

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Erik Jones

Course Title: International Political Economy (Seminar)

Description: This seminar offers students the opportunity to explore some of the major contributions to international political economy in the context of an evolving sub-discipline. The objective is to confront complex ideas about a complex global political economy. The central focus will lie on the nation state and the transatlantic economy. However, the course will also address concerns about North-South relations, non-state actors, interdependence, institutions, and ideas.

The course is organized around a 'great books' approach—with students being asked to read a book a week in preparation for seminar discussion. This is a heavy preparation load and will require an equally weighty commitment on the part of the students. The expectation is that these students will be literate in politics and economics, but no more. The reading list contains questions to help guide you through the texts however the seminars are themselves open-ended and discussion-led.

Requirements: There are four different requirements for this course.

- First, students will write six short essays of 300 words. The essays will be in response to set questions based on the weekly readings and will be due at the start of class during which the reading is to be discussed. There are twelve weeks of readings after the first to choose from. However, no essay may be handed in on the question for a given week after the start of class for that week. The questions are listed below the readings in the course syllabus. This set of essays will account for 30 percent of your final course grade.
- Second, students will write a book review of 1000 words on a book in international political economy published after 1980 and NOT listed in the syllabus for this course. The book review should highlight the specific contribution of the book to the wider literature on international political economy and it should make the case for adding that book to the syllabus for this course. The book review is due at the start of the tenth seminar and will count for 30 percent of your final course grade.
- Third, students will write a biographical sketch of 2000 words about an author in international political economy. The sketch should highlight the contribution of the writer to the study of international political economy and it should make the case for incorporating that writer into the syllabus. Please note that the writer may NOT be the same as the author of the book reviewed in the second assignment. The biographical sketch is due at the start of the last seminar and will count for 30 percent of your final course grade.
- Fourth, students will be expected to participate regularly in class. Class participation will count for 10 percent of the final course grade.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **The (Re-)Birth of a Discipline**
E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis* (1939)
How are economics and politics interconnected?
2. **Ideology**
Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy* (1942–3rd ed. 1950)
Why is capitalism doomed to fail?
3. **Systems**
Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (1946)
'The free market is artificial; it is the welfare state that is organic.' Discuss.
4. **Division**
Gunnar Myrdal, *An International Economy* (1956)
How does national integration conflict with international integration?
5. **Interdependence**
Richard N. Cooper, *The Economics of Interdependence* (1968)
Why is cooperation necessary for all countries, even the most powerful?
6. **Abuse**
David Calleo and Benjamin Rowland, *America and the World Political Economy* (1973)
How does the United State abuse its role in the world economy?
7. **Order**
Charles Kindleberger, *The World in Depression* (1973–Revised Edition 1986)
Why is hegemony important for international economic stability?
8. **Competition**
Robert Gilpin, *U.S. Power and the Multinational Corporation* (1975)
'Multinational corporations do not weaken the state, they strengthen it.' Discuss.
9. **Dependency**
Fernando Cardoso and Enzo Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1979)
To what extent are developing country elites responsible for dependency on the North?
10. **Disorder** (Book Review Due)
Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony* (1984)
How can cooperation replace hegemony?
11. **Diffusion**
Susan Strange, *Casino Capitalism* (1986)
How does economic uncertain affect political stability?

12. **Ideas**
Mark Blyth, *Great Transformations* (2002)
How do ideas have an independent causal force?
13. **Idiosyncrasy**
Erik Jones, *The Politics of Economic and Monetary Union* (2002)
How does diversity support integration?

FURTHER GUIDANCE

Short Essays: The purpose of the short essays is to develop your skills in analytic writing. Therefore, I want you to be sure that you do three things: Answer the question; develop your answer as an argument; and stick to the word limit. I don't want any long treatise and will mark you down if you go beyond 330 words in length. I will also mark you down if you write less than 270 words. Think of this as a discipline—and the discipline is making your point, and making it convincing, in the space which you are allotted. If you want a good model, you should read the opinion pages in the newspaper.

Book Reviews: The purpose of the book review is to provide an extended analysis of the some-one else's argument. In part the exercise is necessarily descriptive: you must set out in short form what is the argument and why the author thinks it is important. Still the bulk of the review should provide an assessment—an argument about quality or importance—that comes more from you than from the author or work that you are reviewing. You will be assessed primarily on the quality of your own assessment rather than on the quality of your description (or synopsis).

The assessment you posit in your review should take the form of an argument and not a collection of opinions. It should have a logical structure. It should include evidence both from the article being assessed and, if you choose, from the wider literature or from the real world. It can be constructive—"e.g. this book unlocks a new understanding of the issues . . ." It can be qualifying—"e.g. this book takes the discussion a long way and yet still fails to address this set of necessary and important issues . . ." Or it can be negative—"e.g. this book is predicated on a fundamental misunderstanding of the subject / leads to contradiction / underestimates the significance of competing claims . . ." Whatever the assessment you make, my assessment will be based upon the quality of your arguments (data and warrants) in support of your claims.

Examples of well-written book reviews can be found in a number of quality academic journals. Since our target audience is *International Affairs*, I would strongly urge you to read a number of their reviews before you begin to write your own. In addition to that journal, the *American Political Science Review* (the book review version of this journal is now called *Perspectives on Politics*) has the largest volume of book reviews in political science and includes pieces of approximately 1000 words. *Political Studies* has a number of shorter reviews (now collected in *Political Studies Reviews*). *International Studies Review*, *Governance*, and *Political Science Quarterly*. all include healthy review sections. And this is just to name a few possibilities.

Biographical Sketches: The purpose of the biographical sketches is to get you to look at the evolution of someone's ideas over time. This will not only help you better understand why people say what they do, but it will also help you understand how the literature itself has developed. Of the three sets of exercises, the biographical sketches are the most unfamiliar and you will find examples

of them less frequently in the literature. That said, the objective is to bring together the major contributions made by a single individual, to give us some basic biographical information about the person, and to tell us how these contributions move forward the debate on (some aspect of) international political economy. A list of possibilities would include:

C. Fred Bergsten, David Calleo, Benjamin Cohen, Kenneth Dyson, Barry Eichengreen, Niall Ferguson, Jeffrey Frieden, Peter Gourevitch, Robert Gilpin, Peter Hall, Eric Helleiner, Torben Iversen, Miles Kahler, Peter Katzenstein, Paul Kennedy, Robert Keohane, Charles Kindleberger, Jonathan Kirschner, Stephen Krasner, David Lake, David Landes, Kathleen McNamara, Alan Millward, Andrew Moravcsik, Joseph Nye, Clyde Prestowitz, Susan Strange, Loukas Tsoukalis.

Having said that, I am *eager* for you to come up with new names to add to the list. Adding to the list may even be easier than choosing from it, because it will force you to focus your mind on what your author has to contribute, where that contribution was made, and what implications it holds for our understanding of the international political economy. Here too, I would like for you to let me know who you will be writing on well before the fact. I would also like to be sure that no two people want to write on the same person—hence it will operate as first come, first served.