INTA 6302. GRADUATE SEMINAR: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

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

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:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Reading Reports</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique Essay and Presentation</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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**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.

For contact information of ADAPTS, see 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)


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


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


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

Course Outline

**Week 1 (1/10)** Orientation and Introduction

**Week 2 (1/17)** Market, the state, money and international financial system  
Gilpin xi-262

**Week 3 (1/24)** Schools and questions  
Cohen

**Week 4 (1/31)** Trade, FDI, and MNCs (paper topics due)  
Frieden 1-126; Frieden et al chapters 1, 4-5, 9

**Week 5 (2/7)** Contemporary IPE: a short history  
Frieden 127-476, Frieden et al chapters 6-8

**Week 6 (2/14)** Collective action, rationality, and hegemonic stability  
Olson

**Week 7 (2/21)** Property rights, institutions, and economic systems  
North. Frieden et al chapter 3

**Week 8 (2/28)** Globalization  
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) |