

MEREDITH COLLEGE
Political Science 320: International Political Economy
Spring 2009

Instructor: Jeffrey D. Martinson
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F by appointment

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Course Description and Goals:

This course examines the politics of international economic relations between countries and in the world as a whole. The course orients students with the basic underpinnings of international economic policymaking and the basic theoretical paradigms of the field of international political economy (IPE). Specific topics of discussion include the politics of international trade, the effect of globalization on the U.S. economy and political system, the role of multinational corporations and non-governmental organizations in global politics, relations between the developed and developing worlds, and the rise of regional economic blocs.

Educational Outcomes:

By semester-end, students will

- 1) know basic theoretical frameworks within the field of IPE;
- 2) explain scientific discovery and process, and the ability to explain the primary research methods of the field;
- 3) connect primary supporting research with a particular theoretical position in the field;
- 4) apply theoretically-based explanations and solutions to individual behavior or societal phenomena;
- 5) solve problems by analyzing data, thinking critically, and selecting optimal results.

Texts

The following text is required for this course:

Introduction to International Political Economy (3rd Edition)
David Balaam and Michael Veseth
Prentice Hall, 3rd Edition
0131895095

Finally, other short readings or videos will be assigned by the instructor during the course. These will be provided in electronic or hardcopy format by the instructor.

Requirements

The course is centered on one text which surveys the main paradigms, or theories, of IPE; expounds on the four main structures of IPE (i.e., trade, finance, security and technology);

and then explores a number of specific case studies, such as NAFTA or IPE and the environment. The textbook, while accessible, is nonetheless dense and requires careful attention in order to fully benefit from its contents. It also contains extended excerpts of primary materials, the reading of which can be especially difficult. The first couple sessions will be spent preparing you for these tasks, and – beginning in the second week – reading quizzes will be used to help ensure that students are able to fully grasp the material. In addition, students will complete an essay and an exam. Each of these requirements is elaborated in detail below.

The grading weights and the dates when requirements are due are as follows:

Quizzes	Weekly	20%
Essay	Beginning of class, April 29	40%
Exam	May 4 at 9 AM	40%

Detailed descriptions of each of these requirements are provided below:

Reading Quizzes:

Students are expected to come to class prepared. This includes having read the material, having formulated opinions on the material and/or having generated questions regarding unclear aspects of the material. Study guides in the form of glossaries, outlines, suggested readings and discussion questions are included as a part of each chapter in the text in order to facilitate these tasks.

Quizzes gauge student progress in assimilating the material. They will be brief and will include multiple choice, short essay or map recognition questions. THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS WILL BE ADAPTED FROM THE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS LISTED AT THE END OF THAT WEEK’S ASSIGNED CHAPTER. Students who have prepared brief answers to these questions are likely to do very well on the quizzes. Attendance is also important and every three unexcused absences will result in a letter grade reduction.

Exam:

The exam will test the student’s comprehensive learning at the end of the semester. It will include multiple choice, short essay and map recognition questions. Study guides and sample questions will be circulated well in advance of the exam. The exam is cumulative in that it covers all material between exam day and the start of class (i.e., not just the material between parts.) Finally, excused absences from the examination can only be obtained in advance or for a medical or other emergency. Such an emergency must be documented to the satisfaction of the instructor. An unexcused absence from the examination will result in a grade of zero.

Essay:

Students will submit an essay of approximately 15 pages in length (12 point font, double-

spaced.) The essay is due on the date listed above, by the beginning of class. Email submissions will not be accepted, and late papers will be penalized 10% per day. Further information about the topic of the essay and other details will be forthcoming well in advance of the due date.

Final Letter Grades

Final scores are determined using the weights mentioned above and according to the breakdowns listed below:

A: 93-100 B: 84-92 C: 70-83 D: 60-69 F: 0-59

Weather

We will follow the college policy on inclement weather.

Technology Use in Classroom

We will follow the History & Political Science departmental guidelines for the use of laptops, cell phones, PDAs and other technologies in the classroom. These guidelines will be provided by the instructor in a separate document.

Meredith Code of Honor

We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken. If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community. In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.

Students with Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services Office. Disability Services is located in 106 Carroll Hall and can be reached at 760-8427 or disabilityservices@meredith.edu. For additional information see the website at <http://www.meredith.edu/students/counsel/disability>.

Course Timeline

The following lists the tentative assignments for the semester. Readings below are from ***Introduction to International Political Economy***. Other readings will be provided and assigned as well.

1/12 –	Intro/ Philosophies of Learning
1/14 & 16 –	Ch 1: What is IPE?
1/21 & 23 –	Ch 2: Wealth & Power: Mercantilism
1/26, 28 & 30 –	Ch 3: Laissez-Faire, Laissez-Passer: Liberalism
2/2, 4 & 6 –	Ch 4: Marx, Lenin & Co.: Structuralism
2/9, 11 & 13 –	IPE Hollywood Style/ Review
2/16, 18 & 20–	Ch 5: Criticisms of the Dominant IPE Paradigms
2/23, 25, 27–	Ch 6: International Trade
3/9, 11 & 13 –	Ch 7 International Finance
3/16, 18, 20 –	Ch 8: “Mad Money”
3/23 –	Ch 9: The Global Security Structure
3/25 & 27 –	Ch 10: Knowledge & Technology
3/30 & 4/1 –	Ch 11: Regionalism Part II – European Union
4/3 –	Ch 12: Regionalism Part II – NAFTA
4/6 & 8 –	Ch 14: Transitional States
4/15 & 17 –	Ch 15: The Two Faces of Development – (AKA Winners & Losers)
4/22 & 24 –	Ch 18: OPEC and Oil
4/27 –	Ch 20: The Green Side of IPE
4/29 –	Review/ ** Essay Due **
5/4 –	** Final Exam **