

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

INTA 3301. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang;

Assistant:

Time: TTH 12-1:30 PM; Place: Room 105, IC.

Office: Room 214, Habersham House

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:30 PM-6:00 PM or by Appointment.

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1. Course Description.

This class examines the relationship between the globalized and market-oriented world economy and national sovereignty-based international politics. We will expose the links, disparities, and conflicts between the two through a historical review and case studies. We will also explore the theoretical perspectives aiming a better understanding of this relationship.

A thorough understanding of history is always very important for students of international affairs, therefore, after a clarification of the concepts, we will first briefly review the historical development of IPE (international political economy). Then we will examine the major theoretical perspectives in the study of IPE: from mercantilism to Marxism. Using the historical knowledge and the theoretical perspectives learnt, we will discuss some of today's most important IPE issues including the much talked-about financial crisis, environmental protection and international terrorism. Finally, we will conclude the course by reconsidering the relationship between the market and the sovereign nations.

2. Course Requirements.

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	300	30
Participation	100	10
Attendance	100	10
Case Study Debate	200	20
Second Test	300	30
Total	1,000	100

The first test and the second test will be "in-class" and close book/notes written exams primarily in short-essay format. The tests will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

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 including your participation in the case study debate sessions. The class will be a mixture of informal lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded accordingly. We all learn from each other's insights. As far as attendance is concerned, more than two unexcused absences will be penalized.

Case study debate is a collective research and debating exercise. In the first week of class, the students will be divided into six pairs of groups. Each pair of groups must select one aspect of an IPE issue area to study and to debate, and submit it to the instructor for approval before September 15. Sample cases include: How serious/threatening is international terrorism? Is global warming real? Is the rise of China and other economies good? What are the root-causes of the financial crisis in 2008-09? Is the United States declining?...

Each group of the pair must take an opposing side on the issue and is then expected to conduct a collective study on the chosen case under the coordination of the group leader. Conscious and conscientious use of the IPE analytical frameworks and knowledge we learned in class is expected.

Finally, each pair will make two oral presentations by the two groups separately on the two sides of the case study for no longer than 12 minutes each to the class, followed by a joint-session of debate and Q & A of 12 minutes. The presentations will be graded on the extensiveness and depth of the research, the accuracy of the basic facts, the effectiveness and creativity of the debate and role-play (not necessarily who makes the "right" arguments), and the organization and delivery of the presentation itself.

A written summary of each group's presentation (3-4 pages, single spaced, bibliography and footnotes additional) is due on the day of the presentation. Every member of the same group will receive the same grade for this exercise. The group leaders are expected to report any free-riding activities that may take place in the groups.

3. Course Materials.

(Available at the Engineers Bookstore. DVDs are on reserve at GT Library).

Introduction to International Political Economy (5th Edition), by David N. Balaam and Bradford Dillman, Prentice Hall; 2011. (Balaam & Dillman)

Karin Junger: *A Dollar A Day - The Price of Cotton*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (52 minutes)

Alexandra Jansse: *A Dollar A Day - The New Silver*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (50 minutes)

Charles Ferguson: *Inside Job*, DVD, Sony Pictures, 2011. (120 minutes)

Davis Guggenheim: *An Inconvenient Truth*, Paramount, 2006. (90 minutes)

4. Course Outline:

Week 1	Class orientation and overview 8/23 & 8/25 Balaam & Dillman xvii-xxi, 1-27.
Week 2	Money, economy, market, the state, and IR 8/30 Frieden 2008 1-24 (handout) 9/1 Balaam & Dillman 210-234.
Week 3	Liberalism and Mercantilism 9/6 Balaam & Dillman 28-55. 9/8 Balaam & Dillman 56-80.
Week 4	Marxism, rational choice, and alternative views 9/13 Balaam & Dillman 81-105. 9/15 Balaam & Dillman 106-127. <u>(Debate topics due)</u>
Week 5	International trade and international financial market 9/20 Balaam & Dillman 128-155. 9/22 Balaam & Dillman 156-182.
Week 6	Poverty and development 9/27 Balaam & Dillman 265-294. 9/29 Watch the two episodes of the <i>A Dollar A Day</i> series
Week 7	Globalization and regionalism 10/4 Balaam & Dillman 295-322. 10/6 Balaam & Dillman 351-380
Week 8	10/11 Study Session 10/13 First Test
Week 9	10/18 No class – enjoy the fall break 10/20 Group project time Watch <i>Inside Job</i> (120 minutes)

Week 10	10/25	Global financial crisis Balaam & Dillman 183-209.
	10/27	MNCs: Balaam & Dillman 436-462.
Week 11	11/1	Technology and Energy Balaam & Dillman 235-262. Balaam & Dillman 489-506.
	11/3	The rise of China and the rest Balaam & Dillman 323-350.
Week 12	Illicit trade, migration, and food	
	11/8	Balaam & Dillman 406-435.
	11/10	Balaam & Dillman 463-488.
Week 13	11/15	Case study debate – I
	11/17	Case study debate – II
Week 14	11/22	Case study debate – III
	11/24	No class- Happy Thanksgiving
Week 15	World ecology	
	11/29	Balaam & Dillman 507-529.
	12/1	Watch <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>
Week 16	12/6	Review: Prospects of IPE
	12/8	2nd test