

INTL 5400/SOCS 5030 International Political Economy Fall 1, 2008
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Description: The main text is subtitled, “Understanding the International Order.” That should be the student’s main goal. Understanding requires theory, concepts, and cognitive knowledge, and here not only normative but ideological factors intervene. Hence, the learning goals reflect the instructor’s conviction that how we understand economics is itself political, and that student’s must show some familiarity with several frameworks for understanding capitalism.

Learning objectives:

Students show familiarity with key macro-economic concepts used in the political economy literature.

Students can describe the major issues regarding the state’s relationship to global capitalism in the post Cold War era.

Students can assess the extent to which economic globalization is enhancing or putting in peril the prospects for peace.

Students can debate the extent to which economic imperialism remains a major feature of the international economic order.

Texts:

Robert Gilpin, *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*

William I. Robinson, *A Theory of Global Capitalism*

Ernest Mandel, *An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory*

Michael T. Klare: *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet, The New Geopolitics of Energy*

Assignments and Requirements:

- Two (5 to 6 page) take-home essays, due for class weeks 5 and 9, each 33 percent of grade
- In class exam short answers, vocabulary week 9, 33 percent of grade

I reserve the right to lower grades for poor attendance; I reserve the right to raise a grade one half step (e.g., B to B+) where I judge the student to have made a significant contribution to with good questions and discussion in class.

Plagiarism: (Adapted from the syllabus of Prof. Britt Marie Schiller): Plagiarism is the dishonest practice of using another person's words or ideas as your own without crediting them. You must always credit the source of your quotes and your paraphrases if they are not common knowledge. See the section on documentation in Hacker's *A Writer's Reference*. Seek guidance from me if you are not sure whether or how to credit someone. Deliberate (e.g., stealing an essay from a website -- or buying one) plagiarism will result in severe penalties. Note also, using large excerpts or simply paraphrasing the text book also constitutes plagiarism, even if in these cases it is clear that you are not intentionally doing so.

Students with Disabilities: Please contact me early in the term and alert me to whatever way I can help make your experience in the class successful.

Missed classes: You may miss one class unexcused. If you miss a second class, you must contact me and explain the circumstances. In either case, if you miss a class, you must produce a one-paragraph précis for each chapter or article of each assignment missed. No further classes may be missed after the second absence. If you miss a class, be sure to check the E-reserves site for materials. Often, Powerpoint outlines of lectures will be available.

Schedule of Classes:

I. August 20 Introduction to the Subject:

What is political economy? Alternative conceptions

Classical political economy: Marx, Malthus, Smith, Ricardo

Ideology and Economics: Hayek versus Keynes (Library Video HD87C6522 2003)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_OP1wXGmzY – Will U.S. survive?

Pinky: security: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccw0s0SR5HM>

NB: The Klare book is assigned in its entirety for week 8; start early

II. August 27 Concept of Political Economy, Capitalism

Gilpin: 3-76

Mandel: 10-68

John Locke, "On Property," *Second Treatise on Government* (provided)

Main topics for class:

Capitalism and Markets

Competing Definitions of political economy

Methodological Individualism: John Locke and Milton Friedman

The Labor Theory of Value: Humans are also produced
Milton Friedman: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RWsx1X8PV_A
Pinky on aid and debt: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_3K1PCZHE0 (We can't afford not to give them aid.)
Film (tentative) "Global Capitalism and the Moral Imperative" HF 1359 G5665 1998

III. September 3 International Political Economy, Hegemony, Regimes, Empire
Gilpin: 77-102
Mandel: 69-98
Robinson: 1-84

Film series: "Bridging World History" D21 B79 2004
Part 8 "Early Economies"; 11 "Early Empire"
Greenspan on globalization and creative destructive:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVALfc-nayY>
Pinky on globalization: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tOLfGUKX8EE>

Topics: Heilbroner's trilogy: Traditional, Market, Command Economies
Concepts of imperialism and hegemony
The Economics Profession, IR, and Political Science

IV. September 10 Comparative Economics and IPE
Gilpin: 103-195

Peace and the Cuckoo Clock: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50wpkPXejnM>
3 kinds of freedom: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7H1Hz1FwEUU&feature=related>
Pinky, the "invisible hand of privilege" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1EHTt4HFng>

States vs. Markets
Varieties of capitalism
Varieties of socialism
Development, Underdevelopment, Dependency

Selections for "Commanding Heights" at
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/hi/story/ch_menu_02.html

V. September 17 International Trade and Finance
Gilpin 196-277
Free Trade, Fair Trade Protectionism
Are "free trade theories" really about "free trade"?
Regional and World Trade Regimes: WTO, NAFTA, FTAA, EU, Mercosur, ALBA
Film (tentative): "Free Markets for Free Men" HB501 G76 1986 OR
From "Bridging", part 15 Early Global Commodities (Shown over two weeks)

VI. Economic Globalization

Gilpin: 278-402

Film (tentative) "The Big Sellout" JZ1318.B54 2006

Topic: "The Global Assembly Line"

VII. The State, Empire, and Global Capitalism; NIEO to NEO

Robinson: 85-179

Hellinger manuscript

Film: "Black Gold: Story of Oil" (HD9560 B53 2004

VIII. Oil, Food, Energy and Conflict

Klare, entire

Pinky, food as weapon <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1VfY-uPMWI>

Sudan and food exports

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/10/world/africa/10sudan.html?_r=1&sq=Sudan&st=cse&oref=slogin&scp=2&pagewanted=all

IX Review and Exam

Pinky: Arms and Spending http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ef_bICCBjp0