POLI 245: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

This seminar examines new research in international political economy to gain insight into how domestic and international politics shape foreign economic policies 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, and international bailouts), and the flow of labor (migration policies). We also examine the relationship between the world economy and national elections, voting behavior, and public opinion.

This is a specialized graduate seminar with article-length readings that cover the substantive topics described above. We emphasize current theoretical debates and aim to expose students to the chief methods by which today’s scholars acquire knowledge of the subject. We sample from economics and political science and look for gains from interdisciplinary exchange.

REQUIREMENTS

Participation (25%) Students will read all items on the list and come to seminar each week prepared to discuss them in detail. These questions may help you prepare for the discussion: (1) Which outcome(s) is the author seeking to explain? (2) What is this author(s) main argument? (3) Where does this reading fit into the literature and how does it seek to contribute? (4) What is the nature of the research design and findings? What are the strengths and weaknesses?

Discussion leaders: While all students are expected to come prepared each week, two or three students will be assigned to introduce and lead each session. In the past, students have found it useful to coordinate their presentations and use slides to convey their main points.

Critical Review Paper (30%) Students will prepare a critical review paper on a research question derived from any weekly topic heading (e.g. "Trade and Democracy"). This paper will be between 5-7 double-spaced pages and must emphasize your own ideas. Please do not write a purely sequential literature review of the separate works covered on the list. The thrust must be on articulating your own original critique and synthesis of the set of readings. What is the central research question driving research in this area of the field? What are the conceptual, theoretical, and empirical issues in this area and how would you go about correcting those flaws? Due Date: Week 7 at the beginning of class.

Original Idea Paper (45%) You will prepare a 13-16 page paper containing an original idea that could serve as the key insight for a potentially publishable work. Your "new 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 I will expect a higher level of elaboration and quality in the final project. Due Date: A preliminary, one-page proposal is due the fourth week of class at the beginning of class. The final paper is due Wednesday of finals week by 5:00 pm.

All late work will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 letter grade per day, including weekend days.

WEEK 1: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY


WEEK 2: TRADE POLICY PREFERENCES


**WEEK 3: TRADE AND DEMOCRACY**


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


WEEK 5: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE INSTITUTIONS


WEEK 6: MIGRATION


WEEK 7: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (“Critical Review” paper due)


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.


WEEK 8: CAPITAL MOBILITY, EXCHANGE RATES, AND THE IMF


WEEK 9: POLICY LINKAGES


WEEK 10: NEW TOPICS


Keohane, Robert O. and David G. Victor. 2016. “Cooperation and Discord in Global Climate Policy.” Nature Climate Change. Published online 09 May 2016


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