Introduction to Conflict and Cooperation in the World Economy

Professor
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Office hours: Tu 3:30-4:30pm (office/drop-in) and W 10am-11pm (Zoom)

Course Description
This course is the first in a two-part sequence on international political economy for the MAIR program. This seminar highlights key concepts and major theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of international political economy and includes a broad overview of significant topics in the field. It is not meant to provide a comprehensive knowledge of the topics covered, but rather to introduce you to the variety of issues addressed and analytical tools employed by IPE scholars. The thematic areas covered in the course include: contemporary dynamics of globalization, the role of domestic politics in the formation of foreign economic policies of states, the dynamics of international trade and investment disputes, and role of international institutions in multi-lateral governance of the world economy. A primary focus will be on developing an understanding of central debates in the literature and the empirical findings from quantitative and cross-national analyses in order to gain a solid grounding from which to pursue further scholarship. The follow-up sequence to this course is GVPT 761: Seminar in International Political Economy, which examines major topics of IPE in more depth, emphasizing the status of contemporary research.

Learning Outcomes
After successfully completing this course you will be able to:

● Recognize the different theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of international political economy;
● Identify primary topics and central debates within the field of IPE;
● Evaluate the research design and empirical findings of scholarly research in the field;
● Apply the research findings to formulate appropriate policy recommendations.

Course Structure
Weekly Class Seminars: A typical weekly seminar will begin by reviewing background information about each week’s topic and an overview of theoretical arguments and key concepts in the assigned readings. We will then use each session to discuss the assigned readings in detail, focusing on the research questions addressed, methodologies, and the empirical findings. You are expected to complete all assigned readings before our meeting and prepare to participate in the discussion. Your attendance and participation are critical to your success in the class. Your participation in the discussion and contribution to preparatory/follow-up asynchronous assignments will constitute 40% of your grade (see below for details). In case of an emergency or illness that prevents you from participating, please let me know so that we can arrange a make-up work assignment.
Asynchronous Assignments: We will supplement our class sessions with asynchronous work, such as discussion board posts. While the exact nature of asynchronous work will vary each week, preparatory assignments (if required) will be posted no later than Wednesday of the relevant week and are due on Sunday by 11:59pm prior to the class session. Follow-up assignments will be announced by the end of class and will be due by Wednesday at 11:59pm. These assignments will be centered around discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical and empirical approaches presented in the weekly readings, applying these approaches to understanding current events related to international political economy, and providing feedback to your peers’ posts/comments.

Major Assignments
Assignment 1: Theories and Methods
You will be provided with several questions about various theoretical and methodological approaches and conceptual frameworks within the study of international political economy. Questions can be answered in about 1-2 paragraphs. This assignment is designed to ensure mastery of the foundations of the study of international political economy. The questions will be provided to you on February 13 and will be due on February 24.

Assignment 2: Literature Critique
You will select one of the major themes of the course (e.g., trade preferences, foreign aid) and will prepare critical review on a specific topic within that thematic area. This assignment will require you to identify at least 8 scholarly sources that address your topic, examine the theoretical underpinnings of each article, assess the methodological approach employed, and evaluate the empirical findings in order to develop an understanding of the current state of research and identify lingering questions. Additional guidance and evaluation criteria will be provided on a detailed assignment sheet. The literature critique will be due April 16, but students are asked to identify their topic and articles prior to Spring break.

Assignment 3: Final Synthesis Essays
At the conclusion of the course, you will be asked to respond to two essay questions related to course material. These questions will require you to consider the empirical findings of the research presented on selected topics, and to consider the policy implications of this research. Essays will be due May 15.

Participation & Engagement
Your participation each week will be assessed based on your participation in live discussion, your answers to asynchronous discussion questions and assignments, and your engagement with your peers on the discussion boards.

Grading Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Theories and Methods</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Literature Critique</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Final Synthesis Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Required Resources

- Course Website: elms.umd.edu
- All assigned readings will be available online or via the course website.

Course Policies

1. **Attendance**: Attendance in each class session is required. Students who are unable to come to class should inform me in advance of the class when possible, but may self-excuse two absences per semester. Students who are unable to attend class for any reason will be required to complete a makeup assignment that is due within one week following the missed class session, unless alternative arrangements are made in advance. Students exceeding two absences should plan to meet with me to discuss their situation, and documentation will be required to avoid impact on the participation grade.

2. **Late assignments**: Assignments that are turned in past the due date will be penalized one letter grade per day for each day or a fraction thereof that the assignment is late. Students are expected to check their assignment submissions in ELMS, as failed uploads/garbled text will not be grounds for extension and will be subject to the late submission policy.

3. **Re-grading policy**: Requests for a re-grade must be made in writing within 10 days of receiving feedback, clearly specifying why the feedback received that resulted in a lower grade is incorrect. Grades will only be changed if the basis for the original grade is found to be erroneous.

4. **COVID-19 and Other Challenges**: We are (still) living in extraordinary times. The policies for this course are set to provide a clear structure and high-quality academic experience as we get through this period together. If you are struggling in any way, or experience a personal disruption that is affecting your ability to succeed, please reach out as soon as possible. I do not need to know details of your personal life, but my ability to help you is much greater if I know about your challenges when they impact you, not once you have fallen behind. On a case-by-case basis, I can work with you to ensure that you have the accommodations that you need to succeed, but this requires timely communication.

5. **Artificial Intelligence**: This course is designed to foster development of your own critical thinking skills. Use of AI software (including Chat GPT) is forbidden and will be treated as an academic integrity violation.

6. **University-wide Policies**: It is our shared responsibility to know and abide by the University of Maryland’s policies that relate to all courses, which include topics like:
   - Academic integrity
   - Student and instructor conduct
   - Accessibility and accommodations
   - Attendance and excused absences
   - Grades and appeals
   - Copyright and intellectual property

7. Please visit [https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/course-related-policies](https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/course-related-policies) for the Graduate School’s full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions.
Course Outline
Note: This is a tentative schedule, and subject to change as necessary – monitor the course ELMS page for updates.

Week 1 - January 30
Syllabus Review
No Reading Assigned

Week 2 – February 6
Theories and Paradigms

Week 3 – February 13
Actors and Methods in IPE Research

Week 4 - February 20
Trade Preferences

Week 5 - February 27
Trade Agreements and Governance

Week 6 – March 6
Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment


Week 7 - March 13
Finance and Monetary Policy

Week 8 - March 20
*Spring Break — No Class Session*

Week 9 - March 27
Regional (Dis)Integration

**Week 10 – April 3**

**Rising Powers and Emerging Economies**

**Week 11 - April 10**

**Globalization and the Transnational Division of Labor**

**Week 12 - April 17**

**Economic Development**

**Week 13 - April 24**

**Foreign Aid**


**Week 14 – May 1**

**Conflict and Security**


**Week 15 - May 8**

**Sustainability of the Global Economy**


