Course Syllabus: PLSC 412
International Political Economy

Summer 2018
Mon-Fri 11:10 am–12:25 pm
Willard 258

Instructor: Minhyung Joo
Pennsylvania State University
Department of Political Science
224 Pond Lab
E-mail: mxj222@psu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3pm–5pm or by appointment.

Courses Description
International Political Economy is an undergraduate course designed to provide a conceptual and empirical background necessary to understand globalization and the changes taking place in the international economy. While concepts from international economics will be studied in this course, the focus of this course is not on economic theory per se but rather on analyzing critical empirical issues in the current international economic system. We will particularly analyze issues related to the politics of international economic relations and economic globalization. At a broader level, we study topics such as international trade policy and protectionism, foreign investment, the politics of international finance and financial crises, and the future of the global economic system. More specifically, we examine subjects including the politics of trade conflict at the GATT/WTO, trade reforms in the developing world, the role of multinational corporations in the world economy, the consequences of foreign direct investment, the emergence of currency unions, the role of international financial institutions such as the IMF and debates over outsourcing and financial crises. For each topic, we will analyze a variety of theoretical explanations along with some historical and contemporary examples.

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Assignments (8)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation + Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Policies
A formal documentation in writing is required for excused absences and missed exams. Make-up exams will NOT be given unless you have a formal documentation to support the reason for
your absence. Your attendance will NOT be penalized for a maximum of three unexcused absences. Absences beyond three unexcused absences will adversely affect your attendance.

Grading
Grades will be determined by a strict percentage. The grading scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76 – 79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 75</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60</td>
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Course Schedule

Week 1

May 14 Class Introduction

May 15 Perspectives on International Political Economy

Part I: Politics of International Trade

May 16 Why do states trade?
- Milton and Rose Friedman, “The Case for Free Trade,” Hoover Digest, Fall 1997. Read all 4 pages of the article.

May 17 The politics of trade protection
May 18  The Political Economy of Trade Reform
- Wigg et al. 2007. “Will International Trade Reduce Poverty? A Background Note to Norad.” Read pages 18-21. These pages include the following sections: “Empirical evidence on the impact of trade on poverty”; “the importance of inequality to poverty in a trade perspective” and “trade and the environment.”

Week 2

May 21 Domestic politics and trade protection

May 22 International Institutions and Trade: The WTO

May 23 Documentary Screening

May 24 National security and trade: does trade follow the flag?

May 25 NO CLASS
Week 3

Part II: Multinational Corporations and Foreign Investment

May 28  Memorial Day (No Class)

May 29  Multinational corporations, foreign investment and nationalization

May 30  MNCs and workers in the developing world
- Benjamin Powell and David Skarbek. 2004. “Sweatshops and Third World Living Standards: Are the Jobs Worth the Sweat?” Unpublished Manuscript. Read pages 2-12 (these pages contain several figures and tables which are quite interesting!).

May 31  MNCs and job loss? Outsourcing and off-shoring

June 1  Midterm Exam Review
Week 4

June 4 Midterm Exam

Part III: Politics of International Finance

June 5 The political economy of domestic financial crises

June 6 Financial Crisis of 2007-2008: The Big Short

June 7 Financial Crisis of 2007-2008: The Big Short

June 8 Financial Crisis of 2007-2008: The Big Short

Week 5

June 11 Introduction to international financial policies and financial disputes
- Oatley, 241-242 (“The Unholy Trinity”). [will be distributed in class].

June 12 Politics, exchange rate choice and currency unions
- Oatley, 260-281

June 13 Politics, exchange rate choice and currency unions
June 14  The political economy of financial crises: currency crises

Part IV: The Global Economy in the 21st Century

June 15  The BRIC economies and the emerging global economy
- Goldman Sachs. 2003. “Dreaming with BRICs: The Path to 2050” *Global Economics Paper* no. 99. [I will list the pages that you should read in class].

Week 6

June 18  The United States in the 21st Century

June 19  The Rise of China in the International Economy

June 20  Documentary Screening

June 21  Final Exam Review

June 22  Final Exam
University Policies

Academic Integrity
Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts.

Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. For further information, please read University Faculty Senate Policy 49-20 at http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/47-00-48-00-and-49-00-grades/#49-20 (Links to an external site.).

Disability Access
Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. Every Penn State campus has an office for students with disabilities. The Office for Disability Services (ODS) Web site provides contact information for every Penn State campus: http://equity.psu.edu/ods/dcl (Links to an external site). For further information, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site: http://equity.psu.edu/ods (Links to an external site).

In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/ (Links to an external site). If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with an accommodation letter. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. You must follow this process for every semester that you request accommodations.

Nondiscrimination
Penn State is committed to equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment for all persons. It is the policy of the University to maintain an environment free of harassment and free of discrimination against any person because of age, race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion, creed, service in the uniformed services (as defined in state and federal law), veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, marital or family status, pregnancy, pregnancy-related conditions, physical or mental disability, gender, perceived gender, gender identity, genetic information or political ideas. Discriminatory conduct and harassment, as well as sexual misconduct and relationship violence, violates the dignity of individuals, impedes the realization of the University's educational mission, and will not be tolerated. For further information, please visit the Affirmative Action Office Website at http://www.psu.edu/dept/aaoffice/ (Links to an external site).
TEACH Act
The materials on the course website are only for the use of students enrolled in this course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

University Emergency Procedure
In the event of a University-wide emergency, the course may be subject to changes. Exigent circumstances may require alternative delivery methods, class materials, and interactions with the instructor and/or classmates. In addition, there may be revisions to grading policies and the Calendar, including assignments and their due dates.

In the event of a University-wide emergency, please refer to the Canvas website at https://psu.instructure.com for specific information related to the course. For more general information about the emergency situation, please refer to the Penn State website at http://www.psu.edu (Links to an external site). Or Penn State News at http://news.psu.edu (Links to an external site).

To register with PSUAlert, a service designed to alert the Penn State community when situations arise that affect the ability of a campus to function normally, please go to https://psualert.psu.edu/ (Links to an external site). Subscribers can receive alerts by text message to cell phones, and also can elect to have alerts sent to an email address.

Syllabus Subject to Change
The class will likely adhere to the information outlined in this Syllabus and the Calendar, but adjustments may be made based on what actually transpires during the semester. Remaining in the course after reading this Syllabus will signal that you accept the possibility of changes and responsibility for being aware of them.