

International Political Economy

PLSC 372

Fall 2008

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784 SWKT

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesday s 2-4pm, Tuesdays 9-11am, or by appointment

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Course Description

The field of international political economy is generally understood to be the study of the intersection between international politics and international economics. Unlike most international relations classes, this IPE class will dwell specifically on economic structures and problems. Unlike an international economics class, this IPE class will focus on the role of government, parties, coalitions of states, international organizations, and political movements in explaining the causes and effects of economic phenomena.

We will focus especially on how traditional theories of international politics explain international economics, looking especially at a liberal view – particularly that articulated by Thomas Friedman in The World Is Flat – and a contemporary structural view as found in Joseph Stiglitz’s Making Globalization Work. These two works also represent the current range of policy debate at the highest levels of academia, national government, and international organization and are therefore important resources as you approach this field, whether you plan to engage in further study at the graduate level or move into decision-making positions in the public or private sectors.

Course Requirements

There will be three examinations in this class. Each will cover the material back to the previous test and will include mostly short-answer and essay questions. The schedule is provided in the reading schedule and repeated here: October 1st, October 29th, and December 17th from 11am to 2pm (all exams will take place in our classroom). Each examination is worth 20% of the final grade.

In addition, you will be required to write one long paper in this class. The objective of your research will be to explain a particular international economic phenomenon from the point of view of a theory of international politics of your choosing. You have considerable latitude with respect to both the choice of the phenomenon and the theory, but you must be sure to be clear, analytical, and conclusive. For example, you may be curious about the illegal trade discussed in Balaam and Vaseth’s chapter 18 (discussed on December 1st). Let’s suppose you are particularly interested in illegal trade in weapons of mass destruction (a rather rare, but important, phenomenon). You will want to decide, after doing some preliminary research on the topic (such as reading two or three books and a half-dozen scholarly articles or law review pieces), whether you believe this can be

best explained in terms of a realist theory of international politics (a promising option), or perhaps a liberal theory (which also has great potential). Once you have made this decision, you will determine what type of evidence would be needed to demonstrate that, let's say, a realist theory explains what is going on. It will be this exercise that will ultimately guide your research and the structure and arguments of your paper. Note that you may conclude at the end of the day that there are things going on that realism does not explain (also a likely scenario), in which case your conclusions will be guarded. The key is that you have thought through systematically what it would take to prove or disprove the theory and that you have remained consistent with that determination throughout. To be even more clear: there is no point in including lots of material that is merely interesting but peripheral to this central issue. This paper is not a Wikipedia article!

Naturally, you may end up writing about whether structuralism explains Argentina's debt in the 1990s, or whether liberalism explains outsourcing of American medical services to India, or whether a feminist theory explains UNICEF's policies on sanitation in Africa. Regardless of the topic or theory, the key is that you engage in a systematic analysis and that your conclusions are absolutely consistent with your findings. This will also inform your choice of research method, which may be historical, case-study based, statistical, or textual.

To help you along, you should submit preliminary work. You are required to submit a rough draft on November 17th, and you are very strongly urged to submit your theory and topic by the end of September and a rough outline of the evidence you plan to use in your paper by the end on October. Failure to do so will almost certainly result in a poor grade on the final draft, which is due December 3rd. The rough draft grade will make up five percent of your course grade and the grade on the final draft will constitute twenty-five percent of your course grade. Note that if you are satisfied with the grade you receive on the rough draft, you may so indicate to the instructor who will then transfer that grade to the final draft. You are also welcome to submit preliminary drafts before November 17th, none of which will count for the rough draft grade unless you want them to.

A note on sources: please use material that has been scrutinized by an editor or reviewer at some point in the publication process. In other words, avoid most blogs, Wikipedia articles, on-line magazines, personal websites, and other "private" sources. Focus on scholarly books and journals, government documents, and materials from international organizations. That said, you are particularly urged to seek out experts or individuals with first-hand experience with your topic through e-mail or other on-line methods. For instance, if you decide to study outsourcing, I will expect you to interview someone to whom work has been outsourced in India or China, perhaps by calling your computer manufacturer's "help line" and chatting a bit with "Bob" in Bangalore. Likewise, I would expect you to contact the labor representative at the firm from which the job was outsourced. As Thomas Friedman repeatedly points out, this type of communication is remarkably easy and feasible today – although it may require a bit of creativity and resourcefulness on your part. I believe that seeking out "primary source" material of this type is one of the most enlightening and rewarding methods one can use in social

science research. You will also find it is a basic job skill in this “flattened” (or at least “flattening”) world of ours. Make sure that you are initiating the contact and control the agenda of the conversation.

The final draft should follow the guidelines taught in PLSC 200 in terms of standard formatting of the text and citations. See “BYU Policies – Academic Honesty” for information on plagiarism. I strongly advise you to begin from the outset to record the bibliographic information for all of your materials, whether you think you will end up using them or not. Few things are as frustrating as being forced to drop a great fact or a juicy quote simply because you can’t remember where you read it and cannot cite it.

Finally, the quality of your in-class participation will be judged over the course of the semester and will constitute ten percent of your final grade.

Summary of assignments and grade weights:

- Three examinations: 20% each
- Rough draft of paper: 5%
- Final draft of paper: 25%
- Participation: 10%

Course Objectives

The following objectives are tied to the Political Science department’s learning outcome plan for all majors. In this course, you will be expected to:

1. Demonstrate a familiarity with international relations as a sub-field of political science.
2. Possess a factual and theoretical knowledge of countries, political processes, political theories, and political thought.
3. Use appropriate methods of analysis and research.
4. Write professional grade research papers on political science questions.
5. Think critically, analytically, and synthetically.
6. Properly cite sources in writing using a recognized citation style.

BYU Policies

Academic Honesty: The first injunction of the BYU Honor Code is the call to “be honest.” Students come to the university not only to improve their minds, gain knowledge, and develop skills that will assist them in their life's work, but also to build character. President David O. McKay taught that “character is the highest aim of education” (The Aims of a BYU Education, p. 6).

It is the purpose of the BYU Academic Honesty Policy to assist in fulfilling that aim.

BYU students should seek to be totally honest in their dealings with others. They should complete their own work and be evaluated based upon that work. They should avoid

academic dishonesty and misconduct in all its forms, including plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, cheating, and other academic misconduct.

Incidents of academic misconduct are to be reported to the administration of the center, which will deal with the matter according to the statement on "Procedures for Handling Incidents of Academic Dishonesty or Other Academic Misconduct" as written in the current undergraduate catalog.

Students with Disabilities: BYU is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates persons with disabilities who are otherwise qualified to participate in BYU's programs and activities. It is the policy of BYU to prohibit unlawful discrimination against persons with disabilities and to provide reasonable assistance in bringing them into the mainstream of campus life. To accomplish this, BYU complies with all applicable disability laws.

If a student has any disability which may impair their ability to complete courses successfully, they should contact the University Accessibility Center (801-422-2767) or the director of the BYU Salt Lake Center (801-933-9400 or 273-3434). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the University Accessibility Center or the office of the director at the center. If students need assistance or if they feel they have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, they may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office on the main campus at 801-422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Statement of Nondiscrimination: Brigham Young University is committed to providing an academic and employment environment that is free from unlawful discrimination and to achieving a prompt and equitable resolution of all grievances alleging unlawful discrimination which are filed with the university. Unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, veteran status, or disability will not be tolerated. The university policies and procedures with respect to non-discrimination as it applies to students in the areas of unlawful gender discrimination, unlawful sexual harassment and inappropriate gender-based behavior are found in separate university policy, Unlawful Sexual Harassment and Inappropriate Gender-Based Behavior Policies

Preventing Sexual Harassment: Unlawful discrimination on the basis of gender will not be tolerated whether initiated by university faculty, administrative or staff personnel, students or by third parties on the campus. The university prohibits unlawful sexual harassment against all persons involved in the campus community, including administrators, faculty, staff, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. The university also prohibits inappropriate gender-based behavior in the workplace or in the academic setting directed at another due to that person's gender and which violates the Church Educational System Honor Code or the individual dignity of university personnel, students or campus visitors, but which does not rise to the level of unlawful sexual harassment.

If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor or contact the Equal Employment Office at 801-422-5895 or the Honor Code Office at 801-422-2847.

Reading Schedule

All of the readings for the class will be taken from the three required texts: Balaam & Veseth's An Introduction to International Political Economy (4th edition – 2007pb), Stiglitz's Making Globalization Work (2007pb), and Friedman's The World is Flat (2007pb) (Please make sure you have the correct edition when searching on-line). You are expected to finish the assigned readings before each class. Be prepared to answer questions that may or may not be asked randomly.

Wednesday, September 3: Getting Started

Friday, September 5: The Field of IPE
Balaam & Veseth (B&V) chapter 1

Monday, September 8: Realism and IPE
B&V chapter 2, Friedman chapter 9

Wednesday, September 10: Liberalism and IPE
B&V chapter 3

Friday, September 12, Monday, September 15: Liberalism and a Flat World
Friedman chapters 1-4 (skim the stories)

Wednesday, September 17, Friday, September 19: The Flat World and You
Friedman chapters 12-14

Monday, September 22: Structuralism and IPE
B&V chapter 4

Wednesday, September 24, Friday, September 26: Contemporary Structuralism
Stiglitz chapters 1 and 2, and "Afterword"

Monday, September 29: Other IPE Theories
B&V chapter 5

Wednesday, October 1: **First Examination**

Friday, October 3: Trade
B&V chapter 6

Monday, October 6: Liberalism and Trade
Friedman chapter 5

Wednesday, October 8: Structuralism and Trade
Stiglitz chapter 3

Friday, October 10: Finance
B&V chapter 7

Monday, October 13: Structuralism and Finance
Stiglitz chapter 9

Wednesday, October 15: Debt
B&V chapter 8

Friday, October 17: Structuralism and Debt
Stiglitz chapter 8

Monday, October 20: IPE of Security
B&V chapter 9

Wednesday, October 22: The Flat World vs. the Violent World
Friedman chapters 15 and 16

Friday, October 24: Technology and IPE
B&V chapter 10

Monday, October 27: Technology, Flattening, and Social Justice
Friedman chapters 6, 7, and 8, Stiglitz chapter 4

Wednesday, October 29: **Second Examination**

Friday, November 1: The Industrialized World
B&V chapters 11 and 12

Monday, November 3: The Emerging World
B&V chapter 13

Wednesday, November 5: The Middle East
B&V chapter 14

Friday, November 7: The Resource Curse
Stiglitz chapter 5

Monday, November 10: Principles of Development Theory
B&V chapter 15

Wednesday, November 12: Opportunities for Poor Countries in a Flat World
Friedman chapter 10

Friday, November 14: Structuralism Views of Development
Stiglitz chapter 10

Monday, November 17: “Catch Up” Day – **Rough Draft of Paper Due**

Wednesday, November 19: Humanity and IPE
B&V chapter 16

Friday, November 21: IPE and the Corporation
B&V chapter 17

Monday, November 24: MNCs in a Flat World
Friedman chapter 11

Tuesday, November 25: Structural Views of MNCs
Stiglitz chapter 7

Friday, November 28: No Class

Monday, December 1: Criminality and IPE
B&V chapter 18

Wednesday, December 3: IPE of Food – **Final Draft of Paper Due**
B&V chapter 19

Friday, December 5: IPE of Ecology
B&V chapter 20

Monday, December 8: Structural Perspectives on the Environment
Stiglitz chapter 6

Wednesday, December 10: The Future of IPE
B&V chapter 21

Wednesday, December 17 – **Final Examination, 11:00-2:00**