

## DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

### Political Science 270

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Spring 2009  
Monday, 2:00-4:50  
Office hours: Tuesday  
10:30-12:30 or by  
appointment

### **Theoretical Issues in International Political Economy**

#### **Description**

This course is designed as an advanced seminar, with two objectives in mind. The first is to expose you to some of the newest scholarship available in the field of International Political Economy. The second is to give you an opportunity to prepare a substantial research paper on a topic of your own choosing, which should be of particular interest to anyone thinking of eventually doing a dissertation on a subject related to IPE. A prerequisite for the seminar is POLS 273 or equivalent.

The schedule for the seminar will be a bit unusual. The seminar will meet five times during the first half of the quarter to review some key readings and to get you started on your respective research projects. During the next month, each of you will then be expected to work on your individual project in consultation with the instructor. The seminar will not meet again until the final week of the quarter, when your research results will be reviewed and discussed.

#### **Readings**

The readings for the initial sessions of the seminar include the complete contents of a forthcoming *Handbook of International Political Economy*, edited by Mark Blyth. The purpose of the readings is to give you a sense of the full breadth of the field of International Political Economy as it exists at present and how it has evolved over time. You will be expected to do all the assigned reading as outlined below. An electronic version of the *Handbook* will be provided, which you can download at your own pace.

#### **Course requirements/grades**

Students will be required to attend all scheduled sessions of the seminar, to do all the reading for each week as assigned, and to participate fully and constructively in class discussions. Any absence must be justified by a valid excuse.

In addition, you will be required to write a substantial paper (30-40 pages in length) on a research topic of your choice, selected in consultation with the instructor. The paper may focus on any current or historical issue relating to the field of IPE. Your project may build on work that you have already started in another course at UCSB or elsewhere, or it may initiate an entirely new line of research.

The purpose of the paper is to give you experience in the design and implementation of a formal research project. You may use the opportunity as a first step toward preparation of a future dissertation prospectus. Alternatively, you might wish to develop your project into a paper that could be presented at professional meetings or could be submitted to a refereed journal for publication.

Each student should consult with me as soon as possible about your research topic, since a single quarter does not provide a lot of time to complete a substantial piece of work. I will do everything I can to get you properly started and to help you realize your individual objectives.

By **April 13**, you will be expected to complete an outline of your project for my review. The outline should be a minimum of 3-5 pages in length and, *inter alia*, should address the following questions:

1. **Subject.** What is the central issue? Why is it important or interesting? What specific research questions and/or hypotheses would you plan to investigate?
2. **Context.** How does your topic fit in the existing scholarly literature? What are the relevant concepts or models? Would you expect your research to represent a logical extension or refinement of conventional views, a refutation, or a new departure?
3. **Research design.** What would be the appropriate analytical strategy for dealing with your topic? What would be the working premises or assumptions of your research? What methodology (or methodologies) would be most suitable? What data or other source materials would you need, and where would you find them?
4. **Contributions.** What would be your claim to scholarly originality? What new insight or information would you expect to provide? What would be implications for future research?

A first draft of your full research paper will be due by Tuesday, **May 26**, for discussion in class on **June 1**. Each of you will be responsible for circulating copies to all other students. For each paper, a formal discussant will be assigned to prepare remarks and questions designed to identify strengths and weaknesses and to provide specific suggestions for revisions. Everyone will be expected to be prepared to participate fully in the discussion of all submissions. Final papers will be due on Friday, **June 12**.

Grades for the seminar will be determined jointly by all of the above: quality of class participation as well as of the final paper. There will be no final examination.

## **Course schedule**

March 30	Introduction
April 6	North American IPE
April 13	British IPE
April 20	IPE in Asia
April 27	IPE Elsewhere
April 27-May 26	Research
June 1	Discussion of research papers
June 12	Final papers due

## **Readings**

### **March 30 Introduction**

Mark Blyth, "Introduction: IPE as a 'Global Conversation'"

### **April 6 North American IPE**

Benjamin J. Cohen, "The Multiple Traditions of American IPE"

Jonathan Kirshner, "Realist Political Economy: Traditional Themes and Contemporary Challenges"

Alexander Cooley, "Contested Contracts: Rationalist Theories of Institutions in American IPE"

Rawi Abdelal, "Constructivism as an Approach to International Political Economy"

Randall Germain, "Of Margins, Traditions and Engagements: A Brief Disciplinary History of IPE in Canada"

### **April 13 British IPE**

Ben Clift and Ben Rosamond, "Lineages of a British International Political Economy"

Angus Cameron and Ronen Palan, "Empiricism and Objectivity: Reflexive Theory Construction in a Complex World"

Paul Langley, "Power-Knowledge Estranged: From Susan Strange to Poststructuralism in British IPE"

Philip G. Cerny, "Bridging the Transatlantic Divide? Toward a Structural Approach to International Political Economy"

### **April 20 IPE in Asia**

Giovanni Arrighi, "Reading Hobbes in Beijing: Great Power Politics and the Challenge of the Peaceful Ascent"

Walden Bello, “States and Markets, States versus Markets: The Developmental State Debate as the Distinctive East Asian Contribution to International Political Economy”

Henry Wai-Chung Yeung, “The Rise of East-Asia: An Emerging Challenge to the Study of International Political Economy”

J.C. Sharman, “Neither Asia nor America: IPE in Australia”

**April 27      IPE Elsewhere**

Nicolas Jabko, “Why IPE is Underdeveloped in Continental Europe: A Case Study of France”

José Gabriel Palma, “Why Did the Latin American Critical Tradition in the Social Sciences Become Practically Extinct?”

John L. Campbell, “What Do Sociologists Bring to International Political Economy?”

Michael J. Oliver, “Economic History and the International Political Economy”

John M. Hobson and Leonard Seabrooke, “Everyday International Political Economy”