

# POLSCI 126A

## International Political Economy

Professor: Ryan Brutger (brutger@berkeley.edu)

Office Location: Social Science Building 778

Professor's Office Hours: [Click Here for Online Scheduling for Appointments.](#)

Sections 101 and 104 - Yue Lin (florenceyuelin@berkeley.edu) Office Hours: Fridays 3-5pm

[Yue's Office Hours Sign Up](#)

Sections 102 and 103 - Spring Mi (qhal2580@berkeley.edu) Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:45-5:45pm

[Spring's Office Hours Sign Up](#)

**Course Description:** This course explores the theories, history, and issues in international political economy. International political economy has been described as “the reciprocal and dynamic interaction in international relations of the pursuit of power and the pursuit of wealth.” The purpose of this course is to examine those interactions – between power and wealth, the state and the market – from a number of competing perspectives and different levels of analysis. We will focus on the causes and consequences of international trade and monetary relations; the growth of regional integration; the role of hegemony in maintaining the stability of international economic systems; strategies of economic development and transition; the role of multinational corporations in various countries; and the drivers and consequences of migration and immigration.

Dear students,

I want to take a moment to provide some guidance to help you through this semester. If life events occur that make it hard for you to keep up with the class, please know that your GSIs and I will seek to be flexible to help you succeed. Such events might include things happening to you personally or things happening to family members. Please know that I want to do everything I can to support you. To do this, though, I need to know about a problem when it starts, not after it has already derailed your ability to keep up with class. In providing accommodations, I won't ask, and don't need to know, the details of what might be affecting you. The university has [support staff](#) that you can go to who will request the accommodation on your behalf. However, if there is an issue please let me or your GSI know sooner rather than later. We are in a much better position to help you and make accommodations if you tell us when the problem arises. You can email us or come to office hours to discuss such matters.

Sincerely,

Professor Brutger

[Link to Academic Accommodations Website](#)

**Course Objectives:** The course has three main objectives for students:

1. to become familiar with both the historical evolution of and ongoing developments in international political economy;
2. to use political and economic concepts and theories to analyze phenomena at the intersection of international politics and economy; and
3. to consider normative trade-offs involved in the phenomena.

**Course Grading:**

- 20%: Three memos with a maximum of 750 words for each.  
(Lose a letter grade for exceeding word limit.)
- 30%: Ten reading & lecture quizzes, of which the lowest grade will be dropped.
- 20% Midterm exam.
- 10%: Active participation in sections.
  - You can make up an absence from section by submitting a two-page double-spaced review of the week’s readings (12 point font, 1 inch margins). You may only do this up to three times. Make up assignments must be emailed to your GSI by the Wednesday following the missed section.
- 20%: Final exam

**Teaching/Learning Plan:**

1. The course material is conveyed through readings, lectures, and other assignments. You are expected to complete the readings, or other assigned material, before attending lecture. There will be regular quizzes based on the assigned material and lectures.
2. Discussion section with the GSI will allow students to ask questions about the material and provide an opportunity to discuss key concepts and relate the material to current events.
3. Quizzes will be made available on Fridays at 6:30pm and are due by 11:59pm pst on Monday. **Students who do not submit quizzes on time during the first weeks of the class will be dropped from the course.**
4. **Late assignments:** If an assignment is submitted late, without a pre-approved extension, 10% will be deducted for each day it is late. Extensions must be requested at least **24 hours before** the assignment is due.

**Required Texts:**

Thomas Oatley. *International Political Economy, (Fifth or Sixth Edition)*. Routledge, 2011

Pietra Rivoli. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy. Second Edition*. Chichester: Wiley, 2015

All other required articles and book chapters are hyperlinked in this syllabus.

**Academic Honesty:** Each student is expected to complete their own work and abide by Berkeley's honor code, which states that "as a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." Students caught cheating, plagiarizing, or otherwise violating the integrity policy may fail the assignment and the course. Using any written text that is not your own, either verbatim or paraphrased, violates the honor code and may result in failing the assignment and/or the course.

**Automatic Course Drops:**

If you do not sign in to lecture and sections, and complete the quizzes on time, during the first weeks of the class, the instructor will drop you from the course. If you anticipate needing to miss any of these, please email your GSI in advance to avoid being dropped from the class.

Week	Content
August 29	Introduction
September 3	IPE Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 1: International Political Economy</li> </ul>
September 5	IPE Theory <b><u>Lecture will be virtual modules via bCourses</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click on “Modules” in bCourses to access lecture videos.</li> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 2: The World Trade Organization and the World Trade System</li> <li>• Paul Blustein. <i>Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations</i>. Cambridge Univ Press, 2009, <a href="#">Chapter 1</a> and <a href="#">chapter 2</a> (Start reading and complete by September 10th)</li> </ul>
September 10	International Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 3: The Political Economy of International Trade Cooperation</li> </ul>
September 12	Domestic Politics of International Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 4: A Society-Centered Approach to Trade Politics</li> </ul>
September 17	Domestic Politics of International Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guisinger [2017], <b>Chapter 4</b> <a href="#">Link to reading</a></li> </ul>
September 19	New Perspective on Fairness & Moral Values in IPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ryan Brutger and Brian Rathbun. Fair share? equality and equity in american attitudes toward trade. <i>International Organization</i>, 75(3):880–900, 2021. <a href="#">Link to reading</a></li> <li>• Preview of new research by Daniel Lobo and Ryan Brutger (to be discussed in lecture)</li> </ul>
September 24	Domestic Politics of International Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Response Memo Due</b></li> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 5: A State-Centered Approach to Trade Politics</li> <li>• <a href="#">“Bailing out Bali,”</a> <i>The Economist</i></li> </ul>

September 26	<p>Firm-Centered Approach to Trade Theory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First, watch <a href="#">Krugman Nobel Prize Lecture</a></li> <li>• Second, listen to <a href="#">Trade Talks Episode 62: Randomized Trade</a></li> </ul>
October 1	<p>The Complexities of Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivoli [2015], Prologue and Part I</li> </ul>
October 3	<p>The Complexities of Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rivoli [2015], Part III</li> </ul>
October 8	<p>Preferential Trade Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<a href="#">The TPP Origins and Outcomes</a>,” <i>Handbook of International Trade Agreements: Country, regional and global approaches</i>, Routledge 2018</li> <li>• “<a href="#">The USMCA: New, Modestly Improved, but Still Costly</a>,” Peterson Institute for International Economics, 17, Dec, 2017, Mary E Lovely and Jeffrey J. Schott</li> </ul>
October 10	<p>Fair Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean Ehrlich. <i>The Politics of Fair Trade</i>, 2018. Chapters 1 and 2. <a href="#">Link to reading</a></li> </ul>
October 15	<b>MIDTERM</b>
October 17	<p>Economic Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 6: Trade and Development I: ISI</li> </ul>
October 22	<p>Economic Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 7: Trade and Development II: Economic Reform</li> </ul>

October 24	<p>Multinational Corporations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 8: Multinational Corporations in the Global Economy</li> <li>• Sonal S Pandya. Labor markets and the demand for foreign direct investment. <i>International Organization</i>, 64(03):389–409, 2010, <a href="#">Link to reading</a></li> </ul>
October 29	<p>Multinational Corporations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 9: The Politics of Multinational Corporations</li> </ul>
October 31	<p>Outsourcing and Local Markets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Response Memo Due</b></li> <li>• Rivoli [2015], Part II</li> </ul>
November 5	<p>The International Monetary System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 10: The International Monetary System</li> </ul>
November 7	<p>The International Monetary System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 12: A Society-Centered Approach to Money</li> </ul>
November 12	<p>The International Monetary System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 13: A State-Centered Approach to Money</li> </ul>
November 14	<p>More on Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 11: Cooperation, Conflict, and Crisis in the Contemporary International Monetary System</li> </ul>
November 19	<p>Financial Crises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oatley [2011], Chapter 14: Developing Countries and International Finance I: The Latin American Debt Crisis</li> </ul>
November 21	<p>Political Economy of Foreign Aid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emily M. Morgenstern and Nick M. Brown, <a href="#">“Foreign Assistance: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy”</a> Congressional Research Service, January 10, 2022.</li> </ul>

November 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Response Memo Due, then enjoy the break</b></li> </ul>
November 28	<p>Academic Holiday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Holiday</li> </ul>
December 3	<p>Political Economy of Migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruce Scott, “<a href="#">The Great Divide in the Global Village</a>” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Vol 80, No. 1, 160-171, 2001.</li> <li>• Lant Pritchett, <i>Let Their People Come: Breaking Gridlock on International Labor Mobility</i>, Introduction and Conclusion. 2006.</li> </ul>
December 5	<p>Discussion with Professor Brutger</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an opportunity to chat about the future of IPE, globalization, current events, etc.</li> </ul>

**Supplementary Texts:** For students who wish to read beyond the required texts, here are some suggestions.

Paul R Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld. *International economics: Theory and policy*. Pearson Education, 2008

Jeffrey A Frieden, David A Lake, David A Lake, et al. *International political economy: perspectives on global power and wealth*. Routledge, 2002

Robert Gilpin. *Global political economy: Understanding the international economic order*. Princeton University Press, 2001

## References

- Paul Blustein. *Misadventures of the Most Favored Nations*. Cambridge Univ Press, 2009.
- Ryan Brutger and Brian Rathbun. Fair share? equality and equity in american attitudes toward trade. *International Organization*, 75(3):880–900, 2021.
- Jeffrey A Frieden, David A Lake, David A Lake, et al. *International political economy: perspectives on global power and wealth*. Routledge, 2002.
- Robert Gilpin. *Global political economy: Understanding the international economic order*. Princeton University Press, 2001.
- Alexandra Guisinger. *American Opinion on Trade: Preferences Without Politics*. Oxford University Press, 2017.
- Paul R Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld. *International economics: Theory and policy*. Pearson Education, 2008.
- Thomas Oatley. *International Political Economy, (Fifth or Sixth Edition)*. Routledge, 2011.
- Sonal S Pandya. Labor markets and the demand for foreign direct investment. *International Organization*, 64(03):389–409, 2010.
- Pietra Rivoli. *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy. Second Edition*. Chichester: Wiley, 2015.