.

Most of the readings for this course are articles, rather than books. These required readings are available electronically, through Blackboard (under “Course Documents,” and then under “Course Packet”); these are marked [BL] on the syllabus. Blackboard readings are organized by week. If you cannot find a particular article or book, please let me know.

The graduate course focuses on theoretical issues in IPE. If you would like more substantive background in IPE, as well as on the development of IPE theory, you may want to consult Thomas Oatley’s International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global
Economy (Longman, 2004), or Jeffry Frieden’s The World Economy in the 20th Century (available at http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~jfrieden/manuscript/index.htm). I can also provide you with a copy of an undergraduate IPE syllabus which points you toward readings for specific topics. If you would like more background in economic concepts (e.g. comparative advantage, open-economy macroeconomics), you may want to look at Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld, International Economics: Theory and Policy (Longman, 2002, 6th edition).

Week 1: August 25
Course Introduction: Overview of IPE

Required Reading:


Supplementary Reading:


Week 2: September 1
Public vs. Private: States and Markets

Required Reading:


Supplementary reading:

James Caporaso and David Levine, Theories of Political Economy (1992), Chapters 1 and 2.


Week 3: September 8
State Power and The International Economy

Required Reading:


**Supplementary reading:**


**On Sanctions:**


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**Week 4: September 15**  
The Case for Cooperation in the International Economy

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary reading:**
Week 5: September 22
The Political Economy of International Trade, Part I (International Influences)

Required Reading:


Supplementary Reading:


**Week 6: September 29**
**The Political Economy of International Trade, Part II (Domestic Influences)**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Week 7: October 6**

**Exchange Rate and Monetary Politics, Part I**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Week 8: October 13 (reschedule if necessary; Fall Break begins 5pm)**

**Exchange Rate and Monetary Politics, Part II**

**Required Reading:**


**Supplementary Reading:**


**Week 9: October 20**

Foreign Direct Investment and Multinational Production

**Required Reading:**


Supplementary Reading:


Week 10:   October 27
The Globalization Debate, Part I (The Causes of Liberalization)


Supplementary reading:


*Also see Week 11 supplementary reading.*

Week 11:   November 3
The Globalization Debate, Part II (The Effects of Liberalization)

Required Reading:


Supplementary reading:


Week 12: November 10

Developing Nations and International Financial Institutions

Required Reading:


Supplementary reading:


Week 13: November 17

International Influences Reconsidered – Norms, Ideas and Diffusion

Required Reading:


**Supplementary reading:**


**Week 14: December 1
Presentations of Research Designs**