COURSE CODE: POLS7015B

MODULE NAME: Lauge Poulsen

Lecturer: Dr. Lauge Poulsen, l.poulsen@ucl.ac.uk

Office Hours: By appointment.

Teaching: 10 hours of lectures, 10 hours of seminars

Credits: 0.5 Course Units/ 4 US Credits/ 7.5 ECTS Credits

Assessment: Two 2,000 word essays


Attendance: Attendance is compulsory at all lectures and seminars for which students are timetabled. Attendance will be monitored and no student will be entered for assessment unless they have attended and pursued the module to the satisfaction of the department.

USEFUL LINKS

Lecture and Seminar Times:
Online Timetable at www.ucl.ac.uk/timetable

Extenuating Circumstances
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/intranet/ug/assessment/extenuating-circumstances

Penalties for Late Submission and Overlength Essays
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/intranet/ug/assessment/essays

Essay Submission Information
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/intranet/ug/assessment/essays

Essay Writing, Plagiarism and TurnItIn
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/spp/intranet/ug/assessment/essays
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/CitationPlagiarism.doc
Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of international political economy (IPE). The boundaries of the discipline have grown substantially over recent decades and now include a wide variety of topics. In this class students will focus mainly on the politics of trade and foreign investment. By the end of the course students will possess a solid understanding of IPE as a discipline and be able to answer several questions: (i) How well do IPE theories explain the politics of trade and investment? (ii) What are the limits of the current IPE research? (iii) Which areas require further investigation?

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Organization of Teaching

The course is taught through weekly lectures and seminars. Each weekly session will involve a lecture of about 50 minutes and a seminar of comparable length. Attendance at both sessions is required. The lectures will introduce broad theories and concepts, providing historical overviews of each week’s topic. They will look at relevant data, laws, and regulations, and raise questions for further discussion in the seminars. The lectures are designed to provide sufficient background for more detailed and fruitful group discussions. The seminars will cover each week’s topic in detail. The object of the seminar is to facilitate student participation and interaction as well as broaden students’ understandings of the issues and debates introduced in the lectures. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the relevant theories and concepts, apply these theories to particular policy domains, and to identify the problems or shortcomings in the literature. Each student will be expected to contribute to all seminar sessions.

Reading

This is mostly an article-based course. Students are expected to read each item listed under required and very strongly encouraged to read widely among the suggestions for further readings. Suggestions for background readings are also occasionally provided. The minimum expectation is four articles/chapters per week (i.e. the required readings are not always sufficient) but a good performance in the course requires significant engagement with the further readings as well.

Students are encouraged (but not required) to buy:


The following three books on international economic history are recommended (but not required):


The following two on intellectual history are recommended (but not required):


**Assessment**

Assessment is based on two 2,000 word essays. Essay 1 counts for 40% and essay 2 60% of the student’s mark.

Both essays must be handed into reception by 2:00pm on their respective due dates. Students must submit two hard copies, and one electronic. For precise submission guidelines visit the SPP website at [www.uel.ac.uk/spp](http://www.uel.ac.uk/spp).

While students may choose their preferred style for referencing, styles must be consistent within the essay and all references must be appropriately cited. Essays must also be double spaced, have page numbers, and include a cover page with the following information: course title, essay title, essay number and submission date. To ensure essays are marked anonymously, students should omit their names from their essays.

*A note on plagiarism.* Cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable. Students caught committing either of these breaches of conduct will be subject to the disciplinary procedures detailed in the University Handbook. Students should consult the Handbook for a comprehensive description of academic dishonesty. Students with any questions should seek clarification prior to submission of work.
**Essay Questions**

Students must choose and respond to *one* of the essay questions in the Essay One list and *one* of the essay questions in the Essay Two list. Essays that exceed the word limit will be penalised, so students are advised to structure their argument carefully. Empirical evidence and references to literature on the topic are necessary and it is expected that the essays engage with a wide range of literature from both the required and recommended readings, and perhaps beyond. There are several components to each of these questions, and students are required to respond to the question in its entirety. Note that while the policy brief options are rooted in concrete cases, they must still be answered with reference to wider literatures.

**Essay One: Due 21 February 2017, 2pm**

1. What are the costs and benefits of having trade disputes settled by the WTO rather than through diplomatic channels?
2. Policy brief: Are EU trade agreements undermining the WTO?

**Essay Two: Due 25 April 2017, 2pm**

1. Are there theoretical reasons why FDI should be more effective in promoting economic development in some circumstances than others? Back up your answer with published empirical evidence.
2. Policy brief: Do British investment treaties align with British aid policy?

**Course Outline and Reading List**

- **Week 1:**  Introduction
- **Week 2:**  Political Economy of Trade
- **Week 3:**  International Trade Policy
- **Week 4:**  International Trade Disputes
- **Week 5:**  Trade and Developing Countries
- **Week 6:**  Political Economy of Foreign Investment
- **Week 7:**  Foreign Investment Disputes
- **Week 8:**  Politics of Investment Treaties
- **Week 9:**  Trade, Investment, and the Environment
- **Week 10:** International Financial Assistance
Week I: Introduction

Why do we study international political economy? How does it differ from economics and international relations?

Required:


Further reading:


Viner, Jacob. 1948. ‘Power Versus Plenty as Objectives of Foreign Policy in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,’ World Politics 1:1.
Week II: Political Economy of Trade

How are preferences over free trade translated into policy? We assess theories of the sources of preferences over trade and, focusing on domestic politics, explore the mechanisms that may translate these preferences into trade-policy outcomes.

Required:


Further reading:


Week III: International Trade Policy

Having assessed domestic sources of demand for trade policy, what forces influence trade policy at the international level? How do these factors influence trade policy and trade flows?

Background:


Required:


Further reading:


Week IV: International Trade Disputes

Why, and how, do states file trade disputes against each other? Why are there no major concerns with non-compliance?

Required:


Further reading:


Busch, Marc. 2007. ‘Overlapping Institutions, Forum Shopping, and Dispute Settlement in International Trade,’ International Organization 61:4


Week V: International Trade and Developing Countries

Have developing countries benefited from international trade, and do the rules of the international trade regime promote sustainable development?

Required:


Further reading:


Gray, Julia. 2014. 'Domestic Capacity and the Implementation Gap in Regional Trade Agreements.' Comparative Political Studies 47:1.


Week VI: Political Economy of Foreign Investment

Multinational corporations and foreign direct investment are crucial drivers of the global economy. What are their drivers and socio-economic effects?

Required:


Further reading:


Desbordes, Rudolfe and Julien Vauday. 2007. ‘The Political Influence of Foreign Firms in Developing Countries,’ Economics & Politics 19:3.


Week VII: Foreign Investment Disputes

*How are disputes between foreign investors and states resolved? What are the costs and benefits of investment arbitration?*

**Required:**


**Further reading:**

Bonnitcha, Jonathan. 2014. ‘*Investment Treaties and Transition from Authoritarian Rule.*’ *Journal of World Investment and Trade* 15:5-6, 965-1011.


Week VIII: Politics of Investment Treaties

Why, and how, were investment treaties negotiated? What were the interests of developed and developing countries and how are the treaties changing?

Required:


Further reading:


Week IX: Trade, Investment, and the Environment

What role does globalization play for the political economy of energy and the environment? How do international regimes impact on domestic energy and environmental regulation?

Required Reading:

Further Reading:
Viñuales, Jorge. 2015. Foreign Investment and the Environment in International Law (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), ch. 1, 4-5.
Williams, Zoe. forth. 2016. xx
Week X: International Financial Assistance

Western states and international financial institutions spend billions in foreign aid and debt relief. What are the political and economic drivers of international financial assistance, and under what conditions does it ‘work’?

Background:


Required:


Further reading:


