

**University of Maryland**

**Department of Government and Politics**

**GVPT 409G SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WORLD  
POLITICS: CORPORATIONS AND THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

**Fall 2017**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

GVPT 409G

Date and time: Mon and Wed 3p-4:15p.

Location: TYD 2109

**INSTRUCTOR**

Gonzalo Paz, J.D., M.Phil. M.A., Ph.D.

Office: TBD

Email: [gsp27@georgetown.edu](mailto:gsp27@georgetown.edu)

Office hours: Mon and Wed 4:15p.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course explores the complex interaction between multinational corporations (MNCs), the process of globalization in modern times and the countries (state-nation). The increasing number of MNCs, its growing size and impact is a main driving force in globalization. Corporations influence not only the international and national economies but also might affect the political processes at national and subnational level, of both industrialized and developing countries. They negotiate over issues with international organizations, the civil society and groups of interest. A central discussion in the discipline of international political economy is to what extent is possible and/or necessary to regulate how corporations are governed and how they behave in different countries and across different legal traditions and cultural spaces.

We are going to study in a comprehensive way the expansion of multinational corporations, the debates both in academy and in public opinion over the nature of the influence and impact of MNCs, and how regulations emerge or are modified. An important goal is to develop a sophisticated understanding beyond the cliché of evil nature of corporations and the cheering of a champion of capitalism.

An important question we are going to explore is whether non-American MNCs (such as European, Chinese, Korean, Indian, or even Latin American corporations/"Multilatinas") behave in different ways. Since most of available literature in English focuses rightly on MNCs of American origin or based in the United States, and given the growing number of non-American corporations in recent years, the exploration of this question is particularly opportune.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- The primary goals of the course are to introduce you to:

1-The role of corporations in globalization, and the impact in global politics, from the point of view of international political economy.

2-Scholarly approaches about the study of the interactions between corporations and foreign states, markets and societies.

3-Main issues such as the politics of trade, foreign direct investment, political risk, national and international regulatory governance, environmental impacts, labor, human rights, etc.

4-American and non-American corporations (Chinese, Korean, European, “Multilatinas”) operating internationally.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After the course the students will:

1-Know the main historical trends and evolution of the role of corporations in globalization and main impacts in global politics.

2-Think critically and understand different scholarly approaches and public debates about the role of corporations in globalization and foreign countries.

3-Know and develop a deeper understanding of relevant issues such as politics of trade, foreign direct investment, political risk, national and international regulatory governance, environmental impacts, labor, etc.

4-Be able to evaluate the activity and impact of American a non-American corporations and to make analytical alternative arguments and recommendations for policymakers and other stakeholders.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS & FEATURES**

### **NEWS DEBATE**

In each class the initial 10 minutes will be devoted to comment and analyze some relevant news of corporations acting internationally of the preceding week, so students must follow the events through different national and international media.

### **BOOK CRITIQUE & RESEARCH PAPER GENERAL GUIDELINES**

For this course a book critique is a 3 pages piece summarizing and (more important) analyzing a relevant book. It must discuss the theoretical approach, election of concepts, arguments, evidence, and connections or contrasts with another or other books or academic articles. The book must be chose in agreement with the professor. The critique must be made available for the class in Canvas the day before October 9.

The paper (6 pages excluding bibliography) is due on October 30, hard copy, at the beginning of the class. Detailed instruction and guidance will be given in due time. They must have a title, a 150 words abstract, introduction, conclusion, a bibliography, numbered pages, times new roman (size 12-point font, 1.5 spaced), one inch margins. It is advised that the student chose the topic well in advance in consultation with the professor. It must be a relevant question about an important topic or specific *problematique*, and it must be

addressed in a comprehensive, rigorous and analytical manner. For example, a paper might consist in a comparison between how a corporation is changing it approaches overtime to any given issue or among countries.

A final note about the syllabus. This syllabus is not a contract; it is a guide to help you to organize your own intellectual effort to gain mastery of a complex array of questions over different topics. As such, it is always work in progress, it might be updated a couple of times during the course, and it is a future source of reference for your studies, research or work.

### **GRADE COMPUTATION**

Book critique (10%)

Attendance, group presentations and class participation (brief presentations, debates, discussions in class and/or Blackboard, etc) (25%)

Midterm 5 pages paper (30%)

Final Exam (35%)

### **EXPECTATIONS & CLASS POLICIES**

Students are expected to attend every class and to be well prepared for class discussions and to contribute actively, in an articulated manner. Students need to be respectful of comments informed by different set of values, and must refrain from insulting or making derogatory statements.

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the UM appropriate authorities privately to discuss specific needs.

A letter grade will be deducted for late work. Do not procrastinate, organize your work carefully and plan in advance.

Please contact the professor any time needed. Direct consultation can be arranged by email (usually before or after class).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic honesty is strictly enforced. Please revise in detail UM policies regarding plagiarism, quotations, etc. Please ask UM authorities for further assistance.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR DISRUPTION OF CLASSES**

Please revise UM policies. In the event of an emergency (weather: hurricane, storms, snow, quake, etc.), class will not be disrupted and must continue via internet.

### **REQUIRED BOOKS:**

-Cohen, Stephen D. *Multinational Corporations and Foreign Direct Investment Avoiding Simplicity, Embracing Complexity*. Oxford University Press. 2017

-Drezner, Daniel, *All Politics is Global. Explaining International Regulatory Regimes*, Princeton University Press, 2008.

Articles will be available on CANVAS and/or at the Library before each class.

**SUGGESTED BOOKS:**

Gilpin, Robert, *Global Political Economy*, Princeton University Press, 2001.  
Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, Cornell University Press, 1998.

**COURSE SCHEDULE and Suggested Readings**

**INTRODUCTION**

**SEPTEMBER**

**WEEK 1:**

**Wednesday 6**

**Introduction to the Course: Corporations and the Global Political Economy**

**WEEK 2:**

**Monday 11: Globalization and its discontents: A runaway world? Part I**

**Wednesday 13: Globalization and its discontents: A runaway world? Part II**

**Suggested Readings:**

Stiglitz, Joseph, *Globalization and its discontents*, W.W. Norton, 2003. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and afterword.

Giddens, Anthony, *Runaway World*, Routledge, 2003. Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, and 5.

**WEEK 3:**

**Monday 18: The State and the Multinationals I**

**Wednesday 20: The State and the Multinationals II**

**Suggested Readings:**

Gilpin, Robert, *Global Political Economy*, Princeton University Press, 2001, Chapter 11, p. 278-304.

Gilpin, Robert, "Review: The Political Economy of the Multinational Corporation," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 70, No. 1, 1976, pp. 184-91.

**WEEK 4:**

**Monday 25: Corporate Purposes and Goals**

**Wednesday 27: Corporations and Global Supply Chains**

**OCTOBER**

**WEEK 5:**

**Monday 2: Global Trade Regimes**

**Wednesday 4: Regional Integration Processes**

**WEEK 6:**

**Monday 9: BOOK CRITIQUE DUE**

**Wednesday 11 Financial Globalization & Regulations**

**WEEK 7:**

**Monday 16 Foreign Direct Investment I**

**Wednesday 18 Foreign Direct Investment II**

**WEEK 8:**

**Monday 23 Corporations, Ethics and Social Responsibility**

**Wednesday 25 Corporations, Development and Poverty**

**WEEK 9:**

**Monday 30: MIDTERM PAPER DUE**

**Corporations and Labor**

**NOVEMBER**

**Wednesday 1 Corporations and Humans Rights**

**WEEK 10:**

**Monday 6: Corporations, States and Political Risk**

**Wednesday 8: Corporations, States, Society and Natural Resources**

**WEEK 11:**

**Monday 13: Corporations, States, Society and Natural Resources I: Agriculture.**

**Wednesday 15: Corporations, States, Society and Natural Resources II: Energy/Oil.  
1-Group Presentation**

**WEEK 12:**

**Monday 20: Corporations, States, Society and Environment and Climate Change  
2-Group Presentation**

**Wednesday 22 THANKSGIVING**

**WEEK 13:**

**Monday 27: European MNCs**

**3-Group Presentation**

**Wednesday 29: Korean MNCs: *Chaebols*.**

**4-Group Presentation**

**DECEMBER**

**WEEK 14:**

**Monday 4: Chinese MNCs**

**5-Group Presentation**

**Wednesday 6: Latin American MNCs: *Multilatinas*.**

**6-Group Presentation**

**WEEK 15:**

**Monday 11: The Future of Corporations and Global Politics.**

**Wednesday 13 FINAL EXAM**