International Political Economy
POL-UA 795 - 003  Spring 2016

Professor Peter Rosendorff, Professor of Politics, NYU

Class time: Monday 12:30 – 3pm, SILV Rm 407
Office hours: 3 - 5pm Mondays and by appointment
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The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with current issues and debates in the field of international political economy. Students will engage with the current scholarship regarding the relationship between power and wealth; the politics and institutions of international trade, money and exchange rates; the political aspects of financial crises; international courts and issues in human rights.

Students who complete this course will be able to:

• Define and analyze a variety of theoretical issues in conflict and cooperation: bargaining, enforcement, compliance, for example
• Develop a set of analytic tools to evaluate arguments based on logic and evidence rather than personal opinion or partisan preferences.
• Argue a perspective that is not historical or descriptive, but rather analytical and scientific.
• Apply theoretical foundations to current problems of International political economy., such as trade, finance, law and human rights.
• Develop tools for writing and presenting social science arguments, papers and discussions.
• Learn and apply the essential elements of social science research methods.

This is an upper-level course and is designed for students who have already taken introductory courses in international relations.

Requirements
The course will include a midterm, final exam, and several assignments throughout the semester. The graded assignments will count as 25 percent of the final grade. The midterm will count as 25 percent of the grade and the final exam will count as 50 percent. Attendance in class, for the midterm and exam are required; participation in class is actively encouraged.

Classroom sessions will involve a mixture of lectures, discussions, joint problem solving exercises. Applications of the material include the WTO, the IMF, the ICC, the European debt crisis, the UN Convention Against Torture and other topical issues.

There are four written assignments required. Each should be two to four pages, double-spaced and ask you to apply the theories and ideas discussed in class to a problem or a context. These are not opinion pieces; they must be well-reasoned arguments offering both theory and evidence to support a specific claim. The assignment topics can be found below. Due dates will be assigned.
Course Schedule and Readings

I. Theories
Domestic politics and international cooperation.

Feb 1: No lecture

II. Trade
Week 2, Feb 8: Political Economy of International Trade: Trade policy, and the case for free trade
The Ricardian, Heckscher-Ohlin and Specific Factor Models of Trade. Gains from Trade. Trade and Redistribution.

Feb 15: Presidents Day: No Classes

Week 3, Feb 22: Reputation and Cooperation

Week 4, Feb 29: Bargaining and enforcement
Week 5, March 7: Compliance

March 14: Spring Break

Week 6, March 21: Domestic Politics/Regime Type
Arias, Eric, James Hollyer and B. Peter Rosendorff, “Leadership Survival, Regime Type and Bilateral Investment Treaties”. Class website
Chapter 11 of Kydd, Andrew, International Relations Theory, available on class website.

March 28: MIDTERM

Week 7, April 4: Design, GATT/WTO

III. Money and Investment
Week 8, April 11: IMF and Development
Vreeland (2008): Chapter 1: pages 5-11 and 20-25; Chapter 2: all; Chapter 3: pages 50-67; Chapter 4: pages 73-74 and 84-94
Casper, Brett Allan (2066) "IMF Programs and the Risk of a Coup d'etat," Journal of Conflict Resolution. Download Paper
IV: Courts
Week 9, April 18: International Courts and Tribunals: Are More Powerful Courts Good for International Cooperation?
Rosendorff, B. Peter and Alastair Smith, “Domestic Political Determinants of the Onset of WTO Disputes.” Website.

V. Human Rights

VI. Money and Exchange Rates
Week 11, May 2: Political Economy of Monetary Policy and Exchange Rates

Week 12, May 9: Financial Crises: Europe and Latin America
Other readings to be determined

Assignments

Assignment 1: Compare the factor- and the sector-based theories of the redistributional effects of international trade. Apply these theories to a country of your choice, and identify the gainers and losers from free trade.

Assignment 2: Pick an OPEC country. Analyze the country in the context of the Blaydes paper: Is it patient in that context? Does it prefer high prices or moderate oil prices and why? How do the OPEC allocations reflect these factors? Bonus: With the emergence of cheaper and alternative fuels to oil, what is your prognosis for the survival of OPEC?

Assignment 3: Democracies are said to be more transparent than non-democracies in their policy-making process. Does transparency help to explain why democracies are less
likely to peg their exchange rates or have more independent central banks?
OR
“The IMF is bad for growth.” Evaluate this claim.
Assignment 4: Trade and monetary agreements rely on reciprocity for compliance; explain why reciprocity is not operative in human rights agreements, and offer (and explain) some alternative mechanisms for compliance.

Notes on Writing Assignments
I. Introduction. A clear, concise statement of the puzzle/question you are addressing, and your proposed resolution.
II. The dependent variable, if appropriate. What you are trying to explain and why, as well as some sense of the range of variation in the dependent variable.
III. Synthetic literature review / your explanation. Develop an analytical summary of the existing attempts to explain your dependent variable or solve your puzzle. Do not catalog a “he said-she said” chronology; synthesize the existing literature.
IV. Implications. Explain what you expect the completed dissertation to add to our understanding of some broader set of analytical or empirical issues in Political Science.
V. Bibliography, in the correct, APSA format.