International Political Economy
POLSC-AD 173

NYU AD: Spring, 2014

Professor Peter Rosendorff, Professor of Politics, NYUNY and NYUAD

Office hours: 2 - 4pm Monday and Wednesday and by appointment
Office: Sama 1415B
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Class time: Monday and Wednesday 9:55 - 11:10am, DTCN N-202
Credit Hours: 4
Prerequisites: Introduction to International Politics.

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.

Course Texts
Other required readings will be indicated below.

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 in the course schedule section below.

**Course Outline:**

I. Theories of International Political Economy
II. The Politics of the International Trading System
III. The Politics of the International Monetary System and Exchange Rates
IV. International Courts and Tribunals
V. The Politics of the International Human Rights Regime

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**I. Theories**

Domestic politics and international cooperation.
Oatley Chapter 1

**II. Trade**

Week 2 (Feb 3 and 5): Political Economy of International Trade: Trade policy, and the case for free trade
Oatley Chapters 4, 6

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

Week 3 (Feb 10 and 12): Reputation and Cooperation

Week 4 (Feb 17 and 19): Bargaining and enforcement
Week 5 (Feb 24 and 26): Domestic Politics/Regime Type
Chapter 11 of Kydd, Andrew, International Relations Theory, available on website.

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?

Week 6 (March 3 and 5): Compliance

Week 7 (March 10 and 12): Design: Broader vs. Deeper
Rosendorff, B. Peter and Alastair Smith, “Domestic Political Determinants of the Onset of WTO Disputes.” Website.

Week 8 (March 8): Midterm

Week 9 (March 31, April 2): GATT/WTO
Oatley Chapter 2

III. Money and Exchange Rates
Week 10 (April 7 and 9): International Monetary System
Oatley Chapters 10, 11

Week 11 (April 14 and 16): Political Economy of Monetary Policy and Exchange Rates
Oatley Chapters 12, 13

Week 12 (April 21 and 23): IMF
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

Week 13 (April 28 and 30): Financial Crises: Europe and Latin America
Other readings to be determined

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.

IV: Courts
Week 14 (May 5 and 7): International Courts and Tribunals

V. Human Rights
Week 15 (May 12 and 14): Human Rights
Blog commentary on Hollyer and Rosendorff --- PDF on class website

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.