Scope and Objectives of the Course

MC 221 is the second semester of a year-long introduction to the study of international relations. It builds upon the concepts and theories covered in MC 220 and examines alternative perspectives, ideologies and theories of international political economy. It will include coverage of: the politics of international trade, monetary and investment relations; technology development and transfer; transnational corporations, international organizations and international regimes; theories of social change, modernization and development; natural resource and international environmental constraints; and economic relations among industrialized countries and between industrialized and developing countries.

A second but nonetheless important objective of the course is to develop skills in analyzing problems and formulating policy responses. The goal is to provide structured opportunities to refine written and oral expression skills developed in the first year program at the College, with an eye toward the challenges and demands of upper division Madison courses.

Course Requirements

1) Readings - The main requirement of the course is to complete the listed readings from the following required texts:


In addition, a few additional articles and chapters are available on the Desire2Learn Course Website.

Recommended Readings:


Daly, Herman, *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996; or


Students are expected to read the assigned material prior to the session of class for which the readings are listed.

Students who are uncomfortable with their current preparation in basic economics may wish to read the following volume which is widely available:


2) There will be a trade theory quiz (due January 21), a written midterm and a final examination based on the readings and the class lectures and discussions.

3) Country Position Paper and Quiz - Each student in the class will be required to write a position paper of 10-12 pages on the general economic disposition/philosophy, foreign economic policy, sustainable development and international trade goals, interests and resulting policy stands of one country selected during the first sessions of the course. A brief quiz on the country's leadership, type of government, economic capabilities and constraints and regional commitments will take place on Tuesday, February 16. Students should be able to find the required information for this quiz in The World Factbook which is available in hard copy in the library and on the Internet, as well as in a number of other Internet and library reference sources that we shall review in class. The first (good) draft of the position paper is due on or before
Thursday, **April 14.** Students will then play the role of central decision makers for their countries in a simulation of a UNEP/WTO International Trade and Sustainable Development Conference on **April 19 and 21.** The final draft of the paper will be due on the last day of class, Thursday, **April 28.** Conversations with the instructor about the paper and readings are encouraged both during office hours (at both 358 S. Case and 304 International Center) and during extra sessions scheduled at key points during the term.

4) **Group Work and Panels** - Students enrolled in MC 221 will operate in cooperative learning groups for an important portion of their class time. These groups will vary in membership during the duration of the course and will address important theoretical and enduring policy issues. At key points in the course, **Oral Panel Presentations** will be made by the groups in order to inform the whole class on their assessments and conclusions on important controversies and issues.

**Determinants of Grades:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Country Position Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom Discussion and Group</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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**You are expected to participate actively in class discussion in a collegial manner.** Class participation is measured by the frequency and quality of your thoughtful contributions to class discussion. You **may use a laptop computer during class for class-related purposes only. Using computers or any other electronic devices for purposes not related to class (e.g. checking emails, Facebook, etc) will result in a significant reduction in your participation grade. If the problem persists, I will ban the use of computers in the classroom.**

**Honors Credit**

Students enrolled in MC 221 may receive honors credit for the course. To receive honors credit, a student must participate in an additional honors seminar/reading group on the challenge of sustainable development in the context of international economic relations. Students will meet weekly with “like-minded” students, possibly including students from other sections of MC 221 and other political economy courses at a mutually convenient time and will read and discuss (TBD e.g., Mariana Mazzucato –*The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*).

Each member of the group will then write a 5-7 page analytical paper, critiquing the key readings and discussing his or her own conception of the most viable strategies for sustainable development. These papers will then serve as a basis for a wider discussion of future global
economic scenarios in the final general sessions of MC 221 on April 22 and 24. No student whose cumulative grade is less than 3.5 in MC 221 will be eligible for honors credit.

**Academic Dishonesty**

MC 221 will be conducted according to the college's policies on academic honesty/dishonesty. If you need clarification on these policies, please speak with the instructor or the College's Director of Academic Affairs. Do keep in mind that “The Faculty Assembled (of James Madison College) recommend that in cases involving proven academic dishonesty, the student should receive, as a minimum, a 0.0 in the course and that a record of the circumstances, sanctions, and any appeal, be placed in the student’s confidential file.”

**Topics and Assignments**

I. **Introduction and Overview**

1: January 12 - Course Introduction
   A Review of Realism and Liberal Institutionalism

   Required Reading: Review your notes and readings from MC 220.

II. **Theories, Perspectives and Ideologies**

2: January 14 - What is International Political Economy?

   Required Reading:
   Acemoglu and Robinson, Preface and Ch. 1
   Recommended Reading:
   Balaam and Dillman, *Introduction to International Political Economy*, Chapter 1

3: January 19 – Mercantilism and Economic Nationalism

   Required Reading:
   Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 2
   Recommended Reading:
   Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 3
4: January 21 – Economic Liberalism

**Classical Trade Theory Quiz Due**

Required Reading:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 3

Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 2

5: January 26 - Marx and Structuralism

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 4

6: January 28 - Marx and Structuralism (Cont.)

Required Reading:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 5

7: February 2 - Alternatives Perspectives on the State and the Market

Required Reading:
Acharya, Amitav, *The End of the American World Order*, Ch. 1

Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 5

III. The History of International Economic Relations

8: February 4 – The 19th Century

Required Reading:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 4, 6&7

Recommended Reading:
Andre Gunder Frank, *ReORIENT: Global Economy in the Asian Age* esp. Ch. 4 & 6
9: February 9 - The Early 20th Century

Required Reading:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 8-11

10: February 11 - The Post-World War II Trade System
Required Reading:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 12-14

IV. International Economic Organizations/Institutions

11: February 16 – The Post War Trade System: The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade → WTO

Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 2
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 6

Country Quiz

12: February 18 - The Post-World War II Financial System, esp. the IMF

Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 3
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 7

Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 4
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 8

14: February 25 - The Global Security and Technology Structures
Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 5
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 9&10

15: March 1 – The Global Technology Structure
Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 6
15: March 3 — MIDTERM EXAMINATION

SPRING BREAK - March 7-11

V. The Politics of Economic Relations Among Industrialized Countries

16: March 15 - The European Community and Union
   Required Reading:
   Acharya, Ch. 5
   Recommended Reading:
   Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 12

17: March 17 - U.S. Foreign Economic Policy
   Required Reading:
   Timothy Jackson, Prosperity without Growth pp. xi.-16
   (on D2L)
   Recommended Reading:
   Kevin Phillips, Wealth and Democracy
   Joseph E. Stiglitz, Globalization and Its Discontents

18: March 22 - Japanese Foreign Economic Policy
   Required Reading:
   “Japanese Economic Takeoff after 1945” — posted on D2L
   Joseph S. Nye, “Why We Shouldn’t Underestimate Japan’s Economy – posted on D2L
   Recommended Reading:
   Balaam and Dillman, (Review Ch. 6)

19: March 24 - Economic and Political Transition
   Required Reading:
   (posted on D2L)
   Martin Myant and Jan Drahokoupil (2011): “Varieties of Capitalism and Transition Economies and the Financial Crisis of 2008” (posted on D2L)

   Recommended Readings:
   Anthony Giddens, The Third Way and Its Critics
   Balaam and Dilman, Ch. 13
VI. The Politics of Development and Economic Relations Between Industrial and Developing Countries

20: March 29 - Dependency and the World Economic System
Required Reading:
Acharya, Ch. 3&4
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 11
Jackson, pp. 17-33

21: March 31 - Culture and Development
Required Reading:
Francis Fukuyama, Trust (selection on D2L)
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 14
Jackson, pp. 35-47
Review Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 1-14

22: April 5 - Transnational Corporations
Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:
Jackson, pp. 49-65
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 17

23: April 7 - Energy and the Environment
Required Reading:
Gernot Wagner and Martin L. Weitzman, Climate Shock: The Economic Consequences of a Hotter Planet, Ch. 1&2
Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway, The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future, Ch. 1.
Recommended Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 19
Daniel Yergin, The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power
Jackson, pp. 67-86
24: April 12 - Demography, Migration, Food and Water
   Required Reading:
   Wagner and Weitzman, Ch. 3
   World Development Report (review your country’s demographic situation) http://wdronline.worldbank.org/
   Oreskes and Conway, Ch. 2
   Recommended Reading:
   Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 16 and 18
   Lester R. Brown and Hal Kane, Full House: Reassessing the Earth’s Population Carrying Capacity
   Joel E. Cohen, How Many People Can the Earth Support?
   Jackson, pp. 87-102

25: April 14 - Simulation Preparation
   Required Reading:
   Wagner and Weitzman, Ch. 4
   Recommended Reading:
   Jackson, pp. 103-119
   Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 18

   **Position Paper Due**

VII. Simulation
26: April 19 – WTO/UNEP Trade and Sustainable Development Conference - Day One
   Required Reading:
   Simulation Handbook and Conference Rules of Procedure
   WTO, World Bank, UNEP and UNDP Clipping Files and Websites (see esp. docs and commentary on the global climate change meetings in Bali, December 2007; see, for example, www.wto.org)
   Wagner and Weitzman, Ch. 5
   Recommended Reading:
   Herman E. Daly, Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development
27: April 21 - Trade and Sustainable Development Conference  
            - Day Two  
            Required Reading:  
            Wagner and Weitzman, Ch. 6  
            WTO, World Bank, UNEP and UNDP Clipping Files and  
               Websites  
            Recommended Reading:  
            Jackson, pp. 121-169  

VIII. Summary and Conclusion  

28: April 26 - The Future of the International  
       Economic System/Towards a Sustainable World?  
       Required Reading:  
       Oreskes and Conway, Ch. 3 and Epilogue  

Recommended Reading:  
   Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 15  
   Jackson, pp. 171-204  

29: April 28 - Summary and Conclusion  
       Required Reading:  
       Wagner and Weitzman, Ch. 7 and Epilogue  
       Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 15  
       Recommended Reading:  
       Balaam and Dillman, Ch. 20  

FINAL EXAMINATION -- Thursday, May 5, 3-5:00 pm