

Georgia Institute of Technology  
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs  
Spring 2019

## **INTA 6302. GRADUATE SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**

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**Instructor: Professor Fei-Ling Wang**  
**Time: Thursdays 18:00-20:45**  
**Place: G17, Habersham Building**  
**Office Hours: Thurs. 12:00-14:30 or by Appointment**  
**Office: 214 Habersham House (404-894-1904); E-mail: fw@gatech.edu**

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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. Each student will give an oral presentation of professional quality on a major issue in international political economy. Each student is expected to develop and demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social and nations' behaviors and the global system.

### **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.

As a major learning outcome, the course will assess the student's effective oral presentation skills to see how the student will be able to clearly and effectively convey analytical findings to both lay and disciplinary audiences through an oral presentation.

**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. You are also encouraged to discuss your research design and outline of your paper with the instructor in the weeks after that. 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.

### **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](http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9).

For contact information of ADAPTS, see [www.adapts.gatech.edu](http://www.adapts.gatech.edu).

### **Course Materials (at the Georgia Tech 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* <6th Edition>, by David N. Balaam and Bradford Dillman, Prentice Hall; 2013)

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World*, Penguin, 2009, (Ferguson)

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)

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, J. Lawrence Broz, eds., *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth* (Sixth Edition), W. W. Norton, 2017. (Frieden et al)

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

Michael Lewis, *Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World*, Norton & Company, 2011. (Lewis)

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)

Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy*, 2012 (Rodrik)

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, *The China Order: Centralia, World Empire, and the Nature of Chinese Power*, SUNY Press, 2017. (Wang)

Additional hand-out reading materials will be posted on T-Square.

## Course Outline

<b>Week 1 (1/10)</b>	<b>Orientation and Introduction</b>
<b>Week 2 (1/17)</b>	<b>Market, the state, money and international financial system</b> Gilpin xi-262
<b>Week 3 (1/24)</b>	<b>Schools and questions</b> Cohen
<b>Week 4 (1/31)</b>	<b>Trade, FDI, and MNCs (paper topics due)</b> Frieden 1-126; Frieden et al chapters 1, 4-5, 9
<b>Week 5 (2/7)</b>	<b>Contemporary IPE: a short history</b> Frieden 127-476, Frieden et al chapters 6-8
<b>Week 6 (2/14)</b>	<b>Collective action, rationality, and hegemonic stability</b> Olson
<b>Week 7 (2/21)</b>	<b>Property rights, institutions, and economic systems</b> North. Frieden et al chapter 3
<b>Week 8 (2/28)</b>	<b>Globalization</b> Rodrik; Frieden et al chapters 11-12

- Week 9 (3/7)**                    **Economic development and dependency**  
Gilpin 263-340; de Soto
- Week 10 (3/14)**                **Financial system and casino capitalism**  
Frieden et al chapters 13-17; Strange.
- Week 11 (3/21)**                **No class – Enjoy the Spring Break**
- Week 12 (3/28)**                **Global financial crisis**  
Lewis; Watch *The Inside Job*
- Week 13 (4/4)**                 **Power redistribution and alternative world orders**  
Wang 1-7, 99-134, 195-218; skim the rest
- Week 14 (4/11)**                **World ecology**  
Speth; Watch *Inconvenient Truth*
- Week 15 (4/18)**                **Rebalancing, the climate, and migration: the future of IPE**  
**(Paper due)**  
Frieden et al chapter 29-31; Frieden 2016 (handout), Frankel (handout),  
Mansfield 2013 (handout)