MC 221:003
International Political and Economic Relations

Course Summary/Objectives and Teaching Method

Some have described the Financial Crisis of 2008 as an ongoing global financial crisis that is the worst the world has seen since 1933 with the Great Depression. The crisis reached bottom in summer 2009, causing a worldwide economic decline in the global economy. After all, as of 2013, there were still 4 million fewer jobs in the U.S. than in 2008 - despite $5 trillion in federal stimulus spending. What’s more, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) calculated that the global financial crisis produced $3.4 trillion in losses for financial institutions around the world by 2010. The crisis played a significant role in the failure of key businesses, declines in consumer wealth estimated in trillions of U.S. dollars, and a downturn in economic activity leading to the 2008–2012 global recession and contributing to the European sovereign-debt crisis. Scholars have attributed this economic crisis to a down-streaming of globalization.

What does this mean? Using this crisis thematically and placing it conceptually in the context of the topic of globalization, the course answers this question by providing an introduction to the study of the international political economy. As we set out to discover the link between international economics and politics, throughout our study, we are concerned with the enduring questions that inform our understanding of
the relationship between the global production of wealth and its impact on the human condition. We are interested in an explanation of the underlying causes of political-economic change in the international arena, and in addressing the ways in which economic forces alter the international distribution of political power and resources.

The course delivery (teaching style) seeks to develop second year IR students’ skills and talents in liberal arts and social science careers by fostering your acquisition and usage of multiple research skills, including analytical and critical thinking as well as various types of communication delivery. The syllabus provides textbook as well as popular sources to acquire knowledge about the international political economy. It is also designed for your visual and interactive usage throughout the semester. Classroom sessions will combine instructor-led lectures with collaborative learning methods such as student-led group work that encourage students to actively read and collaboratively engage critically in discussion, debate and analysis of topical IPE issues of the day. There will also be individualized assignments as well as group assignments; and formal classroom instruction will be conducted utilizing effective learning technologies, including instructional audio-visual props and Desire2Learn online course management resources.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**


Euclid Tsakalotos, Christos Laskos, *Crucible of Resistance: Greece, the Eurozone and the World Economic Crisis* Pluto Press (2013)


**CODE OF CONDUCT**

** Full attendance and class participation is required. You will be penalized for unexcused absences.

** Late assignments are not encouraged; however, lose 2 points a day for up to two days for late assignments (a day begins 10 minutes after the assignment due date deadline)

**I'm sorry. I cannot accept emailed copies of assignments. Hardcopies only are accepted.
**See me for Honors Credit Assignment for this course**

**Refer to Student Handbook for Academic Honesty Policy**

**Remember that this is a 4 credit course based on JMC’s distinctive office hours model**
(this means that office hours and other professor-student sessions are highly encouraged. My office is open and I am happy to assist you in any way that I can)

**Office Hours, T,Th 10:30 am – 3:00 pm; please email me at rkedozie@msu.edu**

**GRADING SCALE:**

(you must earn your points on the minimum; there is no curving up or down)

1. at least 95 - 4.0
2. at least 90 - 3.5
3. at least 85 – 3.0
4. at least 80 – 2.5
5. at least 75 – 2.0
6. at least 70 – 1.5
7. at least 65 – 1.0

**ASSIGNMENT CATEGORIES, POINTS AND DUE DATES**

1) Two short essays - 10 * 2 = 20 points (1,500 words each essay/Veseth book & Rorick books)
2) Midterm exam- 30 points (midpoint content)
3) Final exam 30- points (after midpoint content)
4) Attendance and class participation - 20 points (including group participation and Greece book)
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PART ONE:
WHAT IS THE IPE? SCOPE, HISTORIES, AND PERSPECTIVES

WEEK 1
1/12: Overview and Orientation

Topic:
What is the International Political Economy?

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 1”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups

Why International Political Economy Is at the Heart of World Order in the 21st Century
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTSzPqSlmgk The Big Short Trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zhy1NQf2NM

1/14: Laissez-Faire: The Economic Liberal Perspective

Topic:
What is Economic Liberalism?....in Global Perspective!

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 2”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups

The Global Transformation: history, modernity and the making of international relations
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByRUyfp0fCg Print out the story and come prepared to discuss it class. DID 'THE BIG SHORT' GET IT RIGHT? BY JEFFREY A. TUCKER ON 1/2/16 http://www.newsweek.com/big-short-margin-call-steve-carell-brad-pitt-ryan-gosling-410603
Week 2
1/19: Wealth and Power: The Mercantilist Perspective

Topic:
The Wealth of Nations… Mercantalism’s History & Neomercantilism

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 3”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups.

The Global Crisis and the Crisis of European Neomercantilism Riccardo Bellofiore, Francesco Garibaldo, Joseph Halevi

The global financial crisis that erupted in, and spread out from, the United States in 2007-8 has highlighted long-standing structural faults within European capitalism, especially its neomercantilist dimension. By neomercantilism we mean the pursuit of economic policies and institutional arrangements, which see net external surpluses as a crucial source of profits. The solution to the problem of effective demand is seen as lying above all in a positive trade balance.

1/21 Economic Determinism and Exploitation: The Structuralist Perspective

Topic:
Fighting Economic Inequality: Structuralism

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 4”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups.

The Global Failure of Neoliberalism: Privatize Profits; Socialize Losses

The world has not been kind to neo-liberalism, that grab-bag of ideas based on the fundamentalist notion that markets are self-correcting, allocate resources efficiently, and serve the public interest well. It was this market fundamentalism that
underlay Thatcherism, Reaganomics, and the so-called “Washington Consensus” in favor of privatization, liberalization, and independent central banks focusing single-mindedly on inflation.

WEEK 3:
1/26 Globalization is/is not the New International Political Economy

Topic:
What is the relationship between Globalization and the International Political Economy?

Required Readings:
Michael Veseth, *Globaloney* 2005  
Introduction Chapter 1: The Globaloney Syndrome  
Chapter 2: Blame It All on Adam Smith  
Chapter 3: Michael Jordan and NBA Global Fever  
Chapter 4: The Beautiful Game and the American Exception

Assignment:
Group chapter presentations due in class!

Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared for class to discuss in class

Globaloney, 19th Century Edition [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXc_SZz3Cx4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXc_SZz3Cx4)  
Jihad vs McWorld  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZcfOQzuVw0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZcfOQzuVw0)

1/28 Globalization and the World

Topic:
Is Globalization Real?

Required Readings:
Michael Veseth, *Globaloney* 2005  
Chapter 5: Globalization as McWorld  
Chapter 6: Globalization versus Terror  
Chapter 7: Grassroots Globaloney  
Chapter 8: Globalization and the French Exception

Assignment:
Group chapter presentations and papers due in class!

Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared for class to discuss both links

PART TWO:
STRUCTURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY – TRADE, FINANCE, AND TECHNOLOGY

WEEK FOUR
2/2 Trade and the International Political Economy

Topic:
What is Trade, Free Trade, and Fair Trade in the IPE?

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 6”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:
Free Trade vs. Fair Trade https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNPkiJrk_Bw

2/4 Trade vs the International Political Economy

Topic:
Debating the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 6”

Assignment:
Debate your position on the TPP – bring in an article/video to use to support your stance – group work!
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:
The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Explained https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4juvjcRfChM
WEEK FIVE
2/9 The International Monetary and Finance Structure

Topic:
Money, Finance, and Global Capital Flows

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 7”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:

2/11: Global Capital and the Developing World

Topic:
International Debt and Developing World Economic Crisis

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 8”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:
Toxic Debt [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PodqrBvURkw] The Financial and Economic Crisis and Developing Countries [https://poldev.revues.org/144]

WEEK SIX
2/16: The European Debt Crisis

Topic:
Sovereign Debt and the EU
Required Readings:

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:

2/18: Greece as Case Study:
Sovereign Debt, Financial Crisis, Globalization, and Democracy

Topic:
The Greek Economic Crisis and the Global Economy

Required Readings:
Euclid Tsakalotos, Christos Laskos, *Crucible of Resistance: Greece, the Eurozone and the World Economic Crisis* Pluto Press (2013”, “Chapters 1-6)

2: The Greek Economy And Society On The Eve Of The Crisis 3: The Eurozone Crisis In Context 4 From Crisis To Permanent Austerity 5 The Underdogs Strike Back 6: Out Of The Mire: Arguments Within The Greek Left

Assignment:
Group presentations on Tsakalotos and Laskos book chapters 2-6
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss this in your groups:
Euclid Tsakalotos Crucible of Resistance Launch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5MXaBtDQ9s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5MXaBtDQ9s)

WEEK SEVEN
2/23 The International Political Economy of Technology

Topic:
Structuring Technology in the IPE
Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 10”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:

Globalization: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oTLyPPrZrE
What Thomas Friedman means when he says "The World is Flat" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM2BguxRSyY

2/25 Digitization and the Flattened World

Topic:
The International Political Economy of Technology

Required Readings:
Balaam & Dillman, 2014, “Chapter 10”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:

The World is Flat https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53vLQnuV9FY
Edward Snowden - The Future of Digital Security https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_bWNdpgdBc

WEEK EIGHT

3/1 Midterm Review

3/3 Midterm Exam
WEEK NINE
3/7,9 Happy Spring Break

PART THREE:
GLOBAL ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

WEEK TEN
3/15: The European Union and the Challenges of Regional Blocs

Topic:
Economic integration, trade blocks, and the IPE of the EU

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 12”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:

Emerging stronger from the crisis: the European vision [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B3zNcFYqj0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B3zNcFYqj0) The Crisis of the European Union: A Response by Jurgen Habermas Reviewed by Andrew Moravcsik

The EU is more than a classic international organization subordinate to its member states, yet less than a state with a monopoly of coercive force and a cohesive political identity. Many believe that Europeans are thereby saddled with a perpetual democratic deficit. Habermas disagrees, arguing that the EU permits its member states to better govern their societies in the face of globalization, thereby expanding, rather than shrinking, genuine democratic control. This works as long as its members share common democratic values and as long as the right to final legal adjudication lies with national, rather than EU, constitutional courts.

3/17 No Class/Model EU Debate Preparation

Topic:
The IPE of the EU Continued
WEEK ELEVEN

3/22 Model EU – A referendum on staying in or leaving the Union

Topic:
Debating EU crisis and deliberating a referendum decision

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 12”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:
- Global migration crisis in the European Union
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq_s0X_xMdc

3/24: The Development Conundrum: Choices Amidst Constraints

Topic:
The Developing World in the International Political Economy

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 11”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:
- Myths About the Developing World (1of3) (Hans Rosling @ TED)
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHhdNEKwN50
- Does Globalization Help or Hurt the World's Poor? Overview/Globalization and Poverty
WEEK TWELVE

3/29: The Emerging Markets in the Global Economy

Topic:
Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa are BRICS

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 13”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:
1. BRICS establish $100bn bank and currency pool to cut out Western dominance
   http://www.globalresearch.ca/brics-and-the-fiction-of-de-dollarization/5441301

3/31 Migration and Tourism: People on the Move

Topic:
The International Political Economy of Tourism and the Caribbean

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 16”
Movie: Life and Debt

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:
"Life and Debt" trailer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjrFHzwx5AU
WEEK THIRTEEN

4/5: The International Political Economy of South-North Migration

Topic:
The IPE of the Refugee Crisis

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 16”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:

Refugee crisis shows reality of globalization, says Germany's Schaeuble
http://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-migrants-germany-idUSKCN0S22W820151008 The influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees into Europe is part of the reality of globalization, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said on Thursday. IMF meetings tried to organize the forces of globalization "such that everyone can live with them," Schaeuble said. "In a way, with the refugee crisis we are now seeing in Germany and in Europe a meeting with the realities of globalization," he added.

4/7: The Multinational Corporation in the Global Economy

Topic:
The TNC Bigger and More Powerful Than a Nation-state

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 17”

Assignment:
Critical Thinking Icebreaker – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:

Multi-National Corporations as International Political Actors https://study.com/academy/lesson/multi-national-corporations-as-international-political-actors.html A multinational corporation (MNC) is a business that operates and conducts business activities in more than one country. Multinational corporations are major players on the world stage. They play a major role in the globalization process, which is the integration of communication systems, transportation systems, ideas, cultures and economies into one world system. This role includes trade, labor force, FDI, and foreign policy. With foreign policy; herein lies the problem.
WEEK FOURTEEN
4/12 The International Political Economy of Outsourcing

Topic:
FDI, Outsourcing, Sweatshops and Too Big to Fail?

Required Reading:
Balaam and Dillman, 2013, “Chapter 17”

Assignment:
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=miGm045YHzE Globalisation TNCs and Sweatshops
http://www.chicagonow.com/the-lowe-down/2010/05/are-governments-powerless-to-stop-major-corporations/

The first subject of the three that I wish to consider is the role of the multinational corporations (MNCs). They are both a cause and a result of the globalization process. It is now widely agreed that something called globalization has been taking place over the last half-century or so; and almost as widely accepted that it is best understood as a “rupture” of sorts (see my “Ruptures in History,” Historically Speaking, June 2011). As to what are the elements or “factors” of the process, and how they relate to one another, there is less agreement or understanding.

PART FOUR:
THE GLOBALIZATION PARADOX AND THE IPE – A COURSE REVIEW

4/14 The Globalization Paradox with Dani Rodrick

Topic:
The Globalization Paradox – The Nation State vs the Global Market
Required Reading:  

Assignment:  
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups: Dani Rodrik - The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFyi0Yy980c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFyi0Yy980c)

**WEEK FIFTEEN**  
**4/19: The International Political Economy of Democracy**

**Topic:**  
Structures and Issues Revisited – Trade, Finance and Inequality

**Required Reading:**  

**Assignment:**  
Group presentation and discussion of select chapters  
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J51M82XpvSs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J51M82XpvSs) What does globalisation mean to democracy?

**4/21: The Future of the Global Political Economy**

**Topic:**  
The Political Trilemma of the World Economy

**Required Reading:**  
Assignment:
Group presentation and discussion of select chapters
*Critical Thinking Icebreaker* – Come prepared to discuss these links in your groups: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGAYpftqVyk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGAYpftqVyk) Dani Rodrik "Sane Globalization"

**WEEK SIXTEEN**

4/26 Final Exam Review/Rodrick Paper is Due

4/28 Final Exam Review

**WEEK SEVENTEEN**

5/4 Final Exam
342 Case Hall - 7:45 am to 9:45 am