

Introduction to International Political Economy

Fall 2003

Department of Political Science
Political Science 186A

Global and International Studies
Global Studies 123

Honors section

Description

The aim of this honors section will be to deepen your understanding of the practicalities and complexities of international political economy. We will do this by focusing in particular on one representative issue – international trade negotiations.

International trade is much in the news these days. In November 2001, the member countries of the World Trade Organization met in Doha, Qatar, to launch a new round of negotiations on trade liberalization. The process was labeled the Doha Development Agenda or, simply, the Doha Round. More recently, in September 2003, members met again in Cancun, Mexico, to review progress and prospects, with mixed results. Will the Doha Round succeed? No one knows. The negotiations are complex and politicized, the issues are many, and a successful outcome is by no means guaranteed.

In this honors section, we will simulate the next round of negotiations in the Doha Agenda. Each student will be assigned to represent a key country in the negotiations. Your responsibility will be to develop a negotiating strategy for your country and to represent your country's government in a simulated international negotiation, which we will call Cancun II. Cancun II will take place on **December 3**. The aim of simulation will be to see whether, taking all relevant economic and political dimensions into account, it might be possible to reach some kind of mutually acceptable bargain among the countries involved.

Readings

For the honors section, you will be required to purchase one additional book:

Jeffrey J. Schott, ed., *The WTO After Seattle* (Institute for International Economics, 2000).

Readings will be assigned in this book, in the two other texts required for the course, and in additional materials that either will be provided by the instructor or will be available from the Doha Round Briefing Series of the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development, a non-governmental organization based in Washington, DC (www.ictsd.org/pubs/dohabriefings).

Requirements

The requirements for the honors section are as follows:

1. You must do all the assigned readings and attend all section meetings, as indicated in the schedule below. Any absence will require a valid excuse.

2. You must prepare a brief paper, five to ten pages in length (double spaced). This paper will substitute for the second paper assignment for the course. (That is, you will not have to write paper no. 2, due November 6.)

Your paper should be written in the form of a memorandum prepared for Cancun II. Imagine that you are the chief advisor on international trade to the government that you have been assigned to represent. As such, you are expected to provide your government with an appropriate background briefing, which should include: (a) a systematic evaluation of the main issues under negotiation; (b) a clear articulation of the interests and preferences of your government in relation to these issues; and (c) your policy recommendations, including an outline of both broad strategy and specific tactics to be used in Cancun II. The paper will be due on Wednesday, **November 19**. Papers will be returned in time for you to make any necessary adjustments in strategy or tactics before the simulation on December 3.

3. You must participate actively in the simulated negotiation to take place on December 3.

Resources

Once you get started on the research for your paper, you will find that there is a universe of information “out there,” especially in cyberspace. Among the more useful websites that you will find are:

<http://www.wto.org> (the website of the World Trade Organization).

<http://www.ictsd.org/weekly> (weekly briefings from the ICTSD).

<http://www.tradeobservatory.org> (a useful clipping service).

Among print sources, some of the more useful include *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*. All have websites of their own.

Schedule and Readings

October 1: Getting organized

No required readings.

October 8: Some basics

Cohn, *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, second edition (2003), ch. 8.

October 15: From Doha to Cancun

Schott, ch. 1.

Goddard, Cronin, and Dash (eds.), *International Political Economy: State-Market Relations in a Changing Global Order*, second edition (2003), ch. 22.

October 22: The major actors

Schott, chs. 2-7.

October 29: Agriculture

Schott, ch. 8.

Doha Round Briefing Series (ICTSD), no. 2

November 5: Industrial tariffs and anti-dumping practices

Schott, ch. 11.

Doha Round Briefing Series (ICTSD), nos. 4, 7.

November 12: The Singapore issues

Schott, chs. 13, 14.

Doha Round Briefing Series (ICTSD), no. 6.

November 19: Preliminary negotiations; papers due

November 26: No meeting (Happy Thanksgiving)

December 3: Cancun II