University of Birmingham

Department of Political Science and International Studies

POLS G11

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

(MA/Diploma module)

Tuesday, 9am to 11am.

Banner Code: 08 03226

40 credits

Course Lecturers: Dr Jill Steans & Dr David Hudson

Dr Jill Steans
Room: 252 in the ERI building
Phone: 0121-414-6278
E-mail: j.a.steans@bham.ac.uk
Office Hours: To be advised.
Please consult my notice board during the first week of term.

Dr David Hudson
Room: 262 in the ERI building
Phone: 0121-414-2224
E-mail: d.e.hudson@bham.ac.uk
Office Hours: To be advised
Please consult my notice board during the first week of term.
Introduction

The main aims of this course are to introduce students to the core theoretical debates and empirical issue-areas and to develop your research and analytical skills in the study of IPE. The course is divided into three sections. In the first term it introduces students to the historical and theoretical foundations of IPE. The second section then looks at recent changes to the global order and how the subject is adapting. The second term turns to issues in IPE; including: poverty and inequality, gender and development, economic growth and environmental sustainability, intellectual property and food security.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to develop their understanding of theoretical debates and issues such that they can engage these questions independently.
- Be able to build a theoretically informed and comprehensive understanding of the origins, structure, and politics of the contemporary global market economy.
- Have developed their research skills.

Course Guidelines

1. This is a seminar course, although in most weeks part of the two hours will be devoted to a lecture element, in which the major points, issues or debates relating to a the topic under discussion will be outlined. During the second half of the seminar, students are expected to play a much more active role by testing ideas and arguments pertinent to IPE, through critical engagement and discussion with their peers. The success of this course depends in a good part on you reading for classes, your readiness to participate in discussion, and the quality of your oral and written work. A grasp of the core theoretical debates is particularly important for the preparation of essays for assessment.

2. Attend ALL sessions. Not only is this required of you by University regulations, but it is also in your own interest if you hope to complete the course successfully.

3. Plagiarism is considered a serious offence. This occurs when a student tries to pass off someone else’s work as his or her own. This applies not only to books and articles but also to the work of other students. You must make it clear by using references whose work you are drawing on.

Assessment

The course will be assessed by a combination of examination and coursework. The coursework will consist of two essays that count in total for 40% of the overall marks for the course. The examination will contribute the remaining 60%.
The essay deadline for the list for the first term is **Wednesday 8 December 2004** that for the list for the second term is **Wednesday 23 March 2005**. Essays should be handed in to the Graduate Office in the Department between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on these days. There will be *no* extensions without medical certification. Under the terms of Departmental policy, late essays will not be assessed and will therefore be awarded a mark of *zero*.

Lists of essays will be distributed separately. Students are able to select any of the essays, which relate to topics covered in the first term for their first essay, and any of the essays, which relate to topics covered in the second term for their second essay.

The word limit for essays is 3000 – 4000 words.
Core Readings:

Given the breadth of the topics that will be covered on the course, there is no single text that can be used as a “text-book”. Instead you should start by referring to the recommended reading for each week. However, a number of useful collections do exist:

1. Richard Stubbs and Geoffrey R.D. Underhill (eds.) 2000, Political Economy and the Changing Global Order, (2nd Edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press. This is a useful up-to-date text for the course and should be purchased if possible. The first edition of this book is completely different, only the odd chapter appears in both, and is also useful. There are copies of both editions in the library.

2. David Held and Tony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton 1999, Global Transformations: Politics, Economics, Culture, Oxford: Polity. This is still the most comprehensive treatment of globalisation available. It usefully divides the question of globalisation over a variety of issue areas.

3. Joan E. Spero and Jeffrey A. Hart 1997, The Politics of International Economic Relations (5th Edition), London: Routledge. Spero is a well-written account of the development of international economic relations in the post-war period; it should be seen as a starting point for your understanding of the empirical parts of the course.

4. You should also consult the most important journals regularly and treat them as a research resource.

The journals that you may find to be the most directly relevant include:

- British Journal of Industrial Relations
- Global Governance
- IMF Survey
- Journal of Development Economics
- Journal of International Economics
- Journal of World Trade
- New Economy
- New Political Economy
- Politics and Society
- Review of International Studies
- The World Economy
- World Development

- Comparative Politics
- Global Society
- International Organization
- Journal of Development Studies
- Journal of Social Policy
- Millennium
- New Left Review
- Oxford Review of Economic Policy
- Review of International Political Economy
- The Economist
- Third World Quarterly
- World Politics
Summary of Sessions

TERM ONE

(1) Historical and Theoretical Foundations

Week 2 – Introduction to IPE

Week 3 – The Emergence of Economic Liberalism/Realism, Mercantilism and Power in IPE

Week 4 – Neorealism and Hegemonic Stability Theory versus Neoliberal Institutionalism

Week 5 – NeoGramscian IPE

Week 6 – Feminist IPE

Week 7 – Study Week (no class)

(2) A Changing Global Order?

Week 8 – IPE from Interwar crisis to Bretton Woods.

Week 9 – The Breakdown of the BWS

Week 10 – Global Trade and Global Finance

Week 11 – Globalisation and the State

TERM ONE

(3) Issues in IPE: (a) Development

Week 12 – The International Context of Development: the Post-War Years

Week 13 – The Debt Crisis

Week 14 – Brussels Trip (no class)

Week 15 – The Legacy of the Debt Crisis

Week 16 – Poverty in IPE

Week 17 – Gender in IPE and Development

Week 18 – Study Week (no class)

Week 19 – Environmental Sustainability
Week 20 – Intellectual Property Rights and IPE: The Case of TRIPS and the HIV/AIDS Pandemic in Africa

Week 21 – Food Security

Week 22 – Revision
Reading List

Please Note:

1. “In providing the student with this general reading list or access to the books, journals, articles or photocopies of the articles on the list, there is no requirement nor intention on behalf of the course leader or tutor that students should copy any item on the list. The reading list is provided as additional material.”

2. This reading list is by no means exhaustive. It is expected that in preparation for coursework you will supplement the readings listed here.

TERM ONE

Week 2: Introduction to IPE

Discussion:

- Why did economic issues achieve greater prominence in the study of IR in the 1970s and 1980s?
- What was the most important development in altering the direction of the academic study of IPE?
- What is IPE?


**Week 3: Mercantilism and Economic Liberalism**

**Discussion:**
- What are the major assumptions of economic liberalism?
- What are the major assumptions of realist IPE?
- Which position, if either, captures the reality of the world better?

**Economic Liberalism**


**Realism, Mercantilism**

Susan Strange 1994, *States and Markets* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), London: Pinter, Chapters 2 and 3.


Week 4: Hegemonic Stability Theory/Neoliberal Institutionalism

Discussion:
- Did the US act as an enlightened hegemon throughout the post-war era?
- Outline and evaluate Hegemonic Stability Theory.
- Why is the debate between neorealists and neoliberals a narrow one?

Neorealism and Hegemonic Stability Theory


Critique of HST


**Neoliberal Institutionalism and International Regimes**


**Critique of Neoliberal Institutionalism**


**Week 5: Gramscian IPE**

Discussion:
- *What are the main ideas in neoGramscian IPE?*
- *How useful is neoGramscian approach to the study of IPE?*


**Week 6: Feminist Approaches**

**Discussion:**

- Why is gender an issue for IPE?
- Is there more to taking feminism seriously than just ‘add women and stir’?
- How does feminism add to the study of IPE?


**Week 7: Reading Week**

No session this week.
**Week 8: From Interwar Crisis to Bretton Woods**

**Discussion:**
- Why did the world economy that had developed prior to 1914 fall into disorder and conflict?
- What role did the Bretton Woods agreement play in the rebuilding of a postwar international economy?


**Week 9: The Breakdown of the BWS**

**Discussion:**
- Why did the Bretton Woods System breakdown?
- What have been the consequences of the breakdown of the Bretton Woods System?
- Why do the Betton Woods institutions continue to exist? Do they have a role?


**On the hegemonic stability/hegemonic decline debate**

Russett, Bruce (1985) 'The Mysterious Case of Vanishing Hegemony; or is Mark Twain Really Dead?' *International Organization*, 39, 2:207-231.
**Week 10: What is Globalisation?: The Debates**

**Discussion:**
- What is globalisation?
- Is globalisation happening?
- Is globalisation something to be encouraged or discouraged, indeed can we affect it at all?


**Week 11: Globalisation: The State, Trade and Finance**

**Discussion:**
- What does the literature tell us about the impact on states? What it is, how it happens, etc.?
- Which of these views do you think is the most convincing?
- What has been the impact of globalisation on your home state?

The State

Jan Aart Scholte 1997 'Global Capitalism and the State', International Affairs, 73 (3), 427-452.

Global Restructuring

Dicken, P (1994) Global Shift

Finance


**World Trade**


Lake, D. *The International Political Economy of Trade, Volumes 1 and 2*


**TERM TWO**

*Week 12: The International Context of Development: the Post-War Years*

**Discussion:**
- What do you understand by the term "development"?
- When did development theory emerge and what were its aims?


**On General Development Debates:**


**The political economy of North/South relations**


**On the New International Economic Order (NIEO):**

*A New International Economic Order* (Selected Documents) Overseas Development Council, (1979) *A Policy Alternative for NIEO*  

**On MNCs**

Gilpin, R. *Political Economy of International Relations*, Ch.6.  

**On the ‘Global South’**


---

**Week 13: The Debt Crisis**

**Discussion:**

- How and why did the Debt Crisis occur?
- How has it been managed?


Exerts from *The Economist* ‘The Third World’


Week 14: Brussels Trip

No session this week.

Week 15: The Legacy of the Debt Crisis

Discussion:

- What are the impacts of SAPs?
- What do you think the response of the International Financial Institutions is to these criticisms?
- Are there any alternatives?


Special Issue on ‘Structural Adjustment’ 1990, Review of African Political Economy, No.47.


Exerts from *The Economist* ‘The Third World’


Nowzad, Bahrm (1981) *External Indebtedness of Developing Countries* (IMF)


**On the changing functions/roles of the IBRD and IMF:**


Harold James (1996)*International Monetary Co-operation since Bretton Woods*, Oxford: OUP.


Week 16: Poverty in IPE

Discussion:

- Why is poverty seemingly a growing feature of IPE?

Sarah Owen Vandersluis and Paris Yeros (eds) Poverty in World Politics

Week 17: Gender in IPE/Development


22
  (Chapter on ILO),
Whitworth, S. ‘Theory and Exclusion’ in Stubbs, R. and Underhill, G *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order*
  Chapters by Pettman, Marchand, Runyan and Steans in Youngs, G. and Kofman, E *Globalization: Theory and Practice*

**On the global sex trade:**


**Week 18: Study Week**

No session this week.

**Week 19: Environmental Sustainability**


23
Week 20: TRIPS, AIDS/HIV in Africa


USAIDS Statement on Gender Inequality and AIDS, Washington File, June 8, 2000.
Week 21: Food Security

Discussion:
- Is famine a naturally occurring phenomenon?
- Why is food production and distribution an issue in IPE?


*Review of International Political Economy*, 1, 3, debate on the ‘political economy of food’
Kardam, N. (1990) Bringing Women In; Women’s Issues in International Development Programs, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publications

Week 22: Revision
Essay Questions

TERM ONE

1. What is IPE?
2. How should we understand the relationship between the political and the economic?
3. How important is hegemony in explaining the establishment of the post-war BWS?
4. In what ways might we argue that international economy is ‘gendered’?
5. Does globalisation have any significant implications for how we study international political economy? If so, what are these?

TERM TWO

1. What is meant by ‘sustainable development’? How can the concept of sustainable development be criticised?
2. Is it meaningful to speak of a ‘Global South’? If so, why? If not, why not?
3. The key goals of the World Bank have been the promotion of development and the reduction of poverty. How would you evaluate the performance of the World Bank?
4. What is neo-classical (liberal) economic theory and why did it become popular again among elites in the 1980s?
5. Has the debt crisis been managed effectively?
6. What explanations have been offered for the problem of global hunger and famine? Which one do you find most convincing and why?