



湖北工业大学  
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

<b>Course Title</b>	International Political Economy
<b>Course Code</b>	POLS 2311
<b>Semester</b>	Summer 2025
<b>Course Length</b>	5 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
<b>Credits</b>	4
<b>Instructor</b>	TBA
<b>Office</b>	TBA
<b>Email</b>	TBA
<b>Prerequisite</b>	N/A

### Course Description:

This course explores the major theories and issues in international political economy, examining the successes and failures of international organizations, particularly those related to political and economic governance. It analyzes the bargaining dynamics between developed and developing nations and investigates the conditions that foster cooperative economic behavior among states.

Students will engage with key topics, including postcolonialism, globalization, the roles of multinational corporations (MNCs), development traps, global poverty, international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank, and the evolving landscape of global governance. The course also traces the historical development of world political society, assessing the impact of international agreements, treaties, and organizations.

By the end of the course, students will develop a critical understanding of the political and economic forces shaping international relations and will be able to analyze the historical trajectory toward a more cooperative and peaceful world order.

### Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- obtain a theoretical and conceptual understanding related to the International Political Economy, derived from the mutual interactions of state and market, economics and politics, and analyze the significance of these relationships;
- understand major analytical and policy issues related to International Political Economy;
- evaluate major historical shifts in the global economic system, including the Bretton Woods system and post-World War II economic policies;
- assess the impact of globalization, trade, finance, and regional integration on economic development and inequality;
- critically examine contemporary policy debates related to trade, foreign investment, financial crises, and sustainable development.

**Textbooks/Supplies/Materials Requirements:**

Gilpin, Robert (2001). *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. Princeton University Press.  
*Global Political Economy*, Edited by John Ravenhill, 2020. Oxford University Press.  
 Additional readings/handouts will be provided by the instructor.

**Course Requirements:****Class Participation**

Students are expected to engage actively in class discussions and tutorial exercises. Participation is assessed based on the quality of contributions to debates, responsiveness to assigned readings, and engagement in group activities. Regular attendance is required, and students should come prepared to discuss readings and contribute thoughtful insights.

**Group Presentation**

Each student will participate in a group presentation on a contemporary issue in international political economy. Groups will be assigned early in the semester, and each will select a topic in consultation with the instructor. Presentations should provide a clear, well-researched analysis, incorporating relevant theoretical perspectives and empirical data. Each group will be evaluated on the depth of research, clarity of argument, presentation skills, and engagement with the class during the Q&A session.

**Midterm Essays**

Students will write two midterm essays of 1,500 words each. Essay topics will be distributed in advance, and students must demonstrate a clear understanding of theoretical approaches, historical developments, and current policy debates in IPE. Essays should be well-structured, properly referenced, and showcase critical thinking. Late submissions will incur penalties unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

**Final Essay**

Students should submit a final essay of 1,500 words at the end of the term. The essay will require students to engage deeply with course materials, apply theoretical frameworks, and construct well-supported arguments. The final essay must demonstrate original analysis, incorporate diverse sources, and critically evaluate policy implications. A list of essay prompts will be provided after the midterm period, with students required to select topics relevant to the themes covered in class.

**Final Exam**

There will be a cumulative final exam at the end of the course. This will consist of identification/definition, short-answer, and essay questions. There is no make-up.

<b>Assessments: Activity</b>	<b>Percent Contribution</b>
Class Participation	10%
Group Presentation	15%
Midterm Essays (2)	30%
Final Essay	20%
Final Exam	25%

**Grading:**

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

<b>Percentage of available points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

**Course Schedule:**

*The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.*

<b>POLS 2311 Schedule</b>		
<b>Lecture</b>	<b>Topic &amp; Readings</b>	<b>Activities</b>
L1	Introduction to International Political Economy Defining IPE: Intersection of Politics and Economics Read: Ravenhill, J. ed. (2011), <i>Global Political Economy</i> , Oxford, third edition, pp. 3-27 Frieden, J., Lake, D. and Broz, L. eds. (2010), <i>International Political Economy</i> , W.W. Norton, fifth edition, "Introduction"	
L2	States and Markets in the Global Economy	
L3	Theoretical Approaches to IPE: Liberalism, Mercantilism, Marxism Read: Gilpin, R. (2001), <i>Global Political Economy</i> , Ch. 4 ("The study of IPE") Heilbroner, R. (1999), <i>The Worldly Philosophers</i> , Ch. 6 on Marx	
L4	Hegemonic Stability Theory and Global Power Structures	
L5	The Global Economic Order Before 1945 The Industrial Revolution and Economic Power Shifts The Gold Standard and the Great Depression	

L6	<p>Read: Wolf, M. (2004), <i>Why Globalization Works</i>, Yale, Ch. 8 (“The rise, fall and rise of a liberal global economy”)            Post-1945 International Economic Order            The Bretton Woods System and Its Institutions            IMF, World Bank, GATT/WTO Evolution</p>	
L7	<p>Read: Ruggie, J. (1982), “International regimes, transactions and change: embedded liberalism in the post-war economic order”            Globalization and its Discontents            Economic Integration and Rising Inequality</p>	
L8	Anti-Globalization Movements and Backlashes	
L9	Globalization and Gender	
L10	<p>International Trade and Trade Agreements            Free Trade vs. Fair Trade            Regional Trade Agreements and the WTO</p>	
L11	<p>Read: VanGrasstek, Craig. (2013) <i>The History and Future of the World Trade Organization</i>.            Foreign Direct Investment and Multinational Corporations            The Role of MNCs in Development</p>	
L12	Regulatory Challenges and Labor Rights	
L13	<p>International Finance and Monetary Policy            The Post-Bretton Woods Financial System            The 2008 Financial Crisis and Global Implications</p>	Midterm Essay 1 Due
L14	<p>Read: Wolf, M. (2014), <i>The Shifts and the Shocks</i>, Penguin Press,            “Conclusion: fire next time”, pp. 318-353            The Rise of China and Shifts in Economic Power</p>	
L15	<p>Asia and IPE            Read: Mahbubani, K. (2013), <i>The Great Convergence: Asia, the West and the Logic of One World</i>, Public Affairs, Ch. 1 (“A new global civilization”)</p>	
L16	<p>The Role of International Financial Institutions            The IMF, World Bank, and Structural Adjustment Programs</p>	
L17	Debt Crises in Developing Economies	
L18	<p>Global Poverty and Development Traps            Theories of Economic Development            Dependency Theory and Critiques</p>	
L19	<p>Foreign Aid and the Political Economy of Development            Bilateral vs. Multilateral Aid</p>	
L20	<p>Read: Moyo, Dambisa. (2009) <i>Why Foreign Aid Is Hurting Africa</i>.  <b>Group Presentation</b></p>	Midterm Essay 2 Due
L21	The Politics of Humanitarian Assistance	
L22	<p>Regional Integration and Economic Cooperation            Case Studies: EU, ASEAN, African Union            Regionalism vs. Globalization</p>	
L23	<p>Energy and Environmental Politics            Global Climate Agreements and Economic Policies            The Green Economy and Sustainable Development</p>	
L24	<p>Read: Dauvergne, P. (2011), <i>Global Political Economy</i> in Ravenhill ed. Ch. 14, “Globalization and environment”.            Migration and Global Labor Markets            Economic Drivers of Migration</p>	

	Migration Policy and Economic Development	
	Read: Cornelius, W. and Rosenblum, M. (2005), "Immigration and politics", <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> , vol. 8, June, pp. 99-119	
L25	The Future of Global Governance	Final Essay
	The Role of the United Nations and G20 in Economic Governance	Due
	<b>Final Exam</b>	

### **Accommodation Statement**

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

### **Other Items:**

#### **Attendance and Expectations**

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

#### **Assignment Due Dates**

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

**Make-Up Work**

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

**Access, Special Needs and Disabilities**

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.