POSC 3250

International Political Economy
Fall 2011

Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30-4:45
SN 2036

INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Russell Alan Williams (Assistant Professor, Political Science)
Office: SN2031 Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12:00-1:00pm (Or by appointment)
Phone: 864-4402

DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
This course introduces upper-level undergraduate students to the study of International Political Economy (IPE). The course begins with an examination of the major theoretical frameworks in IPE: Realism, Liberalism, Historical Structuralism, and Feminism. The course also touches on specific approaches within each of these frameworks, such as, hegemonic stability theory, regime theory, and Gramscian analysis. The course then applies these frameworks to key topics in IPE; including the global monetary and financial order, international trade, foreign investment, multinational corporations, foreign debt, and international development. By the end of the course students should:

• Be able to discuss current issues in international political economy using the appropriate language and theoretical tools.
• Be able to ‘frame’ some issues, analyzing them within the relevant theoretical and political context.
• Have improved their research essay writing skills - students will be required to write a research paper which tests theoretical claims made by IPE scholars.

COURSE ORGANIZATION:
There will be one lecture and one split lecture-seminar each week. Lectures will highlight key concepts in the field. In the second half of each Thursday class, students will be broken into smaller groups to discuss a key “controversy” in IPE. Each group will be expected to report back on their conclusions. To participate effectively in these exercises, students will be expected to have read the Class Discussion Reading.

TEXTBOOKS:
• Additional articles specified in the outline - Your Memorial email account must be functioning to receive the Class Discussion Readings

COURSE EVALUATION:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Item</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam (October 25 - in class)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay Outline (October 18 - in class)</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Essay (November 22 - in class)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

ESSAY (40%) Due in Class, November 22 (Late Penalty is 5% per day)

Students are to write an essay in which they apply an IPE perspective or theory (e.g., realism, liberalism, historical structuralism, or feminism) to a topic. Students are free to refine and narrow their topic to an issue of their choosing; however, general topic areas normally appropriate for this course include:

- Global monetary relations
- The global financial architecture
- Foreign debt and the “debt crisis”
- The challenges facing the global trade regime
- The impact of trade agreements on states and societies
- Multinational corporations and foreign direct investment
- Obstacles to development
- The impact of globalisation on labour
- The role of Civil Society actors in IPE
- Gender and IPE
- IPE and environmental cooperation
- Resource dependency

Each paper must meet the following requirements:

- The paper must test a theoretical argument raised by IPE scholarship against the topic chosen by the student
- The paper should be between 3,000 to 4,000 words
- The paper should make use of a minimum of ten separate sources in its citations
- The paper should be formatted in the style of a formal research paper - please consult a style guide if you are unfamiliar with writing research papers. (E.g. http://journals.library.mun.ca/mp_styleguide.pdf)

Please remember, a good research paper has three core elements. It has a thesis, which introduces the core argument of the paper. It develops that core argument throughout the body of the paper through the use of evidence – drawn from a minimum of TEN research sources. It should also have a conclusion which reiterates the central argument of the paper and sums up how the evidence supports that argument.

There are no “correct” answers – there are only well written, well argued and well researched papers. Any paper that has neither a clear thesis nor sufficient research will result in failure on the assignment. It goes without saying that papers should also be well written, spell checked and carefully proof-read.

ESSAY OUTLINE/PROPOSAL (5%) Due in class, October 18.

Students are required to submit an essay outline sometime prior to February 17. The proposal should briefly introduce the topic you are going to cover and what you are going to argue (your thesis). This should take no more than a short paragraph. The outline should include several initial sources for your bibliography. All students who complete the assignment will receive the full 5%. Late proposals will not be evaluated.
MID TERM AND FINAL EXAMS:
Both exams will include a short answer definition section and an essay section. Short answer questions will focus on key concepts covered in class. Students are expected to have a clear understanding of all key concepts and terms covered in this material. Essay questions will focus on the issues raised by Class Discussion Readings provided by the instructor. Students should be sure to complete all of the required reading.

CLASS DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION (10%)
Throughout the semester, weekly “Class Discussion Readings” have been assigned. We will be discussing these articles in small groups following the weekly lectures. The articles and chapters assigned are more argumentative and thought-provoking then the review offered by the Cohn textbook chapters. This class discussion is an important component of the course as both the mid term and final exams will require that students are familiar with the arguments and major ideas presented in these readings. In order to make effective use of this time, and to receive a good grade for course participation, students should read the class discussion readings prior to class and come prepared to analyze that reading.

• Note: In order to be sure of receiving the class discussion readings assigned each week, students’ Memorial email addresses must be working. Please insure this is the case.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
Students must not engage in academic dishonesty . . .
Cheating includes (but is not limited to) allowing another student to copy from your work, presenting someone else’s work as your own, consulting electronic devices such as mobile phones or MP3 players and/or interacting with others while a test is ongoing. Information about procedures and penalties for academic dishonesty is outlined in the University Calendar and is available from the Department (http://www.mun.ca/posc/undergraduate/planning/plagarism.php).

Students must have an appropriate classroom demeanor . . .
On occasion less serious students disturb others’ learning during class, by talking at inappropriate times, using the Internet and/or using cell phones. Students distracted by any such behaviour should bring this to the attention of the course instructor.

Students must have a functioning Memorial email account . . .
Memorial University’s policy is that students are to use e-mail from an account with the official university domain name (@mun.ca). This is the sole address to be used for official university e-mail communication. The policy further states that “failure to appropriately check e-mail will not exempt them from responsibilities associated with the email correspondence.” This course requires that your MUN email address is working and that you regularly check your messages. Class readings and advice will be emailed to you on a regular bases.

In addition, if students wish to contact the instructor via email, they must make it clear who they are and what course they are referring to. Questions that require “in-depth” lengthy answers may not receive a quick response. Complex questions about research papers or problems understanding course materials are usually better addressed in person during office hours.

Students must complete assignments on time . . .
In the event that a class is cancelled on the day of a scheduled exam - the exam will be administered in the next available class. Students unable to write exams on the days which they are administered may qualify—through the provision of valid medical documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note) for the day in question—for a deferred and dissimilar testing opportunity.

There will be no make-up opportunities for Thursday class discussion exercises - students who miss those assignments will receive a zero for that class unless they provide documentation of a medical issue that prevented them from participating.

The penalty for late essays is 5% per day. E-mail or other technological problems do not constitute a valid excuse.

Students who fail to submit their essay proposals by the dues date will receive a zero (in the absence of a valid medical excuse); late proposals will not be assessed.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:**

**Persons with Disabilities:** The Glenn Roy Blundon Centre ([www.mun.ca/blundon](http://www.mun.ca/blundon)) serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning (disabilities), chronic illness, or mental health; support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries.

**Use of Recording Devices in Classrooms:** Students may not make a visual and/or audio recording, openly or surreptitiously, of any lecture material delivered in a course without the written permission of the course instructor.

**Writing Centre:** The Writing Centre ([www.mun.ca/writingcentre](http://www.mun.ca/writingcentre)) is a free facility for all Memorial University students who want help with their writing. The Centre provides individualized tutorials to students from all schools and faculties on a by appointment bases.

**Political Science Website:** Information about upcoming courses, sample course syllabi, course instructors, work internships, international exchanges, degree requirements and more is available on the Political Science website ([www.mun.ca/posc/welcome/](http://www.mun.ca/posc/welcome/)).
CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING:

• **Required Reading** will be supplemented in class by lecture materials. Exams will require a good knowledge of the required reading.

• **Class Discussion Reading** are shorter articles intended for class discussion. These pieces must be read before each Thursday’s class.

• **Additional Readings** are not required. They are for student reference only and may be of use in preparing major research papers.

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**Class Organization and Introduction** (September 8)

Unit One: Introduction - the Study of International Political Economy and the Politics of Economic Integration (September 13 & 15)

**Required Reading:**

- Cohn, Global Political Economy, Chs. 1-2.

**Class Discussion Reading:**


**Additional Reading:**


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Unit Two: Realist Theory and IPE (September 20 & 22)

**Required Reading:**

- Cohn, Ch. 3.

**Class Discussion Reading:**


**Additional Reading:**


Unit Three: Thinking Liberally - Diversity and Hegemony in IPE (September 27 & 29)

Required Reading:

- Cohn, Ch. 4.

Class Discussion Reading:


Additional Reading:

- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Power and Interdependence, (Scott, Foresman, 2nd ed., 1989), chapter 1 (pp. 3-22) and chapter 2 (pp. 23-37).

Unit Four: Historical Materialism (a.k.a “Marxism”) and IPE (October 4 & 6)

Required Reading:

- Cohn, Ch. 5.

Class Discussion Reading:


Additional Reading:


Reading Break: Classes Cancelled (October 11 & 13)
Unit Five: Contemporary Approaches - Feminism and Constructivism (October 18 & 20)

Essay Proposal due in class, October 18!!!!

Required Reading:
- Cohn, Ch. 5.

Class Discussion Readings:

Additional Reading:

Feminism/Gender Theory and IPE:

IPE and the “Constructivist Challenge”:

MID TERM EXAM (October 25)

Unit Six: The Global Politics of Money (October 27 & November 1)

Required Reading:
• Cohn, Ch. 6.

**Class Discussion Readings:**


**Additional Reading:**


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Unit Seven: Money Problems - The “Debt Crisis” & Financial Crises (November 3 & 8)

**Required Reading:**

• Cohn, Ch. 11.

**Class Discussion Readings:**


**Additional Reading:**


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Unit Eight: The Global Trade Regime (November 10 & 15)

**Required Reading:**

• Cohn, Ch. 7 & Cohn, Ch. 8 pp 222-239.

**Class Discussion Readings:**


**Additional Reading:**


Unit Nine: Multinational Corporations and the Global Economy (November 17 & 22)

Essay due in class, November 22!!!!!!

Required Reading:
• Cohn, Ch. 9.

Class Discussion Readings:


Additional Reading:


• Mira Wilkins, “Two Literatures, Two Storylines: Is a General Paradigm of Foreign Portfolio and Foreign Direct Investment Feasible?,” Transnational Corporations, 8-1 (April 1999), pp. 53-116.


Unit Ten: Development and Underdevelopment Etc. (November 24 & 29)

Required Reading:
• Cohn, Ch. 10.

**Class Discussion Reading:**


**Additional Reading:**


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**Unit Eleven: Chaos and Crisis in Global Economic Governance, (Dec 1)**

**Required Reading:**

• Cohn, Ch. 12.

**Class Discussion Reading:**


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**FINAL EXAM (As scheduled by the Registrar)**