Government 6857: International Political Economy

Fall 2009

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This seminar provides an overview of international political economy targeted towards PhD students in the Government department. Students from other programs may register only with the permission of the instructors. There are no prerequisites for the course.

The reading load for this course is substantial, averaging six to seven articles/chapters or approximately three hundred pages per week. Students are expected to have done all of the readings before each class. Note that most of the assigned journal articles are available on-line, and there are also hard copies of the major journals in Olin Library 405. Additional readings will be placed on reserve in that room as well, on the shelf marked for that purpose. Readings should not be removed from the room except to make photocopies within the building. All readings are mandatory except for those marked “Background.”

There are four requirements for this class:

1. Active and thoughtful class participation. All students are expected to participate actively and regularly in discussions. In addition, two or three times during the semester, pairs of students working together will provide for the class a set of discussion questions for some of the week’s readings.

2. Critical response paper. A 7-10 page paper that offers a critique of one of the readings from the syllabus, chosen in consultation with us; due Friday, October 9.

3. Extension paper. A 7-10 page paper that proposes a theoretical and/or empirical extension of one of the readings from the syllabus, chosen in consultation with us; due Friday, November 6.

4. Final paper. A 20-25 page paper that provides an overview and assessment of “the state of the literature”, based on one of the weekly topics covered in class. Due Monday, December 7.

*Given these assignments, it is not appropriate to take an incomplete in this class except as a consequence of extraordinary personal circumstances. Late work will be marked down.*

Students interested in background information on economics may wish to consult an intermediate macroeconomics or international economics textbook. We can recommend two: *International Economics: Theory and Policy*, by Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld (Addison Wesley), and *Macroeconomics: Principles, Problems, and Policies*, by Campbell R. McConnell and Stanley L. Brue (McGraw-Hill). Each is clear and accessible to a non-specialist, and used copies are very reasonably priced online.
Week 1 (September 1): Introduction


Week 2 (September 8): Macro-History


Week 3 (September 15): State and Nation


**Week 4 (September 22): The Problem of Cooperation**


**Week 5 (September 29): Domestic Politics**


**Week 6 (October 6): Trade**


**Week 7 (October 20): Money**

Jeffrey A. Frankel, “No Single Currency Regime is Right for All Countries or at all Times,” *Princeton Essays in International Finance* 215 (1999), 1-45. (BACKGROUND ONLY)


**Week 8 (October 27): Finance, Investment, and Sovereign Debt**


**Week 9 (November 3): The Holy Trinity?**


Hector Schamis and Christopher Way, “Political Cycles and Exchange Rate-Based Stabilization,” *World Politics* 56:1 (July 2003), pp. 43-78.


**Week 10 (November 10): Regimes and Institutions**


**Week 11 (November 17): Economic Power and Statecraft**


**Week 12 (November 24): Globalization**


**Week 13 (December 1): Progress in IPE?**


Various authors, “Not So Quiet in the Western Front: The American School of IPE,” *Review of International Political Economy* 16:1 (February 2009), pp. 1-143.

Various authors, *New Political Economy* (Fall 2009), pp. TBA.