Institutions and International Political Economy
Political Science 7381
Graduate Seminar

Room: Derby 2078
Tuesday 2-2:45

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12:30

Course Description

This course, designed for political science Ph.D. students, surveys the role of political institutions in international political economy. We first look at political economy as an approach to understanding the political world and read foundational works on political economy and institutions. We then explore important debates and substantive topics in the study of IPE, including international cooperation and regime building in the world economy; interdependence and globalization; economic statecraft and sanctions; the role of domestic politics and institutions (as both an independent and dependent variable); institutions for trade and investment; and the causes and consequences of regionalism.

Readings

Readings are available in the course texts, on the course’s Carmen website, or online through the library system. Students are responsible for acquiring the three books listed below. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings before class. For each reading, we will summarize the argument, discuss its contribution to the literature, and probe the argument and evidence for strengths and weaknesses.

Required books


Course Requirements

This is a seminar. Each student will be expected to participate actively in class discussions, which will be geared toward understanding, critiquing and comparing the readings assigned for each session. Your effective participation will therefore depend on how carefully you have read the material. The readings will also form the conceptual (and sometimes empirical) basis for the two paper assignments, which should build explicitly on the course readings and should refer to readings on the syllabus that are relevant to the topic. Students should also keep in mind that many of the readings will be required knowledge for political science General Exams, including the IR major exam and the political economy minor exam.
The final grade will be based on the following components:

- **50%** – two papers (25% each), not to exceed six pages; see topics below.
- **20%** – 5 memos on the readings. The memos should contain a critique and should raise an issue for discussion for the week’s readings. Each student must complete five memos during the course of the semester. Memos should be one page long and are due via email by noon on the day before class.
- **30%** – class participation, including:
  - Attendance. After one absence, each unexcused absence will cost a letter grade.
  - Contribution to discussions.
  - Reading presentations. Each week, students will be assigned presentations on one or more of the readings for the following week. In these brief presentations (five minutes maximum), you should summarize the argument and empirical findings.

**Topics for Papers**

**Paper #1 (due September 30th)**
Option 1. There are both advantages and disadvantages entailed in applying rational choice theory and tools to international relations. Discuss one or more advantages and one or more disadvantages that you find important. In the end, do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Option 2. Are international institutions a cause of economic globalization or a consequence of it? Make an argument and support it with specific examples.

**Paper #2 (due December 2nd)**
Option 1. Select a WTO dispute settlement case of your choosing. Provide a brief legal history of the case—i.e., describe its path through the WTO dispute settlement mechanism and where it stands now—and summarize the positions of the relevant parties to the case. Was the WTO effective at resolving the conflict? What does the case tell us about theories of institutions and/or IPE?

Option 2. Select an international investment dispute of your choosing. Provide a history of the dispute, including the positions and actions of the relevant parties, and explain how it was resolved. What are the implications of this case for theoretical debates on institutions and/or IPE?
Week 1 (August 27)
Introduction: The Study of (International) Political Economy

Week 2 (September 3)
Foundations of Positive Political Economy
Mancur Olson. 1965. The Logic of Collective Action, Chapters 1-2 (skim the rest).

Week 3 (September 10)
The Role of Institutions: Exchange and Cooperation
Elinor Ostrom. 1990. Governing the Commons, Chapter 1.

Week 4 (September 17)
International Cooperation and Institutions
Keohane. After Hegemony, Chapters 3-6.

Week 5 (September 24)
Domestic Institutions and Foreign Economic Policy

Week 6 (October 1; Paper #1 due September 30)
Domestic Responses to Globalization

**Week 7 (October 8)**

**Trade Policy and the WTO**


**Week 8 (October 15)**

**Regionalism and Bilateralism**


**Week 9 (October 22)**

**Institutions for Investment**


Week 10 (October 29): No Class

Week 11 (November 5)
Institutions and Economic Sanctions

Week 12 (November 12)
Legalization and IPE

Week 13 (November 19)
Power, Institutions and IPE

Week 14 (November 26)
Managing Economic Globalization

Week 15 (December 3; Paper #2 due December 2)
Catch-up session.