



POLS 4653 International Political Economy
Prothro-Yeager College of Humanities and Social Sciences
CRN 21883 Section 201
Spring 2019, MWF 11-11:50AM, PY 209

Instructor: Dr. Rebekah Dowd
Office: O'Donohoe Hall 204
Office hours: **WF 2-3:30pm, TR 11am-12noon**
Office phone: (940) 397-4341
E-mail: rebekah.dowd@msutexas.edu)

Course Description

In the modern world, our daily lives are impacted by the global economy. In this course, we will examine the intertwined nature of states and markets, or the International Political Economy (IPE). The goal is to develop a clearer understanding of how and why states adopt particular economic policies, and how international economic forces alter the behavior of states. The course is designed with the assumption that students have little background with this material; after completing the course, students will have developed foundational knowledge of the topic from the ground up. We cover the fundamentals of IPE, including the international monetary system, international trade, multinational corporations, the policies of development and foreign aid, globalization and economic integration, and finally, the rise of the big data economy. The course follows a seminar format, where students read assigned texts, discuss the material, develop an original, written research project, and present this project in class. The material for this course includes textbooks, journal articles, and applicable video materials. We rely a great deal upon comparative-historical analyses of the materials presented. While I may present some of the time in a lecture format during class meetings, a significant portion of class time is set aside for interactive discussion. Students are strongly encouraged. **The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; changes may be necessary. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted to D2L.**

Learning Objectives

- **To understand** the core institutions of the international economic system
- Be able to **articulate the role that globalization has played in changes to this system**
- **Give details on the ways that trade and capital flows impact economic policies**
- Discuss how the big data economy is changing the way that states and multinational corporations do business in today's world

Required Textbook & Instructional Materials:

1. *The Politics of International Economic Relations*, by Spero and Hart, (7th ed.), ISBN: 978-0534602741
2. *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*, by Frieden, Lake, and Broz, (6th ed). ISBN: 978-0-393-60388-0

3. Additional readings, which may be posted to D2L in PDF form
4. Students are expected to follow national and state news through such sources as [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), the [Dallas Morning News](#), [Houston Chronicle](#) etc.. You may use this material for class discussions

Student Handbook

Refer to: https://msutexas.edu/student-life/_assets/files/handbook.pdf

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures:

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

Electronic Devices:

Laptop computers and other technology are discouraged in this classroom. Cellphones, tablets, and other electronic devices should be stored away from sight. Cell phones should be placed on silent (Not vibrate) and only emergency calls should be answered. Text messaging is also a serious violation. No use or wearing of headphones/earbuds is permitted. Students that are caught using any of these devices during class will be asked to leave the class for the remaining time period. Students will also be marked absent for the class if an in-class activity or quiz has been completed.

Office Hours:

I encourage you to attend my office hours as they are a useful forum for additional interaction with the material as well as the instructor. While not required, it is recommended for both students that are struggling or successfully engaging with the material. For those that are lacking in full comprehension of the materials, I am here for you to engage and bring better understanding. For those that have a mastery of the subject matter, I am also here for you to discuss the deeper issues and implications of the material covered in the course. If these hours are inconvenient, do not hesitate to contact me and make an appointment.

Contacting Me:

The best way to reach is by email or by stopping by my office hours. I will make all attempts to answer emails within 48 business hours unless it is over a holiday break. Office hours are walk-in, no appointment necessary. If you cannot come to my open office hours due to a schedule conflict, email me to ask about a separate appointment time.

Attendance Policy:

You should attend class. Students who do not attend class often have difficulty with the course and receive lower grades. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and will be applied to your grade in Attendance and Participation. You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty to your attendance grade. The only excused absences will be those as follows, with documentation: illness with a doctor's note covering the date(s) absent from class, death in the family, legal proceedings occurring during class period, university-approved absences such as travel as member of an MSU sports team, or emergency situation as determined by the instructor.

Disability Accommodations:

Any student having an education disability plan on file with the university needs to inform me within the first week of the class so I can make the appropriate arrangements to accommodate your situation. In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature; sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Any person experiencing such behavior may receive confidential support from the Counseling Center. Counseling Center staff will hold what you share in strict confidence. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I as the instructor of this course am required to forward such information to the MSU Title IX office. This should not prevent you from speaking to me should you wish to do so, but know that what you tell me in this area cannot be held confidential, but must be shared with the Title IX office.

Grading

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Participation and attendance	10%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Reading Summary	15%
Research Presentation	15%
Written Research Paper	30%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Less than 60

Class Attendance and Participation (10%):

Class meets three times a week, for approximately 36 class dates. Participation is based on attendance AND participation in discussion in class. I expect you to talk during class, engaging with me as the instructor and your fellow students. Science has shown we learn best by asking and discussing our questions about issues. I encourage questions, dialogue, and open debate, just do not monopolize

class discussions. Each student will present a reading summary during the course which also counts toward your participation grade. You are allowed to miss two classes without grade penalty. After that, all absences must be documented medical or legal emergencies to receive excused credit.

Exams (2, 15% each)

These are a mix of multiple choice and open answer, essay-based questions. The content is based on lecture content and readings (the textbook readings and additional readings posted on D2L). Each exam will feature material introduced since the last exam only. Anything I say in in the lectures, along with anything in the assigned readings could be used for the exams.

Exam	Date
1	Friday, March 13
2	Friday, April 24

Reading Summary (15%):

At the beginning of the term, each student will sign up to review a book chapter or journal article we will read during the course. When it is your “date” to review the reading, you will email a copy of your 1 pg. review to Dr. Dowd **two days prior to the class**, so that copies can be made and distributed to your classmates during the assigned class period. You will also be asked to speak in class for about 5 minutes on the main ideas, vocabulary, etc. in your reading, providing a general summary which will serve as a starting point for our discussion that day. A rubric is provided to guide your formatting of the text review and may be found online on D2L.

Research Paper and Presentation (45%):

Writing encourages research, formulation of your argument, and articulation of supportive statements. Therefore, the largest percentage of your grade in this class comes from producing an 10-12-page research paper. You will submit the paper in steps throughout the term. The idea is to help you become organized, plan a paper, choose your sources, outline the argument, write in sections, present it to the class, and then revise and edit the draft. Together these steps will help you grow in your knowledge of international political economy AND develop professional writing and presentation skills that are useful in the job market. The paper grade is segmented as follows:

1. *Thesis statement* (a brief paragraph explaining your core argument; 3-5 sentences only), *research question and introduction* (a clear question that you use to argue for why this research project is important to political science, and an introduction paragraph that tells me what you are about to explain in the details of the full paper), *outline* (3 main points plus supporting sentences), *bibliography of resources* (10-15 reputable sources from news, professional journals, or books), 10%, due **Friday, February 21**, 11:59 PM.
2. *Rough draft* (the full 10-12 page paper, 12-point font, double-spaced, not counting bibliography). 10%, due **Friday, March 27**, 11:59 PM.
3. *Presentation* – You will do an 8-10-minute presentation in class regarding your original research paper. Feedback from students and the instructor will help you improve the final draft. 15%, in class. Students will be allowed to choose a presentation date.
4. *Final draft* (the edited paper, with changes made after the presentation and I returned the first draft to you). 10%, due **Monday, May 11**, 11:59 PM.

Policy on Missed Work

Makeup for the exams will only be given in cases of legitimate and documented emergencies (medical excuse, death in family, sports/off site event required by your degree program). These makeup exams must be completed within 7 days of the regular exam window. If you miss the time window for a make-up test, I assume that you do not want to take it. My recommendation is that you avoid having to make-up exams as much as possible and if you have special circumstances, contact me immediately!

There is NO makeup for reading summaries or research paper sections. As you have several weeks to prepare ahead of time for these assignments, it is your responsibility to set aside enough prep time to complete the work and turn it in on time.

Last Day to drop with a grade of “W:”

Please note, the semester’s midpoint is **March 30. This is the last Day for “W”**. Students can **withdraw from the class up to this point and** receive a W for the class. However, there is a limited number of W’s a student can receive over their academic career. **Drops after this date will receive grades of “F.”** If you intend to withdraw from a course, you must do so yourself. If you are still on the roll when I have to assign grades and you haven’t done any passing work, then you will fail. So, if you intend to drop, please make sure you do so in time. Also note, after the first few days of the semester, I have to report to the university whether students have participated at least once. If you have never attended this class when I have to submit my report to the university, it is possible that the university will drop you from the course, potentially impacting your academic record and financial assistance. Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L online learning platform is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this platform as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor. **While I do not post most of my PowerPoint notes to D2L, I will post a few key slides to the site just prior to each exam. These copies will serve as your study guide for the exams.**

Class Behavior Policies

In order to make this a successful class, it is important that we create an environment where everyone has an opportunity to learn. **This includes in-person and online classes**. To this end, you should know that the university policy on disruptive behavior in class applies. Disruptive class behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, verbal or physical threats, repeated obscenities, unreasonable interference with class discussion, making/receiving personal phone calls or pages (text messaging) during class, leaving and entering class frequently in the absence of notice to instructor of illness or other extenuating circumstances, and persisting in disruptive personal conversations with other class members. For purposes of this policy, it may also be considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of class. If your behavior is disruptive to other students or the instructor, this will violate University guidelines, and you will be reported to administrative authorities.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Course Schedule:

You are expected to complete all readings BEFORE the class date listed. All reading quizzes are due at the beginning of the class period of the due date. *See next page for schedule.*

Course Schedule

Dates	Reading Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Week 1- Mon, Jan 20, Course Introduction and the Basics of Political Economy	MLK Day – no classes	
Wed, Jan 22	Do course overview <i>-no reading needed</i>	
Fri, Jan 24 - Basics of Political Economy	O’Neil chapter 5 – “Political Economy”, pgs. 96- top of p. 110 (PDF online)	
Mon, Jan 27 -	O’Neil chapter 5 – “Political Economy”, pgs. 110-118 (PDF online)	
Wed, Jan 29	O’Neil chapter 5 – “Political Economy”, pgs. 118-132 (PDF online) –	
Fri, Jan 31	<i>No new reading – Literature Review Skills</i>	
Mon, Feb 3 - Intro to the Main Theories of Explanation - Institutions	Frieden et. al, Chapter 7, p. 113-119 “Root Causes: A Historical Approach to Assessing the Role of Institutions in Economic Development”, by Daron Acemoglu	
Wed, Feb 5 – Regime Theory	Chapter 4, p. 82-97, “The Study of International Political Economy”, in <i>Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order</i> , by Robert Gilpin (PDF online)	
Fri, Feb 7 - Hegemonic Stability Theory	<i>Finish theories. No new reading – Picking a research topic discussion.</i>	
Mon, Feb 10 - The Bretton Woods System	Spero & Hart, Chapter 2, pp. 12-35 “Bretton Woods-Interdependence”	
Wed, Feb 12	Spero & Hart, Chapter 2, pp. 36-53	
Fri, Feb 14	<i>No new reading –Making Your Research Design Discussion</i>	
Mon, Feb 17 - International Trade:	Frieden et. al, Chapter 3, “The Structure of International Trade” by Stephen Krasner, pp. 43-61	
Wed, Feb 19 -	Spero & Hart, Chapter 3, pp. 72- 92	
Fri, Feb 21	<i>The Case of NAFTA & USMCA</i>	Thesis statement section of paper is due, 11:59PM
Mon, Feb 24	Spero & Hart, Chapter 3, pp. 98-116	
Wed, Feb 26	Spero & Hart Ch 4, read pp. 128-141 carefully; skim the rest of chapter	
Fri, Feb 28	<i>Case: Tariffs and Protections</i>	

Dates	Reading Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
Mon, Mar 2- Growth Strategies & Foreign Aid	Chapter 12, “The State and Economic Development” in <i>Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order</i> , by Robert Gilpin, pp. 305-312; then Spero and Hart Ch 7 pgs. 257-262, 268-275	
Wed, Mar 4	2016 Article, “Aid Modalities matter: The Impact of Different World Bank and IMF Programs on Democratization in Developing Countries”, <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , 60 (3):427-439 (PDF online)	
Fri, Mar 6	<i>Foreign Aid and NGOs</i>	
Mon, Mar 9	Frieden et. al Ch 30, “The Fair Trade Challenge to Embedded Liberalism” by Sean Ehrlich	
Wed, Mar 11	Review	
Fri, Mar 13	Exam 1	
Mon, Mar 16	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
Wed, Mar 18	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
Fri, Mar 20	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>	
Mon, Mar 23 - Foreign Direct Investment	Finish Spero & Hart, Chapter 4, pp. 157-175, “International Regimes for Foreign Direct Investment”	
Wed, Mar 25	NO CLASS – DR. DOWD AT CONFERENCE -Video will be posted, with a required discussion board post.	
Fri, Mar 27	NO CLASS – DR. DOWD AT CONFERENCE	Rough draft of research paper is due, 11:59pm
Mon, Mar 30 - Money and Finance	Chapter 9, “The International Monetary System” in <i>Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order</i> , by Robert Gilpin (PDF online)	NOTE: Mar 30 withdrawal deadline
Weds, Apr 1	Frieden et. al, Chapter 13, “The Impossible Trinity (aka The Policy Trilemma)”, by Joshua Aizenman, pp. 211-220	
Fri, Apr 3 -	Frieden et. al, Chapter 17, “Political System Transparency and Monetary Commitment Regimes”, by J. Lawrence Broz, p. 267-281	
Mon, Apr 6 - Financial Crises	Ch 2 Spero and Hart, p. 54-60	
Weds, Apr 8	Chapter 2, “Politics in Hard Times Revisited: The 2008-9 Financial Crisis in	

Dates	Reading Assignments/Exams	Due Dates
	Emerging Markets” in <i>Politics in the New Hard Times: The Great Recession in Comparative Perspective</i> , by Stephan Haggard (PDF available through Moffatt Library online)	
Fri, Apr 10	<i>Holiday break – no class</i>	
Mon, Apr 13 - Regulatory Reforms	Johnson, Simon. 2009. “The Quiet Coup” in <i>The Atlantic Magazine</i> , May 2009 – (PDF online)	
Weds, Apr 15	Frieden et al, Chapter 32, “The Governance of International Finance”, by Jeffry Frieden	
Fri, Apr 17	<i>The Case of Irish Recovery</i>	
Mon, Apr 20	Catch up	
Weds, Apr 22	Review	
Fri, Apr 24	Exam 2	
Methods in IPE Mon, Apr 27 – IMF and World Development Bank	Exercise involving IMF Database Cases: IMF Conditionality States in Sub-Saharan Africa	
Wed, Apr 29 - OECD	Exercise involving use of OECD Databank Cases: Strategies for Highly Developed States	
Fri, May 1 –	Presentations Group 1	
Mon, May 4	Presentations Group 2	
Wed, May 6	Presentations Group 3	
Fri, May 8	Presentations Group 4	
Week 16 – FINALS Mon, May 11	No final exam -	Final Draft of Paper Due, 11:59PM

Final course grade will be posted to D2L once all research papers are assessed.