POLI 245: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

We review research on how politics shapes the foreign economic policies of nations and the collective policy choices of international organizations. Our substantive domain covers three cross-border flows and the government policies that regulate them: the flow of goods (national and international trade policies), the flow of capital (capital controls, financial regulations, exchange-rate policies, the IMF), and the flow of labor (migration policies). We also examine the relationship between the world economy and domestic politics: elections, voting behavior, public opinion, and populism.

This is a specialized graduate seminar with article-length readings that cover the substantive topics described above. We emphasize current theoretical debates and methods so as to acquaint students to how today’s scholars acquire knowledge of these subjects. We also position current articles within broader research traditions so that students will understand the trajectory of the field.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation (25%) Students will read all items on the required list (background readings can be skimmed) and come to seminar prepared to discuss them in detail. What is the variation that authors seek to explain? Why should we care about this variation? What are the authors’ explanations for this variation? What are the strengths and weakness of the research design? How do the arguments and methods of this SET of papers relate to one another?

Literature Review Essays (35%): Student will prepare four 3-5 page (double-spaced) literature review essays over the course of the quarter on four weekly topics (excluding week 1 and week 10). Background readings will help students place newer research in the context of older debates and research traditions. The goal of these essays is to track the research trajectory on a particular topic and understand why certain arguments and debates became prominent while others faded away, which is useful for comprehensive exams. Due date: 24 hours before the topic is discussed in seminar. These assignments cannot be co-authored.

Original Idea Paper (40%) Students will prepare a 12-15 page paper containing an original idea that could serve as the key insight for a publishable work. Your original idea may be a theoretical contribution, an improvement in research design, an empirical innovation, or some combination. Regardless of the nature of your contribution, all papers need a clear motivation from a critique of the existing literature. You may co-author this particular paper assignment with one other student in the seminar. Co-authored papers will be graded jointly but will require a higher level of elaboration and quality. Due Date: A preliminary, one-page proposal is due
fourth week, at the beginning of class. The final paper is due Wednesday of finals week by 5:00 pm.

**Late Policy:** All late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 letter grade per day, including weekend days (e.g., one day late reduces a B to a B-).

**WEEK 1: GLOBALIZATION AND HISTORY**


**Background Reading:**


WEEK 2: SECTORS & FACTORS, INDIVIDUALS & FIRMS


Background Reading:


WEEK 3: TRADE AND ELECTIONS


Background Reading:


WEEK 4: TRADE AND POPULISM (one-page “Original Idea” proposal due)


Background Readings


WEEK 5: TRADE POLICY INSTITUTIIONS


Kim, Minju. 2021. “How Bureaucrats Represent Economic Interests: Partisan Control over Trade Adjustment Assistance.” Job Market Paper. Note: Minju Kim is a CCD Postdoctoral Fellow this year, so look her up if you are interested in her research!
Background Readings


WEEK 6: MIGRATION


Background readings
Borjas, George J. 1999. "Heaven's Door: Immigration Policy and the American Economy.” Princeton University Press. [Read Chapters 1 and 4 carefully; skim the others].


WEEK 7: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT


Li, Quan and Adam Resnick. 2003. “Reversal of Fortunes: Democratic Institutions and Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to Developing Countries.” International Organization 57 (1): 175-211.


Background Reading


**WEEK 8: INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & EXCHANGE RATES - INTERESTS**


**Background Readings:**


**WEEK 9: INTERNATIONAL FINANCE & EXCHANGE RATES – INSTITUTIONS**


**Background Reading**


WEEK 10: NEW TOPICS


Feng, Alan, and Haishi Li. 2021. “We Are All in the Same Boat: Financial Spillovers of Climate Risk Through International Trade and Supply Chains.” IMF Working Paper. Note: Harry Li is a CCD Postdoctoral Fellow this year, so look him up if you are interested in his research!


"Original Idea" paper due by 5:00 pm on Wednesday of finals week.