

Prof. Jean-Marc F. Blanchard, Ph.D.
Term: Fall 2008
Course Number: IR 312-02 (4 units)
Course Location: HH 108
Course Time: MW 12:20-2:00 PM

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INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES, AND PREREQUISITES

Description: In this course, you will learn about the development of the international political economy (IPE), basic IPE concepts and theories, the central actors in the contemporary IPE, key IPE governance mechanisms, and economic statecraft. It is neither a course in politics nor a course in economics, but rather a course that stresses the interaction of the two.

Objectives: The objectives of this course include: (1) increasing your understanding of world economic history; (2) building your understanding of the political and economic forces that have and continue to shape the IPE; (3) increasing your knowledge of the contemporary IPE; (4) developing your written and oral communication skills; and (5) improving your ability to analyze international topics.

Prerequisites: All students must have upper-division status or higher. All IR majors in this class already must have completed IR 104 and IR 308 (concurrent enrollment is not permitted). **Note: You will be dropped if you do not meet these prerequisite requirements.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (Note: all aspects are subject to change): It is possible to earn a maximum of 1000 points. The various components are:

- (1) Administration, attendance, and participation (200 points):
 - (a) Administrative (35 points): This consists of the submission of a fully completed Student Data Form or SDF (25 points), a passport-sized photo (10 points), and a signed copy of the IR Department plagiarism pledge (CR/NC). The SDF and plagiarism pledge are available on [iLearn](http://iLearn.sfsu.edu) (<http://iLearn.sfsu.edu>). **Note: You must submit these items by the dates specified in the syllabus in order to earn credit.**
 - (b) Attendance (100 points): Attendance is *mandatory*. You have **two** pre-excused absences, but you cannot use them to change the deadline of any course tasks (e.g., assignments, exams, and presentations). Otherwise, the only acceptable reason for an absence is a documented medical excuse. You will receive a reduced class attendance grade of 5 points per class missed (15 points per class when there are guest speakers). **Note: If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. Hence, make a friend!**
 - (c) Participation (65 points): You are expected to participate **actively**. Active participation means frequent contributions to discussion, the asking or answering of questions, and involvement in course debates.
- (2) Quizzes (50 points): There will be 6 quizzes (10 points each) over the course of the semester, 2 announced and 4 unannounced. Only the 5 highest quizzes will count. **Note: There are no make-up quizzes.**

- (3) **Current affairs (CA) presentation (20 points):** Later, I will schedule you to give a 3-5 minute in-class presentation on a current IPE topic using a *Financial Times* article (see below under COURSE MATERIALS, Periodicals) that I or you will select. In addition to your presentation, you will have to prepare a typed summary of your article (see “Guidelines for the CA presentation” on [iLearn](#)). **Note: The only acceptable excuse for a late current affairs presentation is a documented medical excuse.**
- (4) **Foreign currency tracking (FCT) project (130 points):** Beginning on a date linked to a group to which you will be assigned, you will keep a semester-long log tracking the fluctuations of a foreign currency and evaluating the reasons for the fluctuations. Your “log” will be checked at two random points over the course of the semester (15 points each time) and collected and evaluated at the end of the semester (100 points). “Guidelines for the FCT project” will be posted on [iLearn](#). **Note: You can postpone one random log check by one class (roughly 48 hours) only once. The only acceptable excuse for submitting your final log late is a documented medical emergency which must state that the emergency prevented you from submitting your FCT project log on time.**
- (5) **Exam #1 (200 points):** Exam #1 will be an in-class exam on Wednesday, October 8. Later, I will provide specific details about Exam #1. **Note: The only acceptable excuse for a late Exam #1 is a documented medical emergency which must state that the emergency prevented you from taking Exam #1.**
- (6) **Exam #2 (400 points):** Exam #2 is likely to be take-home. Later in the semester, I will provide details about its exact structure. **Note: The only acceptable excuse for a late Exam #2 is a documented medical emergency which must state that the emergency prevented you from submitting Exam #2 on time.**

GRADING, LATE ASSIGNMENT, AND OTHER RELEVANT COURSE POLICIES

- (1) **Grade:** Generally speaking, excellent work (approximately 900-1000 points) is needed to earn an “A level” grade. Conversely, seriously inadequate or missing work (0-500 points) will earn an F. **Note: If you wish to contest a grade, then you must do so in writing.** “Guidelines for grade contestations” will be posted on [iLearn](#).
- (2) **Incompletes:** Incompletes hurt your chances of graduating in a timely fashion and are unfair to your classmates. Hence, I am unlikely to grant them except in truly extraordinary circumstances.
- (3) **Late Work Policy:** *Unless otherwise noted*, late assignments, papers, and the like will be marked down 10 percent per day in the absence of a documented medical excuse which must state you were unable to make an on-time submission. **Note: Please note that computer problems are not an acceptable excuse for missed deadlines. Furthermore, assignments and exams are not considered received until you have submitted a plagiarism pledge and run your papers through the plagiarism checking software used in this course.**

COURSE MATERIALS

I. **Books:** The following texts are *required* and available for purchase at the [SFSU Bookstore](#).

(a) Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*, 3rd ed. (New York: Pearson Longman, 2008) [hereinafter *Oatley*]; and,

(b) Pietra Rivoli, *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade* (Hoboken: Wiley, 2005) [hereinafter *Rivoli*]

II. **Periodicals:** You are *required* to subscribe to the *Financial Times*. During the first 4 classes, I will bring *Financial Times* subscription forms that allow you to subscribe at a heavily discounted rate.

III. **Other Materials:** At later points, I may make readings available through the SFSU Library’s electronic reserves system (<http://eres.sfsu.edu/>) or direct you to search for these items through SFSU Library electronic databases. In addition, I may identify web sites from which you must download materials.

COURSE RULES AND INFORMATION (Note: all aspects are subject to change)

(1) **Academic Integrity:** Cheating, which entails deceptive or fraudulent action to obtain an advantage, is a big no-no! Cheating shortchanges you and your classmates. Schedule your work so you will not feel pressure to engage in unethical activity. “Guidelines regarding academic integrity” are posted on [iLearn](#). You will be required to read this information, to demonstrate familiarity with it, and to submit a plagiarism pledge. A very common form of cheating is plagiarism; that is, exploiting another person’s words or ideas without giving them credit. Later, we will discuss how you can avoid plagiarism.

Note: It is International Relations Department policy to give an “F” on assignments that plagiarize. Moreover, you may be asked to withdraw from the course and to submit to University disciplinary procedures which could lead to your suspension or expulsion (see [SFSU Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline](#)).

(2) **Civility: When in class, please turn off your cell-phones, pagers, and so on.** If you have a question or comment, please raise your hand.

You are expected to respect each other’s opinions and to voice your opinion in a polite manner. You do not need to agree with your classmates or me, but please handle all disagreements in a civil fashion. SFSU President Robert Corrigan has stated, “civility, understanding, and mutual respect toward all members of the University community are intrinsic to excellence in teaching and learning.”

Note: Verbal harassment, violence, or the threat of violence and similar conduct is “subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University, or civil or criminal prosecution as appropriate” (see [SFSU Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline](#)).

(3) **Computer and email policy:** All students are assumed to have access to computers and leading office software (e.g., MS Word). You are responsible for checking your SFSU email accounts on a regular basis or for having your @sfsu.edu email forwarded to your preferred email accounts. **Note: Due to budgetary and time issues, it is not possible to submit assignments by email unless I explicitly note otherwise.**

(4) **Doing Your Best:** If you are having difficulty in this course due to language problems, time management issues, or the complexity of the material, or simply would like to do better, do not be afraid to see or email me, to use SFSU student resources like the Learning Assistance Center (<http://www.sfsu.edu/~lac/>), or to form a study group with your classmates. On our [iLearn](#) website, I have identified a number of university resources at your disposal (see “Student Learning Resources”). Many are free so exploit them!

(5) **iLearn:** We will make extensive use of iLearn for this course. You can access our [iLearn](#) site through <http://iLearn.sfsu.edu>. Our iLearn site will contain important announcements, course forms, lecture outlines, web links, and other useful information.

Note: [iLearn](#) uses SFSU email addresses so check your SFSU email regularly. Not all outside email programs (e.g., Gmail or Hotmail) properly forward. If you are having difficulties using [iLearn](#), contact the iLearn support team using their form (<https://iLearn.sfsu.edu/login/contact.htm>).

(6) **Instructional Aides/Teaching Assistants:** We will have some instructional aides (IAs)/teaching assistants (TAs) for this course. Among other things, they may advise you how to refine your presentations, offer you research guidance, and score quizzes, papers, and exams. Please recognize that our IAs and TAs are here to help you rather than to do your work. **Note: In no cases are IAs and TAs authorized to make decisions that affect your course obligations—e.g., assignment content requirements or assignment due dates.**

(7) **Everything Else:** You are welcome to tape lectures. **Note: Please do not bring visitors to class without approval. Furthermore, please do not bring food to class. Coffee, water, and other non-alcoholic beverages are okay.**

CLASS SCHEDULE (Note: *all aspects are subject to change*)

1. August 27 (Wednesday)-Course Introduction; Administrative-iLearn; hints about doing well; FT signup

-*Read syllabus*

-*Oatley, pp. x-xiii*

2. September 1 (Monday)-**LABOR DAY** (no class)

3. September 3 (Wednesday)-Defining, Debating, and Dissecting IPE; Administrative-FT signup. QUIZ #1

-*Re-read syllabus*

-*Oatley, pp. 1-21*

4. September 8 (Monday)-Actors in the IPE-MNCs-General; MNCs-AMD/Intel; Administrative-FT signup

-DUE @ the beginning of class (BOC): SDF ([iLearn](#)) and student photo

-*Oatley, pp. 166-190*

5. September 10 (Wednesday)-Actors in the IPE-MNCs-General (cont.); MNC case study (Intel in China); Administrative-FT signup (last chance for in-class sign-up). QUIZ #2

-Last day to submit SDF and student photo for credit

-*Oatley, pp. 191-214*

6. September 15 (Monday)-History and Governance of International Trade

-*Oatley, pp. 14-19, 22-29, 34-35, 37-40, 44-46*

7. September 17 (Wednesday)-Governance of International Trade (cont.); Administrative-introduction of professor and instructional aides, group assignments, and discussion of FCT project

-*Oatley, pp. 40-44*

-Read "Guidelines for the FCT project" ([iLearn](#))

8. September 22 (Monday)-Economics of International Trade; Administrative-discussion of CA presentation

-*Oatley, pp. 47-60*

-Read "Guidelines for the CA presentation" ([iLearn](#))

9. September 24 (Wednesday)-Economics of International Trade (cont.); the Issue of Trade Deficits

-*Re-read Oatley, pp. 47-60; other reading to be determined*

10. September 29 (Monday)-Politics of International Trade

-*Oatley, pp. 29-34 (hegemonic stability theory), pp. 47-48, 60-63, 65-71 (neoliberal institutionalism)*

11. October 1 (Wednesday)-Politics of International Trade (cont.); Administrative-discussion of academic integrity

-**DUE @ BOC**: Plagiarism pledge (“Guidelines regarding academic integrity” on [iLearn](#))

-*Oatley*, pp. 72-94 (society-centered approaches)

12. October 6 (Monday)-Economic Sanctions and the Case of South Africa

-*No assigned readings*

13. October 8 (Wednesday)-**EXAM #1** (in class)

14. October 13 (Monday)-Economic Sanctions and South Africa (cont.)

-*No assigned readings*

15. October 15 (Wednesday)-Economic Sanctions and South Africa; Economic Sanctions and India-Nepal (potential)

-*No assigned readings*

16. October 20 (Monday)-Travels of a T-Shirt #1

-*Rivoli*, pp. xi-xvi (preface), xvii-xxi (prologue), 3-8 (chap. 1), 9-24 (chap. 2), 25-57 (chap. 3)

17. October 22 (Wednesday)-Travels of a T-Shirt #2

-*Rivoli*, pp. 61-72 (chap. 4), 73-85 (chap. 5), and 86-107 (chap. 6)

18. October 27 (Monday)-Travels of a T-Shirt #3

-*Rivoli*, pp. 111-138 (chap. 7), 139-156 (chap. 8), and 157-172 (chap. 9)

19. October 29 (Wednesday)-Travels of a T-Shirt #4

-*Rivoli*, pp. 175-187 (chap. 10), 188-210 (chap. 11), 211-215 (conclusion), and 216-218 (Epilogue)

20. November 3 (Monday)-History and Governance of International Finance

-*Oatley*, pp. 225-233, 235-236

21. November 5 (Wednesday)-Governance of International Finance (cont.)

-*Oatley*, pp. 238-252, 254-259, 322-323, 343-348

22. November 10 (Monday)-Economics of International Finance

-*Oatley*, pp. 215-225

23. November 12 (Wednesday)-Economics of International Finance (cont.)

-*Oatley*, pp. 237-259

24. November 17 (Monday)-Politics of International Finance

-*Oatley*, pp. 260-282 (society centered approaches)

25. November 19 (Wednesday)-Politics of International Finance (cont.)

-*Oatley*, pp. 283-305 (state centered approaches)

26. November 24 (Monday)-**THANKSGIVING** (no class)

27. November 26 (Wednesday)-**THANKSGIVING** (no class)

28. December 1 (Monday)-Guest Speaker on Development/Movie/Discussion Day

-*Readings to be determined*

-**DUE @ BOC**: Groups 1-2 FCT Project Logs

29. December 3 (Wednesday)-Development-General/World Bank

-*Readings to be determined*

-**DUE @ BOC**: Groups 3-4 FCT Project Logs

30. December 8 (Monday)-Development-Approaches to Development

-*Oatley*, pp. 115-134, 136-138 (import substitution industrialization), 139-156, 158-161 (export-oriented industrialization and neoliberalism), 163-165

-**DUE @ BOC**: Groups 5-6 FCT Project Logs

31. December 10 (Wednesday)-Development-Aid, Debt Relief, and Microfinance. Distribution of **EXAM #2**

-*Oatley*, pp. 306-321, 323-324, 326-332, 333-343, 349-356

-**DUE @ BOC**: Groups 7-8 FCT Project Logs

32. December 15 (Monday)-Development-Governance. **LAST CLASS**

-*Readings to be determined*

-**DUE @ BOC**: Groups 9-10 FCT Project Logs