Course Objectives

International Political Economy (IPE) studies the political battle between the winners and losers of global economic exchange, addressing how political factors affect economic outcomes and how economic factors influence political outcomes at both the domestic and the international levels of analysis. Two abstract and considerably broader questions typically shape IPE scholarship. First, how exactly does politics shape the decisions that societies make about how to use the resources that are available to them? Second, what are the consequences of these decisions? Therefore, the mainstream IPE examines the interaction between “societal interests” and “political institutions” in order to understand how economic and political policies are ultimately made and how these policies may further shape the welfare of both the society and the state.

This course is composed of three parts. The first part provides introduction to the basic background knowledge, which contains the scientific research method and the
traditional schools of IPE. The second part introduces important topics of IPE research including international trade system, international monetary system, and multinational corporations (MNCs). The last part addresses contemporary IPE issues such as economic development, economic coercion, foreign aid, and globalization. The students are expected to learn to know how to use IPE theories and analytical frameworks to analyze (describe, explain, and forecast) important developments shaping the contemporary world.

**Course Description**

This course will be conducted by the way of “flipping classroom.” The instructor will teach for the first three weeks, and then his role will switch from “the class instructor” to “the class host” from the fourth week. Students will be divided into groups and the groups will compete with one another for points given by the instructor based on their performance. The instructor will grade the groups in rank order by how well they answer the questions on the weekly reading assignment and students’ presentations in the previous week. The group that gets the lowest score will teach the next class using the materials given by the instructor. The group who gets the highest score becomes the overall champion of the week. At the end of the semester, the group who earns the most championships will enjoy the privilege of not taking the final exam and get the full 40% score. There is a caveat that every student in the group has to answer at least one question correctly so that the score of the group can be considered as valid at the end of the game each week.

**Course Requirements**

1. **Presentation**: 60%. Because there will be 12 sessions with the lowest scoring group in the previous week doing the presentation, each presentation performance counts as 5%. The members of the groups who do not have to make a presentation during the week automatically get the full 5% score.

2. **Final Exam**: 40%. The members of the group who wins the most championships automatically receives the full 40% score.

**Note:**
1. Students who are enrolled in the class but do not show up in the first week are not allowed to take this class.

2. Students who are absent for more than three weeks are failed automatically with no exceptions. You do not have to ask for leave in advance if you plan to be absent. But you are expected to act responsibly toward your fellow group members.

3. The instructor can and is more than happy to fail students who are not hard-working in their studies.

4. The instructor will ask students who come to class late to sing a song at the beginning of next week’s class as punishment. If you are frequently tardy, you will have to sing a song in a second language.

5. This class requires you to do lots of group working, so please do not enroll in this class if you do not feel comfortable with it.

6. To make sure the classes will be productive for everyone, please do not enroll in this class if you do not agree to any of the previous rules and requirements.

Supplementary Materials

Recommended Textbooks (Not required to buy)


Recommended Journals (you can download the articles for free through NCCU’s ip)

International Organization

Review of International Political Economy

Review of International Organizations

World Politics

New Political Economy

Journal of Political Economy

The Journal of Economic History

Journal of International Economics

International Studies Quarterly

International Studies Review

Comparative Political Studies

Journal of Conflict Resolution

Journal of Peace Research

Conflict Management and Peace Science

International Interactions

International Security

Security Studies

Defense and Peace Economics

American Political Science Review

American Review of Political Science

Annual Review of Political Science
Foreign Policy
Foreign Affairs
International Affairs

The Economist http://www.economist.com/
The International Interest http://intlinterest.com/
The National Interest http://nationalinterest.org/
Class Schedule

(The class schedule is subject to change according to students’ performance and interest or the instructor’s schedule.)

**Part I: Basic Background Knowledge**

Week 1: (2/23) Introduction

Week 2: (3/1) Scientific Research Method


**Part II: Important IPE Topics**

Week 4: (3/15) Why Hegemony is Important

Week 5: (3/22) Why International Regime is Important: Function and Institution

Week 6: (3/29) Why International Regime is Important: Complying and Pathology

**Week 7: (4/5) Compensatory Day-Off, No Class**

Week 8: (4/12) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part I)

**Week 9: (4/19) Midterm Exam Week (for Flexible Use)**

Week 10: (4/26) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part II)

Week 11: (5/3) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part III)

Week 12: (5/10) What are the Determinants of States’ Financial Policy?

**Part III: Contemporary IPE Issues**

Week 13: (5/17) How Major Powers Win the Wars against Other Major Powers

Week 14: (5/24) Is Economic Coercion a Useful Tool?

Week 15: (5/31) Is Foreign Aid a Useful Tool?

Week 16: (6/7) What is Globalization?

Week 17: (6/14) Why are There Contentment and Discontentment with Globalization?

**Week 18: (6/21) Final Exam**
Part I: Basic Background Knowledge

Week 1: (2/23) Introduction

(No classwork.)

Week 2: (3/1) Scientific Research Method

- Topic: Scientific Research Method
- Papers for Discussion: None
- Recommended papers:


- Topic: Internationalization and Domestic Politics
- Papers for Discussion:


**Part II: Important IPE Topics**

**Week 4: (3/15) Why Hegemony is Important**

- Papers for Discussion:


Week 5: (3/22) Why International Regime is Important: Function and Institution

- Topic: Prisoners’ Dilemma and International Trade Cooperation

- Papers for Discussion:

Week 6: (3/29) Why International Regime is Important: Complying and Pathology

- Topic: Why States Cooperate to Supply Global Public Goods

- Papers for Discussion:
  - David H. Bearce and Stacy Bondanella, “Intergovernmental Organizations,

**Week 7: (4/5) Compensatory Day-Off, No Class**

(No classwork.)

**Week 8: (4/12) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part I)**

- Topic: A Society-Centered Approach to Trade Politics
- Papers for Discussion:


**Week 9: (4/19) Midterm Exam Week (for Flexible Use)**

(No classwork.)
Week 10: (4/26) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part II)

- Topic: A State-Centered Approach to Trade Politics

- Papers for Discussion:


Week 11: (5/3) What are the Determinants of States’ Trade Policy? (Part III)

- Topic: International Integration and Regionalism

- Papers for Discussion:


  [Book] Edward D. Mansfield and Helen V. Milner, Votes, Vetoes, and the Political

**Week 12: (5/10) What Are the Determinants of States’ Financial Policy?**

- Topic: A Society-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange-Rate Policies
- Papers for Discussion:


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**Part III: Contemporary IPE Issues**

**Week 14: (5/17) How Major Powers Win the Wars against Other Major Powers**

- Topic: A State-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange-Rate Policies
- Papers for Discussion:


Quan Li, “Democracy, Autocracy, and Expropriation of Foreign Direct Investment,” Comparative Political Studies 42, no. 8 (August 1, 2009): 1098–1127.


**Week 15: (5/24) Is Economic Coercion a Useful Tool?**

- Topic: The Political Economy of Multinational Corporations (MNCs)
- Papers for Discussion:
Week 16: (5/31) Is Foreign Aid a Useful Tool?

- Topic: Resource Curse
- Papers for Discussion:
  


Week 13: (6/7) What is Globalization?

- Topic: Financial Crises
- Papers for Discussion:


**Week 17: (6/14) Why are There Contentment and Discontentment with Globalization?**

- Topic: International and Global Governance

- Papers for Discussion (pick up to five):


  Lloyd Gruber, “Globalisation with Growth and Equity: Can We Really Have It All?,” Third World Quarterly 32, no. 4 (May 1, 2011): 629–52.


**Week 18: (6/21) Final Exam**

(No classwork.)