

## **International Political Economy**

T-Th 12:15-1:45/ Political Science – POLS 4504

Dr. Heather A. D. Mbaye

Pafford 130, Tel: 678-839-4988

Office hours: T-Th 10:00am to 11:00am; Tuesday 1:45 to 3:15pm

Online office hours weekdays 10am to 6pm – send me an email!

[hmbaye@westga.edu](mailto:hmbaye@westga.edu)

This course analyzes the politics of international economic relations, investigating the roots and evolution of the international political economy since World War II, and focusing on the rise and implications of global economic governance and globalization. The course will deal with the interplay between politics and economics in a range of different issue areas, including the international financial system and its management (IMF, World Bank, etc.), the international trading system and its evolution (GATT, WTO, etc.), attempts at regional economic integration (the European Union, NAFTA), changes in the patterns of world production, the role of multinational corporations, and trends in the international distribution of power and wealth in the post-Cold War world.

This course is part of the Discipline Specific Writing (ie, WAC) requirement for all students in the College of Arts and Sciences. Thus, it will emphasize writing assignments. Writing is a valuable learning method (“writing to learn”) as well as a tool for communication (“writing to communicate”). Some writing assignments will help students learn course content, while others will help students learn to communicate that content.

### **Outcomes and Goals:**

Students will demonstrate on examinations and in a critical thinking term paper:

- Understanding of the various theories of international economics
- Understanding of the observable conditions of the world economy (and specific cases therein)
- An ability to analyze current economic events in light of theoretical considerations.

### **Grading:**

A total of between 550 and 650 points will be available.

- A reading summary project worth 100 points will be discussed in class. **You will fail this class if you fail to turn in a satisfactory project.** This is a writing to learn assignment. Each week, you will turn in summaries of the reading material, summaries that are to include critical thinking questions.

- One hundred and fifty points will be distributed through the completion of the term research project. The research paper is a writing to communicate assignment.

- Three exams, two midterms and a comprehensive final, will be worth one hundred points each. Exams are writing to communicate exercises.

- Additional points may be distributed at the discretion of the Professor. Generally speaking, this means pop-quizzes, in class writing responses (writing to learn activities), and homework assignments.

**Term research project:**

Students will be required to write an 8-10 page paper, which will account for 100 points (this is a formal writing assignment and fulfills the writing to communicate component of the WAC course). An annotated bibliography prior to the paper will be worth 50 points (this is a formal assignment as well). The paper is to be a formal research paper: thesis driven, with citations and a bibliography. Each of you should understand that grammatical and spelling errors, as well as poor organization, incorrect information, insufficient or poor sources, and unsupported theses will result in a reduced grade. All papers should be *carefully* edited.

**Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance is compulsory. Let me repeat: **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. If you cannot make the section, drop this class and take another. ONE unexcused absence is allowed. Beyond that, *each subsequent absence will result in a one half letter grade reduction in your grade. A failing grade will result if you miss enough classes, even if you do "A" work.* **There are NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Excused absences are possible *only when you speak with me prior to a necessary absence*. If you are ill and unexpectedly must miss class (or you have a flat tire or the like), you must leave a message on my office phone or send an email as soon as possible **and provide proof**. Only a doctor's note or a note from the health center will be considered proof of illness; if you are ill enough to miss class you need a medical professional.

Participation is absolutely necessary. However, participation must be prefaced with knowledge of the material. To that end: do your reading prior to arriving in our classroom. I would like to avoid pop quizzes if at all possible; however, if I suspect that students are arriving unprepared, I will give quizzes. Pop quizzes and in-class assignments will be given particularly when attendance is poor.

Students who are tardy to class without good excuse three times will record an unexcused absence in my grade book. Tardies will be determined by whether you are in class when I call your name from the roll.

**Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:**

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination. Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism is "the purchase and use of ghost-written papers and reports, or incorporating into a report, term theme, research paper, or project, ideas and information obtained from another person without giving credit to the person from whom such information was obtained. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism. The above definition of academic misconduct applies equally to improper use of electronic sources of information and opinion" (Faculty Handbook, State University of West Georgia, August 2004, page 75).

***If you plagiarize even a single sentence from another person, you will fail this course.***

**Other expectations:**

1. You are expected to check your ***UWG email*** and ***WebCT*** several times per week. “I didn’t see the email / announcement / assignment” is not a valid excuse.
2. You should do each assignment on time, and be on time to class. “I couldn’t find a parking place close to Pafford” is not a valid excuse.)
3. You **will read the assigned reading** prior to arriving in class on the day listed in the syllabus.
4. ALL cell phones must be turned OFF – not on vibrate, OFF – when class begins. NO CELL PHONES should EVER be out in class. Anyone who has a cell phone out during class when there is a quiz or test will fail that quiz or test. Anyone who has a cell phone out once during a regular class period will loose TEN POINTS off their grade on their presentation. The second infraction will result in a ZERO on your presentation.

**Required texts:**

Oatley, Thomas 2009. *International Political Economy, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.* Pearson Longman  
 May, Christopher 2009. *Political Economy of Intellectual Property Rights, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* Routledge.

Books MUST be the CORRECT edition.

August 14	Introduction
Week of August 17	The institutional framework of the global economy Read: Oatley, Ch. 1
Week of August 24	Theories of IPE: Realism and Liberalism
Week of August 31	<i>No class September 4 (Conference)</i> Theories of IPE: Liberalism and Historical structuralism
Week of September 7	<i>No class September 7 (Labor Day)</i> Theories of IPE: Historical structuralism
Week of September 14	Trade Cooperation Oatley Ch. 2-3
Week of September 21	<b>Exam 1: September 21 on Theories of IPE</b> Domestic Trade Politics Oatley Ch. 4-5
Week of September 28	Trade and Development Oatley Ch. 6-7
Week of October 5	<i>No Class October 5</i> MNCs Oatley Ch. 8-9
Week of October 12	<i>No Class October 14, 16 (Conference)</i> The Monetary System Oatley Ch. 10-11

Week of October 19	Exchange Rate Policy Oatley 12-13
Week of October 26	October 26: Second Midterm Exam Crisis Oatley 14-15
Week of November 2	Institutions and Intellectual Property May, Ch. 1
Week of November 9	Intellectual Property May, Ch. 2 <i>No class November 13 (Conference)</i>
Week of November 16	Intellectual Property May, Ch. 3-4
Week of November 23	Intellectual Property May, Ch. 5 <i>No class November 25 or 27 (Thanksgiving Break)</i>
Week of November 30	Globalisation, DRM, and Other Crazy Stuff Oatley 16
	<b>Final Exam</b>