

**GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs**

**INTA 3301. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
Spring 2018**

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang (fw@gatech.edu)

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Time: TTH 15:00-16:15

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1. Course Description.

This class examines the relationship between the globalized and market-oriented world economy and national sovereignty-based international politics. We will expose the links, disparities, and conflicts between the two through a historical review and case studies. We will also explore the theoretical perspectives aiming a better understanding of this relationship. A major aim of this class is for the students to demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence nations' behaviors and the global system.

A thorough understanding of history is always very important to students of international affairs, therefore, after a clarification of the concepts, we will first briefly review the historical development of IPE (international political economy). Then we will examine the major theoretical perspectives in the study of IPE: from mercantilism to Marxism. Using the historical knowledge and the theoretical perspectives learnt, we will discuss some of today's most important IPE issues including the much talked-about financial crisis, environmental protection and international terrorism. Finally, we will conclude the course by reconsidering the relationship between the market and the sovereign states.

2. Course Requirements.

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	300	30
Participation	100	10
Attendance	100	10
Case Study Debate	200	20
Second Test	300	30
Total	1,000	100

The first test and the second test will be "in-class" and close book/notes written exams primarily in short-essay format. The tests will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

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 including your participation in the case study debate sessions. The class will be a mixture of informal lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded accordingly. We all learn from each other's insights. As far as attendance is concerned, more than two unexcused absences will be penalized.

Case study debate is a collective research and debating exercise. In the first week of class, the students will be divided into pairs of groups. Each pair of groups must select one aspect of an IPE issue area to study and to debate, and submit it to the instructor for approval in week 4. Sample cases include: How to understand international terrorism? Is global warming real? Is the rise of China and other economies good? What are the root-causes of the financial crisis in 2008-09? Is the United States declining? Is Bitcoin a new world currency?

Each group of the pair must take an opposing side on the issue and is then expected to conduct a collective study on the chosen case under the coordination of the group leader. Conscious and conscientious use of the IPE analytical frameworks and knowledge we learned in class is expected.

Finally, each pair will make two oral presentations by the two groups separately on the two sides of the case study for about 20 minutes each to the class, followed by a joint-session of debate and Q & A of 15 minutes. The presentations will be graded on the extensiveness and depth of the research, the accuracy of the basic facts, the effectiveness and creativity of the debate and role-play (not necessarily who makes the "right" arguments), and the organization and delivery of the presentation itself.

A written summary of each group's presentation (2-3 pages, single spaced, bibliography and footnotes additional) is due on the day of the presentation. Every member of the same group will receive the same grade for this exercise. The group leaders are expected to report any free-riding activities that may take place in the groups.

In the process, as a major learning outcome, we will assess the students' problem solving abilities. Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern. This includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.

GT Honor Code

This class strictly observes the Georgia Tech Honor Code and does not tolerate any form of plagiarism, defined as "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another's

as one's own or use another's production without crediting the source.” For questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me or visit www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9.

For contact information of ADAPTS, see www.adapts.gatech.edu.

3. Course Materials.

(Available at the GT Bookstore. DVDs are on reserve at GT Library and/or online. The handout readings are posted on T-Square).

David N. Balaam & Bradford Dillman, *Introduction to International Political Economy* (6th Edition), Pearson 2014. (Balaam & Dillman)

Karin Junger: *A Dollar A Day - The Price of Cotton*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (52 minutes) <http://vimeo.com/34075018>

Alexandra Jansse: *A Dollar A Day - The New Silver*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (50 minutes) <http://vimeo.com/34077671>

Charles Ferguson: *Inside Job*, DVD, Sony Pictures, 2011. (120 minutes)

Davis Guggenheim: *An Inconvenient Truth*, Paramount, 2006. (90 minutes)

Handout materials

4. Course Outline:

Week 1 **Class orientation and overview**
1/9 & 1/11 Balaam & Dillman 1-22.

Week 2 **Money, economy, market, the state, and IR**
1/16 Handout I, on T-Square
1/18 Balaam & Dillman 207-234.

Week 3 Liberalism and Mercantilism
1/23 Balaam & Dillman 25-50.
1/25 Balaam & Dillman 53-75.

Week 4 **Marxism, structuralism, and alternative views**
1/30 Balaam & Dillman 78-99.
2/1 Balaam & Dillman 101-121.
(Debate topics due)

Week 5 **International trade and international financial market**

	2/6	Balaam & Dillman 123-148.
	2/8	Balaam & Dillman 151-176.
Week 6	Poverty and development	
	2/13	Balaam & Dillman 264-289.
	2/15	Handout II, on T-Square; Watch the <i>A Dollar A Day</i> series
Week 7	2/20	Study Session
	2/22	First Test
Week 8	Globalization, regionalization, and the rise of many	
	2/27	Balaam & Dillman 292-317.
	3/1	Balaam & Dillman 319-376; Handout III, on T-Square.
Week 9	Information networks and TNCs/MNCs	
	3/6	Balaam & Dillman 237-261.
	3/8	Balaam & Dillman 432-455.
Week 10	Global imbalances, debts, and crisis	
	3/13	Balaam & Dillman 178-204.
	3/15	Handout IV, on T-Square; Watch <i>Inside Job</i>
Week 11	3/20 & 3/22	No class – enjoy the spring break
Week 12	Illicit trade and migration	
	3/27	Balaam & Dillman 378-402.
	3/29	Balaam & Dillman 405-428.
Week 13	Food and Energy	
	4/3	Balaam & Dillman 458-481. Balaam & Dillman 484-508.
	4/5	No class – study session
Week 14	World ecology	
	4/10	Balaam & Dillman 511-535.
	4/12	Handout V, on T-Square; Watch <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>
Week 15	4/17	Second Test
	4/19	Case study debates I
Week 16	4/24	Case study debates II