IR 338 (01) Politics of International Economy

Fall 2016

Class time: Monday 10:40-12:30 and Thursday 09:40am-10:30 in A-329

Contact Information

Pınar İpek
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Moodle info: Moodle will be used for this course. You can access Moodle by logging into STARS/SRS. Once you open your course schedule you will see the link to access Moodle. Course materials, readings for in-class discussions, and weekly course schedule will be posted on Moodle.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this course is to provide students with a solid introduction to International Political Economy (IPE) as a field of study. The course will focus on historical developments and current trends in the global political economy, various theoretical IPE-perspectives, as well as more specific IPE-topics/issues such as international trade, foreign direct investment, multinational corporations and transnational production, global financial system, foreign debt, human development, and global division of labor and gender.

At the end of the this course, you will
- Know historical developments and current trends in IPE.
- Understand structural and actor driven challenges in world trade, transnational production, global financial system, and human development in global political economy.
- Be able to apply the acquired course knowledge and theoretical perspectives to discuss and research on the historical developments and recent challenges in the global political economy.

Readings and Resources

Required Readings:
- Textbook:
- Class discussion readings:
Short readings related to in-class discussions will be posted on Moodle according to the weekly schedule.

Additional Reading:
Weekly Schedule

Week 1 (Sep 26&29): Introduction to the course [Introduction]

Week 2 (Oct 3& 6): Introduction to the course [Introduction] and Theoretical perspectives [ch.1&2 + pp.261-265]

Week 3 (Oct 10&13): Theoretical perspectives [ch.1&2 + pp.261-265]

Week 4 (Oct 17&20): Pre-1945 history of the global political economy [ch.3&4]

Week 5 (Oct 24&27): The post-1945 world political economy [ch.5]
           DVD session #1, (Episode I- Chapters 1-9, 11, 13, 15-19)

Week 6 (Oct 31& Nov 3): International trade [ch.6]
           In-class discussion #1

Week 7 (Nov 7&10): International trade [ch.6-continued]
           QUIZ 1, November 10, Thursday

Week 8 (Nov 14&17): Transnational production [ch.7]
           MID-TERM EXAM, November 14, Monday

Week 9 (Nov 21&24): Transnational production [ch.7-continued]
           DVD session #2, (Episode III-Chapters 1-4, 6, 9-14)

Week 10 (Nov 28&Dec 1): Global financial system [ch.8]

Week 11 (Dec 5&8): Global financial system [ch.8-continued]
           DVD session #3,

Week 12 (Dec 12&15): Global financial system [ch.8-continued]
           In-class discussion #2

Week 13 (Dec 19&22): Global division of labour [ch.9], Gender [ch.10]
           QUIZ 2, December 22, Thursday

Week 14 (Dec 26&29): Economic development [ch.11] & Global economic governance [ch.15]
           In-class discussion #3

Course Review
Policies and Procedures

General Rules:
- Students must read the assigned readings for in-class discussions.
- Students must check Moodle and Bilkent e-mail every week before class time.
- Students can take make-up exam if they were ill at the time of the quiz or mid-term exam. In order to qualify for make-ups, students must provide a medical report for the day of the examination. The report must be approved by the Bilkent Health Centre. Note that make-ups will be arranged as soon as possible after the time of the original examination or essay.
- Students are not allowed to use their cell-phones during class and exams.

Grading Policies:
Mid-term exam: 35% of final grade (35 points).
Final exam: 35% of final grade (35 points).
Other assignments and participations: 30% of final grade (30 points).
- two quizzes (2 x 5=10 points)
- three 5-points about major argument of and interesting facts in the assigned reading (3+3+4= 10 points)
- three in-class discussions (3+3+4=10 points)

In-class discussions:
There are three in-class discussions. In-class discussion questions, if necessary, will be posted on Moodle for the related week. No participation in class discussion will result in zero point. Students should be able to demonstrate course knowledge during the discussions. The students must read the assigned short article and book chapter for the related week and facilitate their reading in the discussions. Discussion questions are based on related textbook chapters, lectures, assigned readings and the visual material (DVD) from The Commanding Heights book to be watched on announced days on the syllabus/Moodle.

5 points assignments:
The major argument of and interesting facts in the assigned article(s) must be demonstrated in 5 points. The 5 points should be minimum half page or less than a page (A4 size). It should be hand written clearly. The 5 major points can be changed during the in-class discussions and must be submitted at the end of the class.

Final examination visa (FZ rule):
In order to qualify for the final examination, a student (i) must have taken the mid-term examination, one quiz, two 5 points, and one in-class discussion. Students not qualifying for the final examination based on these visa requirements will receive the grade FZ after the last day of classes.