This is a political science graduate seminar exploring theories, ideas and empirical research in the field of international political economy. The broadest understanding of this field is that it is concerned with the ways in which politics and markets interact at the global level, or between global and national levels. The field of international political economy (IPE) in the US emerged within international relations in the 1970s, spurred both by concerns about US decline, European integration, and rising economic interdependence. The early work in mainstream US IPE developed theories of hegemonic stability, international regimes, and transnationalism. At the same time, those scholars more interested in issues relevant to the developing world wrestled with world systems and dependency theories. More recently, the field has grown more eclectic in its methods, and covers a wider range of issues.

In this course, we will cover some of the main old and new theories and research, and look at major questions in the field. How does the distribution of power affect liberalization and development internationally? Why do states open their markets to trade and investment? Why and when do they turn to protectionism? How do open markets and globalization affect regulation, welfare, gender equality, and democracy?

The course is not designed to be comprehensive, but rather to introduce you to the field and give you a decent grounding in it. The readings will be methodologically eclectic, ranging from approaches in which economic tools are applied to international relations (“positive political economy”) to more constructivist methods based on discourse, law and norms. We will survey the main debates in IPE, gain familiarity with some of the substantive issue areas, and introduce key concepts, approaches and methodologies.

I do not assume you already know international and/ or macro-economics, although the course will be easier for those that do. You may want to get an economics text as a reference. I also recommend the work of those economists who write for the general public, including Ha-Joon Chang, Paul Krugman (co-author of an international economics textbook), Jagdish Bhagwati, and others. Although the course is geared towards academic scholarship, you may find some of the economics-oriented policy blogs helpful and interesting, including: NPR Planet Money, Marginal Revolution, IPEZone, Conscience of a Liberal, International Economic Law and Policy Blog, Institute for New Economic Thinking, The Curve, Dan Drezner, and others.
Course requirements:

You should come to each class ready to discuss the assigned readings. Identify the main argument(s) in the readings and the evidence they provide, and compare them. Be sure to bring questions and do not be shy about asking those that seem embarrassingly basic—chances are good the person next to you is wondering the same thing. Be prepared to discuss what you liked and didn’t like about each piece.

Seminar Paper: You have two choices: (1) apply a particular theory to an empirical problem, as in a traditional research paper or journal article; or (2) do a research design in which you develop a plan for a research project (e.g. a dissertation). You will share and present a rough draft of your paper in class, and the final paper should incorporate suggested revisions. (80% of grade)

Critical Response Papers and Discussion Leadership: Choose two weeks when you will lead discussion in class, and provide in advance a written critical analysis of the readings for those weeks (2-3 pages). (20%)

Schedule

Sept. 4  Introduction
Helpful background reading:
Jeffry Frieden, Global Capitalism
Benjamin Cohen, International Political Economy
Lawrence Wright, The Clash of Economic Ideas
Ha-Joon Chang, Economics: The User’s Guide

Sept. 11  Approaches and Background

Special Issue of the Review of International Political Economy. 2009. “Not So Quiet on the Western Front: The American School of IPE,” articles by Weaver, Maliniak/ Tierney, Germain


Sept. 18  Power, Hegemony and International Political Economy


Lloyd Gruber. 2001. “Power Politics and the Free Trade Bandwagon.” Comparative Political Studies September 34,7: 703-41


Sept. 25 Trade and Politics
Ronald Rogowski, 1987. “Political Cleavages and the Changing Exposure to Trade,” APSR 81,4


Oct. 2 International Institutions and Trade Politics
James Smith, 2004 “Inequality in International Trade? Developing Countries and Institutional Change in the WTO,” Review of International Political Economy 11,13


Oct 9    The Liberalization of Financial Markets


Oct. 16    Exchange Rates, Debt Crises, and the International Monetary System


David Drezner, 2014. *The System Worked*

Oct. 23    Foreign Direct Investment and the Organization of Production


**Oct 30**

**International Regulation**


Kate McDonald. 2014. *The Politics of Global Supply Chains* Chs. 1-3


**Nov. 6**

**Presentations**

**Nov. 13**

**Globalization and Development Institutions**


Jacqueline Best, *Governing Failure* Chs.1-2, 5-6

**Nov. 20**

**Labor, Welfare and Human Rights**


Nov. 27  NO CLASS

Dec. 4  Energy, Natural Resources, and the Environment
Jeff Colgan, 2010. Oil and Revolutionary Governments International Organization 64,4 661-94

Thomas Brewer, The United States in a Warming World Chs.1-3


Dec. 11  Globalization and Inequality
Lloyd Gruber. 2011. “Globalization with Growth and Equity: Can we Really Have it All? Third World Quarterly. 32,4


Thomas Piketty, 2014. Capital in the 21st Century Ch.1