

**ONLINE GOV360E: International Political Economy (38705)**

Class time: M/W 2:30 – 4:00 PM (Spring 2021)

**Professor: Dr. Rachel Wellhausen**

(email: [rwellhausen@utexas.edu](mailto:rwellhausen@utexas.edu))

**TA: TBD**

(email: TBD)

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with an overview of the study of international political economy. The course's primary focus will be on the role of politics and government decision-making in international economic relations. Thus, while we will cover some topics familiar in the discipline of economics, this is wholly a political science (government) course. That said, students should be willing to engage with some basic relationships in macroeconomics – that government officials deal with on a daily basis. We will also read cutting edge qualitative (prose-based) and quantitative (statistics-based) research. Students should be open to learning to engage with statistical analyses.

We will examine several topics central to IPE, in three modules: (1) the politics around international trade; (2) the politics around the international monetary system and international finance; (3) and the politics of foreign investment by multinational corporations. We will draw on examples from the United States as well as developed and developing countries around the world. We will regularly address current events that are inextricably linked with our course content. We will also examine historical material that provides context and background necessary to understand today's international political economy – why IPE doesn't "have to" operate like it does today, and why.

**Communication:**

We ask you to pay extra attention to how you communicate with the professor and the TA, so that we can run the course smoothly and both utilize our comparative advantages. **Specifically: contact the TA regarding course administration. Do not send a message to the professor only. When in doubt, contact us both in the same message.**

**Course delivery details:**

- Lectures will be delivered synchronously during our regular class time (MW 2:30 – 3:45 PM). All lectures will be recorded for asynchronous viewing (with auto-generated captions) and linked on our Canvas page within 24 hours after delivery.
  - o *You can complete this course completely asynchronously if you prefer to do so.* However, if you make this choice, I very much recommend that you drop in to chat with the TA and/or Professor in office hours and otherwise make proactive connections with folks in class. Your education and experience will benefit!

- The professor and/or the TA will “hang out” in our Zoom room informally for up to 45 minutes after each synchronous lecture for group discussions, follow-up questions, chats on other professional or subject-matter topics, etc. (MW 3:45 – 4:30 PM). Feel free to participate or listen in as you please. These discussions will also be recorded and available for asynchronous viewing, as appropriate.
- The TAs’ additional office hours will be on a drop-in basis; no appointments necessary. (The TA will use the Zoom wait room function as appropriate if you would prefer a one-on-one meeting.)
  - o *Why should you come to the TA’s office hours?* Having a conversation in office hours is always worth your time, and it is nearly always better than engaging in a typed back-and-forth. The TA may ask you to come to office hours in response to a written question.
- The professor’s additional office hours will be by appointment.
  - o *Why should you make an appointment to come to the professor’s office hours?* Please come if you’d like to have a one-on-one conversation, beyond the post-lecture group “hang outs.” Whenever possible, the professor very much appreciates having conversations with you rather than engaging in typed exchanges. Especially given the circumstances, please don’t hesitate to sign up. Potential topics to discuss include: current events, IPE in general, extensions of class content, research opportunities, careers, graduate school, etc.!

### Grading:

**Grade scale:** (final grades rounded to the nearest whole number)

94 and above	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
59 and below	F

### **Grade components:**

Quizzes	25%
Exams: Module 1: Politics of International Trade	25%
Module 2: Politics of International Finance	25%
Module 3: Politics of Multinational Corporations	25%

**Exam details:** The course is arranged around three Modules. There will be an exam following each Module that covers the material from that Module – including lectures and all course materials. There is no comprehensive final exam. You should expect to be tested on your understanding of concepts and your ability to critically examine and apply those concepts. Exams will likely consist of a series of short answer questions; however, the exact format is at our discretion. We will provide more details on the format in advance of each exam.

All exams will be conducted online over Canvas. Exams are open-note, but not “open-person” – that is, you must complete the exam on your own and are not allowed to confer with any other person. The length of the exams, and the standards for the exams, are exactly the same as they would be for an in-person course. That is, although you will have an extended window in which to complete the exam, a fully prepared student should be able to successfully complete the exam in 1.5 hours (as if you were sitting in the classroom doing it in a bluebook). Given that you have the schedule now, and each exam overlaps with our assigned class time and thus could be completed as if you were sitting in class, we will \*not\* accept late exams or make alternative arrangements except in extreme circumstances. If you see a possible issue arising, contact the TA \*as soon as is reasonably possible\* so we can address the issue together.

**Quiz details:** Most class weeks are accompanied by a timed Canvas quiz directly tied to the reading materials for the week. Each student's lowest quiz score will be dropped. This adjustment is intended to compensate for the inevitable conflicts that students face and mistakes that we all make. Correct answers will be released automatically on Canvas following the closing deadline. We expect you not to cheat by sharing questions or answers with other students who have not yet taken the quiz. Cheating is not ethical, not in your or your colleagues' best interests in terms of learning, and frankly not worth your time. Given that you have the schedule now, and your lowest score will be dropped, and that you have extended time to complete the quiz, we will \*not\* accept late quizzes except in very extreme circumstances.

**Extra Credit opportunity - Canvas Discussion board:** We would like to keep an asynchronous discussion going via the Canvas discussion board function. You can earn extra credit for active participation on the discussion boards. The amount of extra credit you earn will be evaluated holistically by the professor and TA at the conclusion of the course. The maximum extra credit awarded will be equivalent to full points for two additional quizzes added to your Quiz grade. What is active participation? Overall, active participation means that you are making substantive contributions. This includes both starting conversations and engaging with your colleagues' posts to further conversations. For example, you can start or engage in an ongoing conversation by providing a link to an interesting article. For this contribution to be active participation, you would need to write about the content of the link, raise questions about it, put it in context, etc. Active participation also means participating in discussions throughout the semester, in most weeks of the course.<sup>1</sup> You and your colleagues will start and drive conversations on the discussion boards. The TA and professor will weigh in occasionally (particularly when substantive questions about course materials are raised), but we will not provide prompts. Part of the pedagogical reason for this is for you to start “seeing” IPE yourself

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<sup>1</sup> You will not earn a substantial amount of extra credit for participation only in the last days of the course.

– in the news, in connections across our course content, in connections to other courses you have taken, etc.

**Academic integrity:**

**UT Statement on Academic Integrity:** A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at Austin. More specifically, you and other students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. This is a very basic expectation that is further reinforced by the University's Honor Code. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

**Professor's notes on academic integrity:** It is *always* inappropriate to ask for "extra" extra credit or charitable grade adjustments at the end of a course simply because you wish you had gotten a different grade. It is *always* inappropriate (and, frankly, stupid) to try to play TAs and professors off of each other; obviously, we talk to each other and grade as a team. Nothing good can come from engaging in these behaviors – most specifically, your reputation with your professors will suffer (and we talk to each other, too). Your grades are based on output, in the form of demonstrated knowledge, and not input – i.e., not on effort. We absolutely and always applaud you putting hard work and effort into the course. However, effort does not in itself determine your grade. *You are always welcome to ask us for study tips, but please do use the various sources throughout UT Austin **early on** to optimize turning your effort into the kind of grade you're aiming for. Truly, many specific experts in pedagogy, learning, and higher ed are employed by UT Austin to serve you – this is a perk of being here, of which you should take advantage.*

**Plagiarism policy:** In our course, all violations of university academic conduct guidelines, including plagiarism, will result in a zero on the assignment or exam in question and will be referred to the Dean of Students as appropriate. Plagiarism is the use of others' ideas or work without credit and/or presenting derivative work as one's own. This includes, but is not limited to, cutting and pasting from someone else's work or an internet source, failing to identify exact quotes, failing to cite a source for information that is only available from that source, failing to cite a source for an idea or argument you borrowed from that source, and turning in work that is not your own. When in doubt, cite.

**Health and Welfare:**

**Dealing with Extreme Circumstances:** *Our bottom line is this: Please loop the professor and TA in if you are facing extreme circumstances that interfere with your ability to be successful in the course, as soon as is reasonably possible, and we will do whatever we can to help you be successful.* Note that we have already built flexibility into the course – with padded deadlines, adjusted assignments, etc. – to give you the best possible baseline ability to meet the course requirements. In general, we ask for everyone's cooperation in adhering to the deadlines and requirements of this (large) course. Absent extreme circumstances that you have communicated to us in a timely way, you should not expect (or ask for) special treatment, especially at the end of the semester.

**Student Emergency:** Any student facing severe difficulties during the semester should take advantage of Student Emergency Services, which helps to coordinate between the student and the student's professors. (SES: [deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency); 512-471-5017; 24/7 Behavior Concerns Advice Line [BCAL]: 512-232-5050) Once a student meets with SES, SES will contact the student's professors on the student's behalf. Thus, students do not need to provide explanations or doctor's notes, etc. to individual professors. Professors rely on SES as an intermediary, because we are not trained to provide students with appropriate services nor evaluate what services would be most useful. There are many staff members at SES – and throughout UT Austin – whose training and focus are exactly in these areas. Thus, students getting in touch with us directly about severe difficulties will be referred to SES. That said, you are welcome to lean on us when seeking motivation in contacting SES (whether in office hours or via email). We are happy to talk, to the extent our positions allow us; and we can also connect students to available services. However, note that SES involvement puts the professor under no obligation to provide special accommodations for a student. Thus, we will provide special accommodations for students using SES on a case-by-case basis.

**Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD: [ddce.utexas.edu/disability](http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability); 512-471-6259). Students registered with SSD are required to follow the SSD procedures, which include providing accommodation requirements to the professor (usually in a letter) and then meeting with the professor in office hours to discuss and commit to the approach that will be taken in the course. The professor asks that students registered with SSD be proactive: please raise issues with the professor immediately should we make a mistake in providing accommodations. Students are encouraged to register with SSD and notify the professor as soon as possible. The professor does not make SSD accommodations retroactively.

**In-person Safety:** In order to create a safe class environment, students must engage in daily symptom screening and must wear a cloth face covering properly (over the nose and mouth) in class and in all campus buildings at all times. Each class day in which on campus activities occur, students must upload certification from the symptom tracking app that they completed their symptom screening for that day to Canvas. Students should not upload the results of that screening, just the certificate that they completed it. If the symptom tracking app recommends that the student isolate rather than coming to class, then students must not return to class until cleared by a medical professional. It is critical for the health and safety of everyone on campus

that students showing symptoms of COVID-19 avoid attending class in person. If a student is not wearing a cloth face covering properly in the classroom (or any UT building), that student must leave the classroom (and building). If the student refuses to wear a cloth face covering, class will be dismissed for the remainder of the period, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action as set forth in the university's Institutional Rules/General Conduct 11-404(a)(3). Students who have a condition that precludes the wearing of a cloth face covering should follow the procedures for obtaining an accommodation working with Services for Students with Disabilities. Upon receiving an accommodation from SSD, students should also notify the professor that they have an exception to the face covering rule.

**Title IX Reporting:** UT Austin is committed to fostering a learning and working environment free from discrimination in all its forms. Faculty members and certain staff members (TAs) are considered "Responsible Employees" or "Mandatory Reporters," which means that they are required to report violations of Title IX to the Title IX Coordinator. For more information about reporting options and resources, visit [titleix.utexas.edu](http://titleix.utexas.edu) or contact the Title IX Office at [titleix@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:titleix@austin.utexas.edu).

**Course Drop Policy:** At the beginning of each semester, you can add and drop classes without penalty. Check the academic calendar for specific dates. Refer to the General Information Catalog for all official add/drop policies and procedures.

**University-approved Function Conflicts:** The student must inform the professor and TAs, with proper documentation, well before the deadline or scheduled exam time, so that the TAs can work on alternative arrangements.

**Religious Holiday Conflicts:** By UT Austin policy, the student must notify the professor of the pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If the student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Emergency Evacuation Policy:** Occupants of buildings at UT Austin are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [utexas.edu/emergency](http://utexas.edu/emergency).

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### Course Specifics: Overview

#### **Required textbook:**

Oatley, Thomas. 2019. *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Routledge.

Note that the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of this textbook is required – published in 2019 by Routledge (dark blue cover, picture of a port). Previous editions are unacceptable. You can rent or buy an electronic version online, or acquire a hard copy, as you prefer.

#### **Canvas:**

We will do our best to utilize the features on Canvas to make the administration of the course as smooth as possible and make all its components clear to you. We appreciate your help in keeping up with the course on your side, so that we can make the course run efficiently and maximize our ability to provide content rather than deal with administrative issues. That said, you will never be penalized for a technical glitch or issue – but it is incumbent on you to raise it to us in a timely manner. If you ever have an idea about how we could make something easier for you, please do not hesitate to tell us!

All non-textbook readings and other materials for the course will be accessible via our Canvas page. Given fast-moving current events in IPE, we reserve the right to update the course during the semester. Refer to Canvas for the final set of materials for each week.

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### Course Schedule and Content

- All synchronous materials will be recorded and available for asynchronous viewing.
- All synchronous lectures will be followed by an optional opportunity for further discussion in a group office hour/“hangout” with the professor and/or TA (up to 45 min; recorded as appropriate).

#### **Introduction: What is IPE, and how will we study it?**

#### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 1

*Other:* See Canvas

**20 January** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment:** Quiz: Intro

### **Module 1: Politics of International Trade**

#### **Week 1: Overview and theory: Trade as tool for development**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 1, Chapter 6, Chapter 7

*Other:* See Canvas

**25 January** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**27 January** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment:** Quiz: Trade 1/3

#### **Week 2: Distributional effects: Examining the “winners” and “losers” from free trade**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 4, Chapter 5

*Other:* See Canvas

**1 February** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**3 February** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment:** Quiz: Trade 2/3

#### **Week 3: International stage: (When) do countries coordinate on free trade policy?**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 2, Box on p 57

*Other:* See Canvas

**8 February** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**10 February** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment:** Quiz: Trade 3/3

#### **Week 4: Wrap-up and exam**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Review materials:* See Canvas

<b>15 February</b>	Review session (2:30-3:45 as needed) <b>** Exam released after class **</b>
<b>17 February</b>	(No lecture) <b>** Exam due on Canvas by 11:59 PM **</b>

### **Module 2: Politics of International Finance**

#### **Week 1: Overview and theory: Pinning down the politics around money and finance**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 10, Chapter 11

*Other:* See Canvas

<b>22 February</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)
<b>24 February</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)

<b>Assessment</b>	<i>Quiz:</i> Finance 1/4
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#### **Week 2: Distributional effects: Tradeoffs across national economic policies**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 12, Chapter 13

*Other:* See Canvas

<b>1 March</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)
<b>3 March</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)
** Note: Trade exam returned **	

<b>Assessment</b>	<i>Quiz:</i> Finance 2/4
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#### **Week 3: International stage: National governments as players in international markets**

##### **Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 14, Chapter 15

*Other:* See Canvas

<b>8 March</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)
<b>10 March</b>	Lecture (2:30-3:45)

<b>Assessment</b>	<i>Quiz:</i> Finance 3/4
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**\*\* SPRING BREAK \*\***

**Week 4: In-depth applications: Politics of financial crisis**

**Readings/materials:**

*Other:* See Canvas

**22 March** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**24 March** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment** Quiz: Finance 4/4

**Week 5: Wrap-up and exam**

**Readings/materials:**

*Review materials:* See Canvas

**29 March** Review session (2:30-3:45 as needed)

**\*\* Exam released after class \*\***

**31 March** (No lecture)

**\*\* Exam due by 11:59 PM \*\***

**Module 3: Politics of Multinational Corporations (MNCs)**

**Week 1: Overview and theory: Goals of foreign MNCs v. goals of national governments**

**Readings/materials:**

*Textbook:* Chapter 8, Chapter 9

*Other:* See Canvas

**5 April** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**7 April** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment** Quiz: MNC 1/4

**Week 2: Distributional effects: Politics as a driver of where MNCs choose to invest**

**Readings/materials:**

*Other:* See Canvas

**12 April** Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**14 April**      Lecture (2:30-3:45)  
                  \*\* Note: Finance exam returned \*\*

**Assessment**      *Quiz: MNC 2/4*

**Week 3: International stage: International law and regulation around MNCs**

**Readings/materials:**

*Other:* See Canvas

**19 April**      Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**21 April**      Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment**      *Quiz: MNC 3/4*

**Week 4: In-depth applications: (How) can MNCs and economic integration be “weaponized” by national governments?**

**Readings/materials:**

*Other:* See Canvas

**26 April**      Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**28 April**      Lecture (2:30-3:45)

**Assessment**      *Quiz: MNC 4/4*

\*\* Extra credit opportunity closes 1 min before next class session\*\*

**Week 5: Wrap-up and exam**

**Readings/materials:**

*Review materials:* See Canvas

**3 May**      Review session (2:30-3:45 as needed)  
                  \*\* Exam released after class \*\*

**5 May**      **(No lecture)**  
                  \*\* Exam due by 11:59 PM \*\*

*(Note: No exam during finals period.)*