

PLIR2050
Introduction to Political Economy
Summer 2023 Session II, Time 10:30
Gibson Hall 241

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Office Hours: by appointment

This syllabus is subject to change up until the first day of class.

Course Description: This course is designed as an undergraduate introduction to the study of international political economy (IPE). IPE is the subfield of political science concerned with the interaction of economics and politics at the international level: how does politics shape international economics, and how does international economics shape politics. Throughout this course, we will pay particular attention to how governments regulate international trade, foreign direct investment, and international migration. We will also investigate the political consequences of these flows of goods, capital, and labor. The main geographic focus will be the United States, although we will draw from examples from across the world.

A core insight from economics is that economic globalization leads to aggregate improvements in wealth. However, these aggregate improvements are not shared equally between different sections of society: there are “winners and losers” of globalization. Over the course of the class, we will engage with different economic theories that provide different predictions for who will come out as a winner or loser. For this reason, a previous background in economics will make the course more accessible to students. However, there are no economic prerequisites for this course, and the main concepts will be discussed by the instructor in class.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Required Readings: Assigned readings are listed by date later in the syllabus. All readings will be made available in the class Canvas page under the “Files” tab. There are links to the required material at the end of the syllabus. **Important:** the syllabus, not Canvas should be your port of call for seeing what material you have to prepare. If you are interested in delving further into any particular aspect of IPE, I am happy to suggest resources to you.

Grading and Assignments:

Your final course grade will be based on the following components:

- In-class participation and attendance: 20%
- Four (4) weekly short news reports: 10% each
- One (1) news presentation: 10%
- Final exam: 30%

Each assignment will be scored out of 100 points. I provide details about each of these components below.

Participation and attendance: Students are expected to be present at class each day and on time. Presumably you signed up for this class outside of the regular semesters because you are motivated to learn about the topic. So I expect each of you to make a concerted effort to come on time, *and come prepared*. I expect you to have done the readings, made your notes, and come into class with a full understanding of the material, and/or questions prepared on what you did not fully grasp. It is my personal belief that not having mastered the material fully before coming to class should be no impediment to participating in class: if you have questions, then other students probably do as well. Opening up the floor to discuss those questions will be beneficial for both yourself and the class overall. Moreover, participation and attendance will be **graded** not *just* on your engagement with the lecturer, but *also* on your engagement with your fellow students: be respectful and understanding of one another's perspectives, and try to help one another with the material.

Short news reports: Over the course of the session, students will have to write four (4) short news reports. These should be at least 200 and at most 500 words in length. Submitted reports that are shorter or longer will see this reflected in their grade. In these reports, you will discuss something that happened recently in international politics, economics, and/or business, and relate this event to the assigned literature. Reports will be **graded** based on how they demonstrate the student's understanding of the assigned readings, and how they relate this to ongoing events. All four reports need to be about separate news items (if something new happens that alters a topic you covered earlier, you can use that). All four reports have to be submitted before the last day of class. Apart from that, you are welcome to hand them in when you please, although I strongly recommend not saving them all until the last week of class. If you do not regularly follow current events, consider the following websites good sources (these are merely suggestions, you are welcome to draw from any reputable news source):

- <https://www.reuters.com/world>
- <https://apnews.com/hub/world-news>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world>
- <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510289/planet-money>

News presentation: This is a short (5 minute) presentation you will give to the rest of the class based on one of your short news reports (see above). Please let me know when you intend to present at least 24 hours in advance. This is supposed to be **extremely low-pressure**. The point is to present on an issue you personally believe is relevant for the class, and important for people to know about. Presentations will be **graded** based on general coherence, relevance, and the extent to which the presentation engages the class (hint: it may be a good idea to include discussion questions or points to help generate debate).

Final exam: The final exam will be administered on the exam date designated by the registrar. It is closed book, closed notes. It will include a short answer portion and an essay portion. The short answer portion of the final is intended to test your knowledge of the main concepts covered in the course. The essay portion is intended to probe you to formulate a coherent, theoretical discussion of the IPE literature at large, and how it relates to real world issues.

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Note: Only courses with a grade of at least a C count toward major or minor requirements in the Politics Department. For more information see: <https://politics.virginia.edu/undergraduate-major-and-minor>

Course Policies:

• Attendance and Participation

- Treat one another and your instructor with respect. Consider one another's opinions in good faith.
- Be on time for class. Be prepared for class.
- If, for whatever reason, you cannot make it to class, let your instructor know. I'll work with you to come to a solution.

• Grades

- Grades will be returned to you within two working days of submitting the assignment.
- In case you want to dispute a grade, reach out to me to meet during office hours.
- The withdrawal deadline for this course is July 7, see <https://summer.virginia.edu/calendars>.

• Honor Code

- Any observed cases of plagiarism or cheating will be forwarded to the Honor Committee.

• Communicating with your Instructor and Fellow Students

- College represents a transition from adolescence / high school to adulthood / professional life. As a result, I expect you all to make a good faith effort at behaving professionally and responsibly. I will not hold it against you if you slip up: this is a time where you can figure these things out.
- I will respond to emails within 12 hours if received between 7am and 8pm, and usually within the hour.
- If you wish to voice concern or criticism of the course, I am responsive to that. If you feel uncomfortable raising these issues with me personally, you can use an anonymous Google feedback form, which I will provide.

Student Resources

My door is always open if you want to talk about college life at UVA, future job prospects, or how to prepare for your final exams. However, I am not a trained counselor, and I cannot overstep the professional bounds of my position as instructor. The following resources are provided to students by the University, in case informal connections prove inadequate. Do not hesitate to reach out to them.

UVA Writing Center

The Writing Center is available for use by all current UVA students, regardless of year, school, or major. It advises on any kind of writing, at all stages of the writing process, regardless of whether the student is a native speaker or a learner of English. Information about how to schedule a meeting can be found at: <https://writingrhetoric.as.virginia.edu/welcome-writing-center>

Student Disability Access Center (SDAC)

SDAC provides academic accommodations, support services, and advocacy throughout the UVA community. If you have a learning disability, such as but not limited to AD/HD, blind or low vision, Autism Spectrum Disorder, or chronic health conditions, have your SDAC officer reach out to me. You can find them at: <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/SDAC>

Just Report It (JRI)

JRI is the University's online system for individuals experiencing sexual and gender-based harassment and violence, bias and discrimination, hazing, interference with speech rights, and other forms of intimidation. In case you or anyone you know is experiencing these things, you can find them at: <https://justreportit.virginia.edu/>

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

CAPS is the primary student mental health clinic on Grounds. It provides professional consultation and referral services to students, faculty, and staff. Do not let the stigma about seeking help stop you from contacting them. If you are experiencing severe mental stress, you can find them at: <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/CAPS>

Maxine Platzner Lynn Women's Center

The Women's Center provides individual, couples, and group counseling services to the UVA and Charlottesville communities. They can help students who have relationship problems with their partner and/or family. You can find them at: <https://womenscenter.virginia.edu/>

Course Outline & Readings

For each of these readings, in particular the research articles, please focus on theory, history, and conclusions. You are invited to engage with the statistical and formal components, but these will not be tested on the final.

Hot tip: for each of the assigned reading, have a look at when they were originally published, and ask yourself what the circumstances at the time were. Was it during the Cold War or after? Before, during, or after the Crisis of 2008? This kind of contextual information will help you make sense of the articles.

1. June 20 – Course Introduction: How do IPE Scholars Think About the World?
 - This syllabus
 - Stephanie Rickard. 2021. Open Economy Politics Revisited. In *The Oxford Handbook of International Political Economy*, edited by Pevehouse and Seabrooke
2. June 21 – International Trade I: The Basics
 - Planet Money. *Planet Money Summer School 6: Trade & The Better Life*. August 17, 2022
 - Ronald Rogowski. 1987. Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade. *American Political Science Review* 81(4), 1121-1137.
3. June 22 – International Trade II: Who Wins, Who Loses?
 - Michael J. Hiscox. 2001. Class Versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade. *International Organization* 55(1), 1-46.
 - Irfan Nooruddin & Nita Rudra. 2014. Are Developing Countries Really Defying the Embedded Liberalism Compact? *World Politics* 66(4), 603-640.
4. June 23 – International Trade III: Firms and Global Value Chains
 - In Song Kim. 2017. Political Cleavages within Industry: Firm-Level Lobbying for Trade Liberalization. *American Political Science Review* 111(1), 1-20.
 - Charles Martinet. January 18, 2023. Dutch Dilemma: Caught in the Middle of the US-China Tech Cold War. *The Center for European Policy Analysis*.
5. June 24 – Foreign Direct Investment I: The Basics
 - Sonal Pandya. 2014. *Trading Spaces: Foreign Direct Investment Regulation, 1970-2000*. Chapter 1.
 - Henry Farrell & Abraham L. Newman. May 12, 2022. Weak links in finance and supply chains are easily weaponized. *Nature* 605, 219-222.
 - Start Here from Al Jazeera English. *What is China's Belt and Road Initiative?* July 7, 2021.

6. June 26 – Foreign Direct Investment II: Investment Treaties and Legal Disputes
 - Patricia Renald. March 26, 2019. When even winning is losing. The surprising cost of defeating Philip Morris over plain packaging. *The Conversation*.
 - Krzysztof J. Pelc. 2017. What Explains the Low Success Rate of Investor-State Disputes? *International Organization* 71(3), 559-583.
7. June 27 – Foreign Direct Investment III: FDI in Emerging Economies
 - Nita Rudra. 2005. Are Workers in the Developing World Winners or Losers in the Current Era of Globalization? *Studies in Comparative International Development* 40, 29-64.
 - Pippa Morgan & Andrea Ghiselli. January 11, 2023. Chinese workers on Africa's infrastructure projects: the link with host political regimes. *The Conversation: Africa*.
8. June 28 – Migration I: The Basics
 - Benjamin Helms & David Leblang. 2019. Global Migration: Causes and Consequences. In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
 - Freakonomics Radio. *Is Migration a Basic Human Right?* December 17, 2015
9. June 29 – Migration II: Who Wins, Who Loses?
 - Margaret E. Peters. 2014. Trade, Foreign Direct Investment, and Immigration Policy Making in the United States. *International Organization* 68(4), 811-844.
 - Sara Wallace Goodman and Thomas B. Pepinsky. 2021. The Exclusionary Foundations of Embedded Liberalism. *International Organization*, 75(2), 411-439.
10. June 30 – Migration III: Remittances
 - Abel Escribà-Folch, Joseph Wright & Covadonga Meseguer. 2022. *Migration and Democracy: How Remittances Undermine Dictatorships*. Chapter 1.
 - Goats and Soda. *They Pump \$15 Billion A Year Into Bangladesh's Economy - But At What Cost?* June 3, 2019
11. July 3 – Exchange Rates: Trading in Money
 - Jeffrey Frieden. 2015. *Currency Politics: The Political Economy of Exchange Rate Policy*. Chapter 1.
 - Planet Money. *The High Cost of a Strong Dollar*. October 21, 2022
12. July 5 – International Economic Cooperation I: The Liberal International Order
 - Planet Money. *The Dollar At The Center Of The World*. July 16, 2014
 - Judith Goldstein & Joanne Gowa. 2002. US National Power and the Post-War Trading Regime. *World Trade Review* 1(2), 153-170.

13. July 6 – International Economic Cooperation II: Challenges to the Liberal International Order
- Amrita Narlikar. 2010. New Powers in the Club: The Challenges of Global Trade Governance. *International Affairs* 86(3), 717-728.
 - Leslie Johns, Krzysztof J. Pelc, & Rachel L. Wellhausen. 2019. How a Retreat from Global Economic Governance May Empower Business Interests. *The Journal of Politics* 81(2), 731-738.
14. July 7 (**last day to withdraw!**) – Is IPE Just About Economics? I: Race & Ethnicity
- Diana Mutz. 2018. Status Threat, Not Economic Hardship, Explains the 2016 Presidential Vote. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 115(19), E4330-E4339.
 - Leonardo Baccini & Stephen Weymouth. 2021. Gone For Good: Deindustrialization, White Voter Backlash, and US Presidential Voting. *American Political Science Review* 115(2), 550-567.
15. July 10 – Is IPE Just About Economics? II: Gender
- Richard Clark, Roza Khoban, & Noah Zucker. *Breadwinner Backlash: The Gendered Effects of Industrial Decline*. Draft Paper, October 2022.
 - NPR Politics. *Trade Is An Identity Issue, And Trump Knows It*. March 10, 2018
16. July 11 – Is IPE Just About Economics? III: The Environment
- Brian Roach & Jonathan M. Harris. 2021. *Trade and the Environment*. Economics in Context Initiative, Boston University.
 - Ana Swanson. January 25, 2023. Climate Change May Usher in a New Era of Trade Wars. *The New York Times*.
17. July 12 – IPE: A Community Perspective
- J. Lawrence Broz, Jeffrey Frieden, and Stephen Weymouth. 2021. Populism in Place: The Economic Geography of the Globalization Backlash. *International Organization* 75(S2), 464-494.
 - Daniel Treffer and Christian Dippel. November 5, 2017. *Labour coercion and outside options*. VoxEU.
 - PBS Frontline. *Left Behind America*. September 11, 2018. **NOTE:** this documentary covers drug abuse (24:10-33:05), in a way potentially upsetting to some. Although I recommend you watch the whole documentary, you are not obliged to watch passages that can trigger personal trauma recollection.
18. July 13 – Globalization & The Future of Democracy
- Susan Strange. 1999. The Westfailure System. *Review of International Studies* 25(3), 345-354.

- Helen Milner. 2021. Is Global Capitalism Compatible With Democracy? Inequality, Insecurity, and Interdependence. *International Studies Quarterly* 65(4), 1097-1110.
- Freakonomics Radio. *Has Globalization Failed? An Interview with Anthea Roberts*. October 19, 2022

19. July 14 – Question Day

- **IMPORTANT:** This is the last day you can hand in any outstanding news reports!
- Review your notes, and come to ask prepared to ask any questions about what is still unclear to you.
- Backup slot for any graded presentations that did not happen during an earlier week.

20. July 15 – Final Exam

Grading Rubrics News Items

Report rubric

Does the report show insightful application of the theories discussed in class?	25 points
Does the report discuss a political economy topic, in adequate detail?	15 points
Is the report conform technical requirements?	10 points
Base points	50 points

Presentation rubric

Is the presentation coherent and well presented? Does it make use of appropriate supporting material?	20 points
Does the presentation touch upon an important IPE question? Does it engage the class?	20 points
Is the presentation within the time limit?	10 points
Base points	50 points