INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

The general purpose of this course is to explore the relationship between politics and economics on a global scale. More specifically, we will examine the way national and international political relations have affected the operation of global markets, and how markets have influenced politics in and among nations.

In the process of exploring the complex relationship between politics and economics, we will cover several important topics. For instance, we will learn about global production chains, trade protectionism, free trade areas, sovereign debt, currency manipulation, multinational corporations, and development issues. In addition, we will explore key multinational economic organizations such as the WTO, NAFTA, the IMF, the World Bank, and the G-20, as well as the policies and political processes of individual countries (including the United States) that affect the international economy. During the course we will also examine a variety of explanations for the shape and operation of the international economy and explore arguments for and against the economic and political process known as “globalization.” Throughout the course we will also wrestle with the moral nature of states and markets.

No prior courses in economics are required as prerequisites for this course.

TEXTS

Tyler Cowen, Average is Over: Powering America Beyond the Age of the Great Stagnation (Dutton, 2013).

RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

As a responsible student you will be expected to:

• attend lectures;
• complete all of the required reading;
• participate in class discussions; and
• keep abreast of current events.

The assignments for this class include a:

• take-home essay;
• midterm test;
• research paper;
• cumulative final exam.

Make-up tests will be given, if necessary, to those with written medical statements, or letters of explanation from the Dean’s office.

Students with disabilities who need academic accommodations should contact the Coordinator of Disability Services. Accommodations must be agreed to before the take-home essay!

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Attendance will be taken. After two *unexcused* absences, each additional unexcused absence will result in a reduction of the final exam grade by one letter step (e.g., “A” to “A-”).

**Ethical Conduct**

Your presence in class signifies that you accept the basic rules of academic honesty. You must not engage in plagiarism or cheating in any form. Such conduct will not be tolerated and will result in severe penalties.

**Conduct in Class**

Please, please, please—out of consideration for your classmates and the instructor—hold off on leaving the classroom for any purpose other than an emergency (i.e., get your Mountain Dew and go to the bathroom before you enter the classroom). In addition, students are not permitted to use laptop computers, tablets, cell phones or other personal hand-held electronic devices in class unless asked to by the instructor (which will happen sometimes!). These rules apply during testing periods as well as class lectures and discussions. Any violation of these rules will result in the assessment of one unexcused absence. [By the way, I’m not a Luddite! I just know—from much personal experience from both sides of the lectern—how multitasking can undermine the learning process.]

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Take-Home Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
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Participation in class discussions will significantly affect grades near the margins. If a student fails to complete any of the major assignments (essay, midterm, paper, or exam), the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

**Course Outline and Assignments**

I. What is Political Economy?
II. Theories of International Political Economy
III. Morality and the Market
   *Take-Home Essay—Feb. 12*
IV. Making the International System: States and Markets
V. International Production
VI. International Trade
VII. International Finance
   *Midterm Test—March 28*
VIII. Development
   *Research Paper—April 14*
IX. Managing Globalization
   *Final Exam—May 6, 12:00PM*

Some seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge;
that is curiosity;
Others seek knowledge that they may themselves be known:
that is vanity;
But there are still others who seek knowledge in order to serve and edify others,
and that is charity.

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux