Course Description: This seminar provides a systematic introduction to the political economy of international relations. Students will be introduced to issues such as trade, finance, governance, development, the environment, etc. The material engages with international relations literature on the economic relations among states, as well as between states and non-state actors (such as firms, social groups and international organizations). The focus will be on the political problems that arise as a consequence of the increasing interdependence of international economic relations. Alternative analytic, cultural and theoretical perspectives will be examined for their value in helping to understand and evaluate the historical development and current operation of the world economy. The course assumes a basic knowledge of both international relations theory and basic economic principals, but does not require nor will it delve into advanced economic theory.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, students will:

- be familiar with the history and underlying structure of the global trade and financial systems.
- understand the various epistemological and ontological approaches to the study of international political economy.
- formulate and express arguments clearly and cogently both orally and in writing.
- be exposed to cutting edge theoretical and empirical research in the subfield of international political economy.

Assignments:

Grading Breakdown:

- Teaching Demo (5%)
- Commentaries (80% – 4 x 20%)
- Course Participation and Preparation (15%)

Teaching Demo Week 3 will be spent brushing up (or learning for the first time) some basic economics that will be necessary for understanding the readings in subsequent weeks. Accordingly, each student will be assigned an economic concept and have 10 minutes in class to teach it to their peers. Assessment will be based on content and pedagogical technique. Further details, and concept assignments, will be discussed in week 1.
Commentaries* Students will be required to write four critical reviews of a week’s assigned readings. Each of your commentaries should be 7-9 pages in which you will be expected to identify three or more common themes in the assigned readings and compare and evaluate what the readings have to say on each theme. The themes do not need to be addressed by every one of the weeks assigned readings but, in each case, should be addressed by a minimum of two of the readings. However, each reading should be discussed at least once in your commentary. At least one of the recommended readings should also be included. The choice of themes is up to you. Themes may be as broad as (e.g.) the overall role of interests, institutions or ideas in shaping some form of comparative state behavior or as narrow as the specification of a single variable or issue. You are also encouraged to bring in ideas from the recommended readings or sources from other other courses.

The aim of each paper is comparative inquiry and analysis, not mere description. The emphasis is on reasoned and logical judgment. It is not enough simply to recapitulate what each reading has to say about a given theme. You must compare and contrast what they have to say, evaluating strengths and weaknesses of the types of analysis and theories presented, and offer some conclusion of your own. Thus each paper should include the following:

- A very brief summary of each selected reading, with an emphasis on key arguments, type of analysis and conclusions. Avoid summarizing details. Stick to the main points.
- A brief summary of each common theme to be discussed in your paper. What are the issues involved and why are they important? What do we learn from each paper?
- A comparative inquiry and analysis of what the selections have to say about each theme. What do we learn from these discussions? How does the chosen analysis advance or weaken the key arguments? Which cultural or political perspectives are at play? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the empirical approach the authors have taken? What remains to be learned?

Due on Blackboard on the Friday(at midnight) after the last week in each grouping(see dates below). Commentaries should be well-written, clearly organized, and include appropriate citations. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission from the professor.

1. Paper # 1- Due 10/05:
   week 4(Theoretical Pespectives), week 5(Trade: Domestic), or week 6(Trade: International)

2. Paper # 2 Due 10/26:
   week 7 (Finance: Domestic), week 8 (Finance: International), week 9 (Governance)

3. Paper # 3 - Due 11/16
   week 10 (Conflict), week 11(Development), and week 12( Environment)

4. Paper # 4 - Due 12/7:
   week 13 (Globalization), week 14 (Crisis, Contagion and Change), week 15 (IPE Today and Tomorrow)

*Students can choose to opt out of writing commentaries and instead write a more traditional research paper due at the end of the semester. This may be a good option for those students that have already completed comprehensive exams and/or have an ongoing research project relating to IPE. If you are considering this option please get in contact with Dr. Kuehl within the first three weeks of the semester.
**Participation and Preparation:** Attendance and participation are essential to this course. Students are expected to come to the course having completed all required readings and spent time reflecting on the contents. Our discussion will be student driven and as such students are expected to engage actively in all course discussions. Your active participation is especially important given the wide range of backgrounds and small class size.

To aid in preparation each student will submit notes in the following format each week:

1. For each reading:
   
   (a) Reference (in preferred style: APA, MLA etc.)
   
   (b) One sentence summary
   
   (c) Dependent variable (what is being explained)
   
   (d) Independent variable (what is doing the explaining)
   
   (e) Method
   
   (f) Are you convinced? Why or why not? (3 sentence max)
   
   (g) specific question (optional)

2. For each week of:
   
   (a) 4 big questions related to the weeks readings.

A paper copy of your notes will be due at the beginning of each class meeting. Please note that your own reading notes should be more detailed than those you are turning in. The emphasis here is on summarizing and being concise.

**Course Policies:**

- **Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. If circumstances prevent you from attending please let me know by email prior to the beginning of class. You will be responsible for covering the material you missed.

- **Academic Honesty:** Cheating will not be tolerated. All students will be held to the highest standards of NIU’s student code of conduct. All cases will be referred to campus authorities. As noted above, helping each other will be key to your success in this class, however the work you turn in must be your own.

- **Disability Services:** If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations.

- **Email:** I am available through email M-F 8 am to 5 pm. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours during these times. If I forget, please send me a reminder.

- **Office Hours:** I recommend you come to office hours early and often. This will give me a chance to know you, your projects, etc. and give us a chance to talk about things beyond this course.

- **Current Events:** We will begin each class meeting with a short (10-15 minutes) of current events in the world of international political economy. As such students are expected to stay up-to-date using a reputable and global news source. I suggest student subscription to the *New York Times* or the *Economist*. *Project Syndicate* and *The Conversation* are also good sources for blog style entries by academics.
Course Overview:

**Week 01, 08/27** : Getting Organized

**Week 02, 09/03** : Labor day (No Class)

**Week 03, 09/10** : History and Economics Primer

**Week 04, 09/17** : Theoretical Perspectives

**Week 05, 09/24** : Trade: Domestic

**Week 06, 10/01** : Trade: International

**Week 07, 10/08** : Finance: Domestic

**Week 08, 10/15** : Finance: International

**Week 09, 10/22** : Governance

**Week 10, 10/29** : Conflict

**Week 11, 11/05** : Development

**Week 12, 11/12** : Environment

**Week 13, 11/19** : Globalization

**Week 14, 11/26** : Crisis, Contagion, and Change

**Week 15, 12/03** : IPE Today and Tomorrow
Course Readings:
Book chapters and articles not available using NIU’s current library subscriptions will be posted on the course blackboard site. Students are responsible for locating all other readings. If you have trouble finding a particular readings please contact me ASAP.

Week 01, 08/27 : Getting Organized


Recommended


Week 02, 09/03 : Labor Day (No Class)

Week 03, 09/10 : History and Economics Primer

- Lairson, Thomas D. and David Skidmore. 2017 International Political Economy: The Struggle for Wealth and Power Harcourt Chapters 2 and 4

Recommended

- Clark, Gregory. 2007. A Farewell to Alms Princeton University Press

Week 04, 09/17 : Theoretical Perspectives


Recommended


**Week 05, 09/24 : Trade: Domestic**


  - *Recommended*


**Week 06, 10/01 : Trade: International**


  - *Recommended*

Week 07, 10/08: Finance: Domestic


Recommended


Week 08, 10/15: Finance: International


  Recommended

Week 09, 10/22: Governance


  Recommended


Week 10, 10/29: Conflict


  Recommended

Week 11, 11/05 : Development


• Li, Quan, and Adam Resnick. 2003. “Reversal of Fortunes: Democratic Institutions and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to Developing Countries.” International Organization 57 (1)


  Recommended

Week 12, 11/12 : Environment

• Young, Oran. 2002. The Institutional Dimensions of Environmental Change MIT Press. Chs. 1 & 2


Recommended

– Ostrom, Elinor. 1990 Governing the Commons Cambridge

Week 13, 11/19: Globalization


• Sassen, Saskia. 2003. “Globalization or Denationalization?.” Review of International Political Economy


Recommended

– Veseth, Michael. 2010 Globaloney 2.0
Week 14, 11/26: Crisis, Contagion, and Change


**Recommended**


Week 15, 12/03: IPE Today and Tomorrow


- **Additional Readings TBD**