

**International Political Economy**  
**PLSC 346**  
**Winter 2016**

**Professor:** Nitya Singh

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**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday

- 1:45 PM to 3:00 PM, 601-F Pray-Harrold Hall
- or by appointment.

**Section/CRN:** PLSC 346/23418

**Class Timing:** 9:30 to 10:45 PM Mon/Wed

**Location:** PH 421

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**Course Overview**

This course examines the politics of global economic relations. It will focus on issues of international trade, the international monetary system, and foreign investment. Among the specific topics to be discussed are: trade and protectionism, the role and performance of global institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, and WTO, the significance of multinational corporations, efforts at regional economic integration such as the EU and NAFTA, the relationship of the world economy to the economic development of poor countries, and the emergence of new economic players such as China and India. All of these issues will be examined against the backdrop of economic globalization and the global economic crisis of 2008-09.

**Objectives:**

The expectation is that students will leave the course with:

- 1) A basic understanding of the subject of international trade, finance, and investment relations.
- 2) A familiarity with the instruments, strategies, and motives of political institutions (both domestic and international) as they attempt to manage international economic relations.
- 3) Greater ability, as citizens, to understand and to participate in the public debate over the issues central to this course.
- 4) Understanding of the impact of globalization on developed and developing countries.
- 5) Ability to conduct Political Risk Analysis.
- 6) Further development of the critical reasoning skills, as well as skill of clear, precise writing via both in-class and take home essays.
- 7) Be able to confidently present their ideas to their peers, and be able to verbally argue about the merits of their ideas and opinions.

## **Materials**

There are two required texts available for purchase at campus bookstores or through any online vendor:

1. Introduction to International Political Economy. Edition No. 5. Authors: David N. Balaam and Bradford Dillman. **(B&D)**  
ISBN-13:978-0-205-79138-5
2. Debates in International Political Economy. Author: Thomas Oatley (Second Edition). **(Oatley)**  
ISBN-13: 9780205060610

An important component in understanding the ideas in political economy is being able to relate them to current political events happening across the world. Therefore in this class we will regularly be discussing world events and as students you should be aware of them. I would encourage that you should daily read a major newspaper (The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, US News etc). Another resource that you can use are websites of major news networks. ([www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news), [abcnews.go.com](http://abcnews.go.com), [www.cnbc.com](http://www.cnbc.com) etc.)

## **Course Structure**

We will study the ideas of political economy based on the following perspectives.

1. Theoretical Background to understanding International Political Economy.
2. Structures of International Political Economy.
3. Political Risk Analysis – How to conduct such a study.
4. States and Markets in the Global Economy.
5. Transnational Problems and Dilemmas.

## **Course Requirements**

The class will involve a combination of lectures, assignments, discussions and presentations. My expectations for a student taking this course are that you regularly attend class, stay current with the Reading Assignments, and regularly read news coverage of International Relations current events. The class also has an Canvas link and all the class notes, assignment details, syllabus, group assignments etc. will be posted online. Students are required to access the Canvas to keep up-to-date with the class teachings. Two sections of the class will be taught online and the instructor will be available to interact with the students as he teaches the class. In case you have any problem accessing Canvas please inform the instructor in advance so that necessary corrective measures can be taken.

## **Grades, Assignments and Evaluation**

The final grade in the class will be cumulative and will be calculated out of a total of 1000 points. The course letter grade assignment is mentioned below.

Course Letter Grades will be assigned as follows:

- (200) – Cumulative Final Examination
- (200) – Midterm Examination
- (200) – Tests (1 and 2)
- (200) – Political Risk Analysis Presentation by Groups
- (100) – A response paper to articles assigned by instructor
- (100) – Article Presentation by Students from Oatley Text Book.

A = 93-100%	A = 930-1000
A- = 90-92%	A- = 900-929
B+ = 87-89%	B+ = 870-899
B = 83-86%	B = 830-869
B- = 80-82%	B- = 800-829
C+ = 77-79%	C+ = 770-799
C = 73-76%	C = 730-769
C- = 70-72%	C- = 700-729
D = 60-69%	D = 600-699
D- = 55-59%	D- = 550-599
E = below 55%	E = 549 & below

*Exams (40% or 400 Points)*

The mid-term exam will occur after the major theories of political economy have been taught and will consist of essay type, multiple choices, fill in the blanks and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The final exam will be cumulative and will have the same format as the mid-term exam. There will be no make-up examinations for the mid-term as well as the final, without medical documentation explaining the absence.

*Response Paper (10% or 100 Points)*

In this course students are expected to write one response paper of 4 pages in 12 points, double space, Times New Roman Format. The objective of this assignment is to enable the student to develop an understanding of how to critically evaluate political economy articles. The grading will be done based on the level of critical analysis conducted by the student with respect to the issues being discussed by him/her.

Additional details regarding these assignments will be further provided in class.

*Political Risk Analysis Presentation (20% or 200 Points)*

As a part of this assignment all the students will be divided into groups. This will be a role play assignment in which the group will give their briefing to the class on a country of their choice. The students are expected to be conducting a political risk analysis of a country. They are expected to look at the country from a perspective of a MNC that is planning on setting up global operations in that particular country. The group is expected to analyze the micro as well as macro

socio-political and economic environment in the country. At the end of the presentation, the group is expected to give recommendation on whether the MNC should commence operations in that particular country or not. The grades for this assignment will be based on the quality of the presentation as well as the manner in which the group holds up to cross examination and questioning. Further details regarding this assignment will be given in class.

#### *Tests (20% or 200 Points)*

We will also have 2 tests during the course of the semester and each test will be worth 100 points. The format of the test will be a combination of multiple choices and True/False answer questions in any or all combinations. The dates of the tests are mentioned in the course schedule and there will be no make-up of these tests without medical documentation explaining the absence.

#### *Discussion by Students of Assigned Reading (10% or 100 Points)*

Each Student will be assigned an article from the **Thomas Oatley Book** that they will present in the class. The Students will read the article, and then are expected to discuss the assigned article in class. The student discussion is expected to supplement the instructor's teachings.

#### *Academic Honesty*

I have a zero-tolerance policy for academic dishonesty and every student is expected to adhere to Eastern Michigan University's policy on academic honesty. If caught cheating on exams, turning in someone else's written work, or plagiarizing another's work you will fail this course. Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: [www.emich.edu/studentconduct/](http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/).

I would like to emphasize that you should **not assume** what any of the policies imply. If you are in any doubt regarding any of the course policies I encourage you to come and talk to me. Furthermore you should **always check** with me whether it is acceptable to work together with another student on a project or assignment; until so assigned to by the instructor.

#### *Students with Special Needs*

If you wish to be accommodated for your disability, EMU Board of Regents Policy 8.3 requires that you first register with the Students with Disabilities Office (SDO) in 240 EMU Student Center. You may contact SDO by telephone (734.487.2470). Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the SDO promptly as you will only be accommodated from the date you register with them forward. No retroactive accommodations are possible.



### *Note on Grading Methods and Syllabus*

All tests and papers will be graded blind by the instructor. If a student would like to appeal the grading of a question, he or she should submit to the instructor his or her grievance in writing, explaining why he or she feels that the *given response* was inadequately assessed. The status of students' scholarship, potential entrance into law school / grad school will not be taken into consideration in grading.

In addition this syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in a fair and timely manner.

## **Course Schedule and Assigned Readings**

### **Week 1: Introduction**

Wednesday 1/6: Introduction to the Class

- Chapter 1 (B&D)

### **Week 2: Perspectives on International Political Economy**

Monday 1/11: The Economic Liberal and Mercantilist Perspective

- Chapter 2 (B&D)

Wednesday 1/13: The Economic Liberal and Mercantilist Perspective Continued

- Chapter 3 (B&D)

### **Week 3: Structuralist Perspective**

Monday 1/18: **No Class: MLK Jr. Day**

Wednesday 1/20: The Structuralist Perspective

- Chapter 4 (B&D)
- Communism: Marxism and Leninism

### **Week 4: Structures of IPE**

Monday 1/25: The Structuralist Perspective Continued

- Communism: Marxism and Leninism
- Key Economic Terms

Wednesday 1/27: Conducting Political Risk Analysis

- How to conduct Political Risk Analysis

## **Week 5: Structures of IPE: The Production and Trade Structure**

Monday 2/1: The Production and Trade Structure

- Chapter 6 (B&D)
- Chapter 2 - Trade Deficits Reduce Total Jobs Vs. Trade Deficits Produce Different Jobs (Oatley)

Wednesday 2/3: The Production and Trade Structure (Continued)

- Chapter 3 – Retrain Workers Vs, Redistribute Income. (Oatley)

## **Week 6: Structures of IPE: The Global Security Structure**

Monday 2/8: The Global Security Structure

- Chapter 9 (B&D)
- Chapter 5 – Free Trade Areas are Stepping Stones Vs. Free Trade Areas are Stumbling Blocks (Oatley)
- **Test 1 (Online on Canvas)**

Wednesday 2/10: Global Security Structure Continued

- Global Security Structure Continued
- Chapter 9 – Sovereign Wealth Funds Threaten U.S. Interests Vs. Sovereign Wealth Funds do not Threaten U.S. Interests. (Oatley)

## **Week 7: Structures of IPE: The Knowledge and Technology Structure**

Monday 2/15: The Knowledge and Technology Structure

- Chapter 10 (B&D)
- Chapter 6. Restrict Trade to Support Climate Change Regime V. Don't Restrict Trade to Support Climate Change

Wednesday 2/17: The Knowledge and Technology Structure Continued

## **Week 8: Winter Break**

**2/22 – 2/28 – No Class (Winter Break)**

## **Week 9: The International Monetary/Finance Structure**

Monday 3/7: The International Finance Structure

- Chapter 7 (B&D)
- Chapter 11. China Must Revalue to Correct Global Imbalances v. Chinese Revaluation Will Not Correct Global Imbalances

Wednesday 3/9: **Midterm Exams**

## **Week 10: International Debt and Financial Crises**

Monday 3/14: International Debt and Financial Crises

- Chapter 8 (B&D)
- Chapter 10. Markets Caused the Financial Crisis v. Too Much Government Intervention Caused the Financial Crisis

Wednesday 3/16: **Political Risk Analysis Presentation - 1**

## **Week 11: States and Markets in the Global Economy**

Monday 3/21: The Middle East: Quest for Development and Democracy

- Chapter 14 (B&D)

Wednesday 3/23: **Political Risk Analysis Presentation – 2**

## **Week 12: The European Union and Regional Trade Organizations**

Monday 3/28: The European Union and other Regional Trade Organizations

- Chapter 12 (B&D)
- Chapter 12. Trade Promotes Growth v. Trade Does Not Promote Growth

Wednesday 3/30: **Political Risk Analysis Presentation - 3**

### **Week 13: Transnational Problems**

Monday 4/4: Migration and Tourism

- Chapter 16 (B&D)
- Chapter 4 – Migration brings Economic Gains Vs. Migration Reduces Cultural Cohesion. (Oatley)
- **Test 2 (Online on Canvas)**

Wednesday 4/6: Transnational Corporations

- Chapter 17 (B&D)
- Chapter 8 – The Multinational Race to the Bottom Vs. The Myth of the Multinational Race to the Bottom. (Oatley)

### **Week 14: Transnational Problems and Dilemmas**

Monday 4/11: The Illicit Global Economy – The Dark Side of Globalization and Student Led Discussions

- Chapter 15 (B&D)
- Chapter 7 – Sweatshop Regulation is Counterproductive Vs. Governments must regulate sweatshops. (Oatley)

Wednesday 4/13: Oil and Energy – Dependency and Resource Curses and Conclusion

- Chapter 19 (B&D)
- Chapter 15. The Beijing Consensus Will Replace the Washington Consensus V. The Myth of the Beijing Consensus

### **Week 15: Conclusion**

Monday 4/18: Conclusion

- I will sum up all the broad ideas that we have studied over the entire semester and show how they all are integrated and help us understand some of the major ideas in Political Economy.

### **Final Examination**

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM. Scheduled in the Classroom.**