COLLOQUIUM ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
Political Science GR8804
Fall 2019, Thursdays 10:10 am - 12:00 pm, 711 International Affairs Building

Instructor: Nikhar Gaikwad, Assistant Professor, Political Science
Campus Address: 739 International Affairs Building, 420 W 118 St.
Phone: 212-854-5921
E-mail: nikhar.gaikwad@columbia.edu
Web: www.nikhar.gaikwad.com
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00-6:00 pm or by appointment
Exception: Week 11 hours on Monday, 11/11, 4:00–6:00 pm
Sign up for office hours at: www.wejoinin.com/N.Gaikwad

Course Description

This is a survey course in international political economy. This course examines how domestic and international politics influence the economic relations between states. It will address the major theoretical debates in the field and introduce the chief methodological approaches used in contemporary analyses. We will focus attention on different types of cross-border flows and the policies and international institutions that regulate them: the flow of goods (trade policy), the flow of people (immigration policy), the flow and location of production (foreign investment policy), the flow of capital (financial and exchange rate policy), and the flow of pollution (environment policy). The goal of this course is to cover, in some depth, many of the main topics and readings in international political economy. The readings each week are designed to tackle some of the essential points of a substantive topic, as well as raise deeper methodological questions that have application to other issues and themes in the sub-field. Not coincidentally, a related goal is to partially prepare students for the IR Field Exam. To help with that, a number of recommended readings accompany each week’s topic.

Assignments and Grading

1. Participation (20%):
The principal requirement for students is to read thoroughly each of the assigned required readings for the week, and to come to seminar prepared to discuss the readings and to participate in the classroom. In particular, each week students should be prepared to:

   • Critically examine the set of arguments,
   • Appraise controversies in the literature,
   • Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the research designs employed, and
   • Identify and propose new research projects that build on the literature.

2. Critical Reviews (30%):
Students are required to choose three weeks to write short critical reviews. The reviews, limited to two single-spaced pages, should focus on two or three articles on a specific topic (articles should be from either the required or further reading list on the syllabus for a given topic), highlighting the contribution and critically evaluating the work. While papers may begin with a
(very) short summary of the readings, the main task of the paper is analysis. Focus on what you see as the strengths and weaknesses of the theory or research design; the possible intersections among the readings; and—perhaps most importantly—what theoretical issues and empirical questions for future research are raised by the readings and/or that can correct and extend the summarized work.

Each paper should be uploaded to CourseWorks in the “Assignment” folder for the respective week by Tuesday at 8 pm prior to class. You may write responses for any of the substantive weeks during the course. To evenly distribute papers across weeks, we will divide up papers and weeks during the first class session. (No papers written for Week 1 and 13).

3. Discussion Leaders (15%):

While all students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings, we will also have one or two official “discussion leaders” each week. Each student will be a discussion leader twice during the semester and should pick weeks that are different from the weeks when they submit critical reviews. The discussion leader will start that week’s class with a set of comments. There is no need to summarize extensively the readings or response papers, as everyone in the class will have received them. Rather, during the discussion you are expected to compare and contrast the arguments and evidence presented, introduce other sources and points of view, and provide your own insights. Discussion leaders’ comments are to serve as a springboard for the broader seminar discussion. Again, discussion leader duties will be assigned during the first week of the seminar.

4. Final Exam / Research Paper (35%):

In addition to regular participation, the critical reviews, and discussion leader duties, each student must select one of two options for fulfilling the remaining course requirements:

- **Option 1 (highly recommended):** Take home final exam. The closed book, written final will be in the format of the IR Field Exam, but shorter and only focused on IPE. Students will have the option of answering two out of three essay questions. The exam will be distributed to students on the morning of Friday, December 13, and must be completed within a four hour period on that day.

- **Option 2:** Research paper. Students selecting this option should write one 20-35 page paper that presents original research. The paper should be completed by Friday, December 20. Students who choose this option should meet with the instructor to discuss their topic by early-October and submit a two to three-page outline by mid-October. They should also be prepared to present an overview of their paper to the rest of the class on Thursday, December 5 in order to collect feedback and suggestions for improvement. One particularly effective strategy for this paper is a replication and extension of previously published research. This option is much more time consuming and difficult than Option 1 and is offered only for students who want to publish research in international political economy (mostly PhD political science students). Otherwise, the exam is highly recommended.

**Students with Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Disability Services (DS) center at Columbia Health. DS staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current semester in which the request is being made.
Students should contact DS as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The DS center is located at Wien Hall, Suite 108A, 411 W 116th St, Mail Code 3714, New York, NY 10027 (phone: 212-854-2388 Voice/TTY).

Readings and Schedule

Week 1 (September 5): Introduction

Required:


Week 2 (September 12): International Context, Geopolitics, and Trade Policy

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


Week 3 (September 19): Societal Coalition Models of Trade Policymaking

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 4 (September 26): Special Interest Models of Trade Policymaking**

**Required:**


**Selected Further Reading:**


**Week 5 (October 3): Domestic Institutions and Trade Policymaking**

**Required:**


**Selected Further Reading:**


**Week 6 (October 10): International Institutions and Trade Policymaking**

**Required:**


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 7 (October 17): The Political Economy of Migration Policy**

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 8 (October 24): The Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment**

**Required:**


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 9 (October 31): The Political Economy of Finance, Money and Debt**

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


Week 10 (November 7): The Political Economy of the Environment

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 11 (November 14): Globalization and Domestic Politics**

Required:


Selected Further Reading:


**Week 12 (November 21): Development and Growth**

**Required:**


**Selected Further Reading:**


**November 28 (University Holiday): NO CLASS**
Week 13 (December 5): Student Presentations/Recent Developments in IPE

Students who select to write research papers for the class will present an overview of their papers to the rest of the class in order to collect feedback and suggestions for improvement. The rest of the class will select working papers from the IPES 2019 conference program to present and discuss in class.