

Georgia Institute of Technology
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Fall 2011

INTA 6302. GRADUATE SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Time: Tuesdays 15:00-18:00.

Office Hours: Thursdays 13:30-18:00 or by appointment.

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The Course:

As a core course of the Nunn School's Graduate Program, this seminar examines some of the basic approaches to the study of International Political Economy (IPE). We will explore the major theories, key concepts and important policy issues in the field of IPE through a reading and discussions of the literature on the state and market, trade and foreign direct investment, collective action, hegemonic stability, economic growth, North-South relations, dependency, technology transfer, globalization and regionalization, international financial market, international terrorism, and environmental issues.

The seminar is a combination of informal lectures and discussions. The students are required to report on the readings and participate in classroom discussions. The assigned readings are expected to be finished before classes.

Course Requirements:

The grading scheme is as follows:

| Requirement | (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Weekly Reading Reports | 20 |
| Critique Essay and Presentation | 20 |
| Participation/Attendance | 20 |
| Research Paper | 40 |
| Total | 100 |

Weekly Reading Reports: Every student is required to write a short (one page, single space) reading report about assigned weekly readings every week. The weekly report should be ready for submission at the beginning of that week's class (in hard copy and electronic version with the subject line of "Week XX Reading Report from XXX"). The reports should be brief summaries of the reading materials.

Critique Essay and Presentation: Each student is required to write a critique essay (not to exceed four pages, single space, or six pages, double space) and orally present it (for no longer than 30 minutes including Q&A) to the class on one of the weekly readings, to be selected and approved by the instructor at our first meeting of the class. The hardcopy of the essay is due at the time of presentation (also submit it electronically with the subject line of "Critique Essay from XXX"). Each essay should critically examine the readings, outlining the main strengths and weaknesses, offering a brief assessment or critique and raising questions for the class to discuss. No outside reading or research is needed but the student is expected to make comments on the reading while utilizing his/her overall knowledge about the subject.

Research Paper: every student is required to write a research paper addressing one theoretical or practical IPE issue. Sample issues include: exploration and protection of the high sea, international financial system, international migration and refugees, international regimes, the fate of

socialism, and the issue of international terrorism. Your paper topic must be submitted with a brief justification to the instructor by Week 4. The completed paper is due on the last meeting of our class. It should have 18-20 double-spaced pages, excluding bibliography and cover page. Each student is required to submit a hardcopy and an electronic copy of the paper.

Participation/Attendance is the instructor portion of your grade. It will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded accordingly. We all learn from each other's insights.

Course Materials (at the Engineer's Bookstore)

(For those of you who may lack the general knowledge of the subject, you may want to skim a standard college-level textbook such as *Introduction to International Political Economy* <5th Edition>, by David N. Balaam and Michael Veseth, Prentice Hall; 2010)

Alan Beattie, *False Economy: A Surprising Economic History of the World*, Riverhead, 2009. (Beattie).

Jagdish Bhagwati: *In Defense of Globalization*, Oxford University Press, 2005. (Bhagwati)

Stijn Claessens et al eds. *Rebalancing the Global Economy: A Primer for Policymaking*. London: CEPR, 2010. (Claessens et al)

Benjamin J. Cohen: *International Political Economy: An Intellectual History*, Princeton University Press, 2008. (Cohen)

Hernando de Soto: *The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else*. Basic Books; 2003. (de Soto)

Jeffrey A. Frieden: *Global Capitalism: Its Fall and Rise in the Twentieth Century*, W. W. Norton, 2007. (Frieden)

Robert Gilpin: *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. 1987. (Gilpin)

Michael Lewis, *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*, W. W. Norton & Company, 2010. (Lewis)

John J. Mearsheimer: *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W. W. Norton, 2003, (Mearsheimer)

Douglass North: *Structure and Change in Economic History*, New York, Norton, 1982. (North)

Mancur Olson: *Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*, Harvard University Press, 1971 (Olson)

James Gustave Speth, *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment*, Yale University Press, 2004, (Speth)

Susan Strange: *Casino Capitalism*, St. Martin's Press 1997. (Strange)

Fei-Ling Wang: *Organizing Through Division And Exclusion: China's Hukou System*, Stanford University Press, 2005. (Wang)

Course Outline

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| Week 1 (8/23) | Orientation and Introduction |
| Week 2 (8/30) | Market, the state, money and international financial system Gilpin xi-170 |
| Week 3 (9/6) | Schools and questions Cohen |
| Week 4 (9/13) | Global capitalism: Trade, FDI, and MNCs (paper topics due) Gilpin 171-262; Frieden 1-126 |
| Week 5 (9/20) | Contemporary IPE: a short history 1. Frieden 127-362 2. Beattie |
| Week 6 (9/27) | Collective action, rationality, and hegemonic stability Olson; |
| Week 7 (10/4) | Property rights, institutions, and economic systems North. |
| Week 8 (10/11) | Globalization Frieden 363-476; Bhagwati |
| Week 9 (10/18) | Fall break |
| Week 10 (10/25) | Economic development and dependency Guest lecture: “The Fight for Standards” Gilpin 263-340; de Soto |
| Week 11 (11/1) | Casino capitalism Strange; handouts. |
| Week 12 (11/8) | Global financial crisis Lewis Watch <i>The Inside Job</i> |
| Week 13 (11/15) | The U.S. and great powers Mearsheimer, handouts |
| Week 14 (11/22) | Modernity, institutional exclusion, and non-market economies Wang 1-31 & 150-178; Hand-out (Wang’s, Economist “Fields of Tears”) |
| Week 15 (11/29) | World ecology Speth; Watch <i>Inconvenient Truth</i> |
| Week 16 (12/6) | Rebalancing the world economy: alternatives and the future (Paper due) Claessens et al |