

Political Science 340W  
International Political Economy  
Fall 2008  
Prof. Griffiths

International political economy has become a major focus in the study of international relations. This course explores the interaction of politics and economics on the international level and the importance of this interaction to both industrialized and developing countries. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the conceptual frameworks and various perspectives used to analyze current issues in international political economy. Classes will consist of lecture and discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

After taking the class students will be able to:

- analyze the connection between economics and politics at the international level
- recognize the sources of cooperation and conflict between industrialized countries
- discuss the nature of development and the reasons for disparities between rich and poor countries
- comprehend the nature of globalization and critically analyze the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.

**Texts:** *Introduction to International Political Economy*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, by David N. Balaam & Michael Veseth. Students are also required to read either the online or print edition of *The Economist*.

**Course Requirements:** There will be a variety of written assignments throughout the semester. Students must submit a 10-12 page research paper on a contemporary IPE topic of their choice. The paper topic must be cleared with me by 9/8/08. A 1-2 page proposal with an annotated bibliography will be due by 9/15/08. A first draft will be due 10/13/08. The final draft will be due 11/12/08. Other written assignments will include discussion questions and summaries and analyses of articles from *The Economist*. Details of these assignments will be provided later. Late assignments will be penalized. Electronic submissions of written work will not be accepted without prior permission. There will also be a test on IPE terms and a comprehensive final exam. Class participation is encouraged and can help your final grade. Attendance is essential if you expect to do well in the class. Please be on time for class and turn off cell phones and any other electronic distractions prior to the beginning of class. If I suspect you are using computers for anything other than note-taking I will ban them from class.

**Assignments:** The dates are approximate, depending on how we progress through the material. Students are required to read *The Economist* for relevant articles each week.

Week of 8/25- The Nature of IPE. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 1.

9/1-9/8- Perspectives on IPE. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 2-5.

9/15- International Trade. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 6,12.

9/22- International Finance. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 7-8.

9/29- Global Security. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 9.

10/6- Information & Technology. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 10.

10/20-11/3- The IPE of North-South Relations. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 15, 8, 16,17, 19.

11/10- Oil. Reading to be assigned.

11/17- Environment. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 20.

11/24- The European Union. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 11.

12/1- Japan, the Transitional States, and the Middle East. Balaam & Veseth, ch. 11-14.

My office is in 222 Graham. Office Hours- 10:00-11:00 MWF and by appointment. Office Phone- 256-0518. My e-mail address is rjgriffi@uncg.edu.