POLS 390A International Political Economy

**Fall 2010**

**TR 8:20-9:50am in AH 318**

**Instructor: Rebekah Tromble**

**Office: Asbury Hall 106, ext. 4263**

**Office hours: MW 10:30-11:30am, or by appointment**

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***Course Objectives***

Few today doubt that economics are an international (if not quite entirely global) affair. Whether it’s our t-shirts produced in Indonesia, blu-ray players manufactured in Japan, or bananas grown in Ecuador, most people have an intuitive understanding of the international nature of contemporary economics.

Most also have an at least partial awareness of the fact that international economics do not direct themselves—that political decisions produce complex policies that guide the international economic realm. Trade barriers such as import tariffs, for example, help determine the type and amount of t-shirts, blu-ray players, and bananas that are traded around the world.

Most of us understand these basics. Few of us like the outcomes.

American jobs are being shipped abroad. Poverty is rampant in the global South. Economic development is leading to environmental degradation.

Much of this course will focus on examining such problems. We will apply a critical lens to the ideas and policies that have generated these predicaments. At the same time, however, we will try to be constructive. All too often, we (especially those of us in academia) dedicate ourselves to tearing down claims and spend too little (often *no*) time examining or developing arguments that point us toward positive change. In the weeks ahead, we will spend a great deal of time evaluating the proposals forwarded by some of today’s leading scholars and practitioners of international political economy (IPE) – people like Joseph Stiglitz, Jeffrey Sachs, Paul Collier, and Stephen Krasner. We will, of course, apply a critical lens to their proposals. No ideas should be accepted without questioning. And I certainly do not expect you to come away with a straightforward or definitive sense of how to correct all the problems in contemporary IPE. This is no space for dogmatism. Still, given the genuine and profound real-world importance of international political economy, it is essential that we take as much time to engage in “*constructive* thinking” as we do in “critical thinking”.

***Assessment***

Your course grade will be divided into six components:

1. *Participation* (15%) - This is a discussion-based course. As such, your active and informed participation is essential. I expect you to attend class—with exceptions made for reasonable and documented excuses—and ***more than two unexcused absences will lead to partial-letter deductions in your participation grade for each absence***. (For example, if you have three unexcused absences and your participation grade for the semester is a B+, it will become a B. If you have four unexcused absences and your participation grade is a B+, it will become a B-.) I also expect you to come to class prepared, having read the materials for the day and ready to discuss them in a thoughtful way.
2. *Discussion Questions* (10%) – Before each class period, each student is required to submit two questions drawn from the readings that can serve as the basis for class discussion. These questions must be posted on the Moodle discussion board ***no later than 8pm the evening before the next class session***. These questions need not be long (two or three sentences is acceptable), but should be broad and insightful enough to spur engaged discussion of key issues. \*Discussion questions must not duplicate those presented at the end of each chapter in the Cohn textbook.\*
3. *Leading class discussion* (10%) – Each student will lead one class discussion during the semester. When leading a discussion, you should come prepared with (1) a brief (no more than 10-minute) overview of the main issues raised in the readings to present to the class and (2) a list of questions—drawn from both your classmates’ questions posted on Moodle and your own understanding of the readings—that you use to guide the class for the day.
4. *Short writing assignments* (3 @ 5% each, 15% total) – These assignments will be 2-3 pages each, and will be geared toward spurring deeper reflection on particularly complex issues addressed in class. You will have at least one week to complete each assignment.
5. *Research design* (15%) – 5-7 pages. ***Due November 11th.*** The research design must present: (1) the research question you intend to address in your final paper and justify your choice of this question, (2) a discussion of the previous research and applicable theory upon which you will draw, (3) the hypothesis/hypotheses you intend to test, (4) a discussion of the evidence that will be required to properly test your hypotheses, and
(5) how you intend to gather that evidence.
6. *Final paper* (35%) – 12-15 pages. ***Due December 17th, 1:00pm.*** The final research paper should build on the research design by (1) testing your hypothesis/hypotheses,
(2) interpreting and presenting your findings, and (3) discussing the real-world implications of your findings.

***No Technology Policy***

The use of laptop computers, cell/smartphones, and other mobile technology devices is prohibited in class, unless I instruct otherwise. In my experience, the temptation to surf the web, check email and Facebook, play Solitaire, send text messages, etc., is just too strong. These activities are distracting for everyone in the classroom and impede effective learning. Use of these devices during class will result in deductions from your participation grade. Use during either the midterm or final exam will be considered cheating. If you need to use a laptop for medical reasons, please provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services.

***Academic Integrity***

From the DePauw University Academic Handbook:

“Academic integrity refers to the ethical standards and policies that govern how people work and interact in the academic enterprise at a college or university. These standards and policies attempt to do more than define and condemn what is wrong or unethical; they also attempt to provide a foundation for the mutual trust and individual responsibility necessary in a healthy academic community.

“Both faculty members and students have the responsibility of upholding the principles of academic integrity. Faculty and staff members should create an environment in which honesty is encouraged, dishonesty discouraged and integrity is openly discussed. Faculty members should follow the principles of academic integrity in their own work and conduct. Students are obligated not only to follow these principles, but also to take an active role in encouraging other students to respect them” (<http://www.depauw.edu/univ/handbooks/dpuhandbookprint.asp?indexnum=101>, Accessed January 27, 2009).

I take academic integrity very seriously. Without it, learning and scholarship are pointless endeavors. I exercise a zero-tolerance policy for all forms of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, and will report all cases as required by University policy.

***Required Texts***

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

* Theodore H. Cohn. 2010. *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*. Longman. (Also available in e-book format.)
* Moises Naím. 2005. *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy*. New York: Anchor Books.
* Joseph E. Stiglitz. 2008. *Making Globalization Work*. New York: Norton.

*Other Required Texts*

All other required materials will be posted on the course Moodle page.

*Expectations Regarding Reading*

Students are expected to read and learn all assigned material. Though the vast majority of assigned readings will be covered explicitly in class, we will not have time to thoroughly explore all materials, and a certain amount of independent learning is expected. However, should you have questions about material not thoroughly discussed in class, you should always feel free to either ask questions directly in class or see me outside of class time for guidance.

***Class Schedule***

Part I – Introduction to International Political Economy

Thursday, August 26th: Course Logistics

Tuesday, August 31st: Introduction to International Political Economy

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Chs. 1 & 2
* Prologue, Susan Strange, 1988, *States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy*

Thursday, September 2nd: Introduction, continued

*Readings:*

* Ch. 1, Robert Gilpin, 1987, *The Political Economy of International Relations*
* Chs. 1 & 2, Robert Putnam & Nicholas Bayne, 1987, *Hanging Together: Cooperation and Conflict in the Seven-Power Summit*

Part II – Theoretical Perspectives

Tuesday, September 7th: Theory and Its Practical Applications

*Readings:*

* Ch. 1, Susan Strange, 1988, *States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy*
* Ch. 1, James N. Rosenau & Mary Durfee, 2000, *Thinking Theory Thoroughly*
* “Research Design”, The POWERMUTT Project

Thursday, September 9th: Merchantilism/Realism

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 3
* Ch. 2, David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, 2008, *Introduction to International Political Economy*

(Student-led) Tuesday, September 14th: Merchantilism/Realism, continued

*Readings:*

* Stephen D. Krasner. 1976. “State Power and the Structure of International Trade.” *World Politics* 28(3): 317-347.
* David A. Lake. 1987. “Power and the Third World: Toward a Realist Political Economy of North- South Relations.” *International Studies Quarterly* 31(2): 217– 234.

Thursday, September 16th: Liberalism

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 4
* Ch. 2, David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, 2008, *Introduction to International Political Economy*

(Student-led) Tuesday, September 21st: Liberalism, continued

*Readings:*

* Thomas Friedman. 2005. “It’s a Flat World, After All.” *New York Times Magazine*
* Chs. 5-9 Thomas Friedman, 2005, *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*

Thursday, September 23rd: Critical Perspectives – Marxist Perspectives

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 5, pp. 103-114 only
* Chs. 1 & 4, Thomas R. Shannon, 1996, *An Introduction to the World-System Perspective*

(Student-led) Tuesday, September 28th: Critical Perspectives, continued – Constructivism and Feminist Critiques

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 5, pp. 114-129 only
* Chs. 1 & 2, Elisabeth Prügl, 1999, *The Global Construction of Gender: Home-Based Work in the Political Economy of the 20th Century*

Thursday, September 30th:

***\*\* First short writing assignment due (must be e-mailed by 6pm on the 30th)\*\****

*Readings:* None

Part III – Issues and Themes in International Political Economy

Tuesday, October 5th: The International Monetary System

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 6
* “The Greek Crisis” – Series of articles from the *Economist*

(Student-led) Thursday, October 7th: The International Monetary System, continued

*Readings:*

* Jonathan Kirshner. 2008. “Dollar primacy and American power: What's at stake?” *Review of International Political Economy* 15(3): 418-438.
* Paul Bowles. 2008. “The rocky road ahead: China, the US and the future of the dollar.” *Review of International Political Economy* 15(3): 335-353.
* Kathleen R. McNamara. 2008. “A rivalry in the making? The Euro and international monetary power.” *Review of International Political Economy* 15(3): 439-459.
* “Green back.” *Economist*. 2010. Vol. 395, Iss. 8681: 76.

Tuesday, October 12th: International Trade

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 7
* Kevin P. Gallagher. 2008. “Understanding Developing Country Resistance to the Doha Round.” *Review of International Political Economy* 15(1): 62-85.

(Student-led) Thursday, October 14th: International Trade, continued

*Readings:*

* Stiglitz – Chs. 1 & 3

October 17th-23rd, Fall Break

Tuesday, October 26th: Multinational Corporations

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 9 (37pp.)
* Part V, Geoffrey Jones, 2005, *Multinationals and Global Capitalism: From the Nineteenth to the Twenty-first Century*

(Student-led) Thursday, October 28th: Multinational Corporations, continued

*Readings:*

* Stiglitz – Ch. 7
* Ch. 12, Jagdish Bhagwati, 2004, *In Defense of Globalization*

Tuesday, November 2nd: Development

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 10
* Ch. 8, John Rapley, 1996, *Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World*

(Student-led) Thursday, November 4th: Development, continued

***\*\*Second short writing assignment due\*\****

* Chs.1, 2, & 10 (pp. 267-294 only of Ch. 10), Stephen D. Krasner, 1985, *Structural Conflict: The Third World Against Global Liberalism*

(Student-led) Tuesday, November 9th: Development, continued

*Readings:*

* Stiglitz – Ch. 2
* Chs. 3, 4, & 13, Jeffrey D. Sachs, 2005, *The End of Poverty*

Thursday, November 11th:

***\*\*Research Design Due\*\****

*Readings*: None.

In-class movie: TBA

Tuesday, November 16th: Foreign Debt and International Financial Crises

*Readings:*

* Cohn – Ch. 11 (35pp.)
* David Roodman, 2006, “Creditor Initiatives in the 1980s and 1990s,” in *Sovereign Debt at the Crossroads: Challenges and Proposals for Resolving the Third World Debt Crisis*, Chris Jochnick and Fraser A. Preston, eds.
* Ch. 3, Robert Shiller, 2008, *The Subprime Solution: How Today’s Global Financial Crisis Happened, and What to Do about It*

(Student-led) Thursday, November 18th: Foreign Debt and International Financial Crises, continued

*Readings:*

* Stiglitz – Chs. 8 & 9
* Ch. 6, Robert Shiller, 2008, *The Subprime Solution: How Today’s Global Financial Crisis Happened, and What to Do about It*

Part IV: The Illicit Global Economy

(Student-led) Tuesday, November 23rd: Overview

*Readings:*

* Bradford Dillman, 2008, “The Illicit Global Economy”
* Naím – Chs. 1 & 2

Thursday, November 25th: Thanksgiving Break

(Student-led) Tuesday, November 30th: Nukes, Drugs, and Slaves

***\*\*Third short writing assignment due\*\****

*Readings:*

* Naím – Chs. 3-5

(Student-led) Thursday, December 2nd: Other Dirty Stuff

*Readings:*

Naím – Chs. 6-10

(Student-led) Tuesday, December 7th: Will the Thugs Win?

*Readings:*

* Naím – Chs. 9-12

Part V: Democratizing Globalization?

(Student-led) Thursday, December 9th

*Readings:*

* Stiglitz – Ch. 10

***\*\*December 17th, 1:00pm – Final paper due\*\****