POLI 245: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

We review new research on how politics shape both the individual 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 \textit{goods} (national and international trade policies), the flow of \textit{capital} (capital controls, financial regulations, exchange-rate policies, the IMF), and the flow of \textit{labor} (migration policies). We also examine the relationship between the world economy and national elections, voting behavior, public opinion and, of course, populism.

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

REQUIREMENTS

\textbf{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 the 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 methodological strengths and weaknesses? \textbf{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.

\textbf{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 Elections"). This paper will be between 5-7 double-spaced pages and must emphasize your own ideas. Please do not write a 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. \textbf{Due Date:} Week 7 at the beginning of class.

\textbf{Original Idea Paper (45\%)} Students 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. \textbf{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.

**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 moves your grade to a B- from a B).

**WEEK 1: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**


Your assignment is to watch Irwin’s [hour-long presentation](#) (skip intro). His slides are [here](#).


**WEEK 2: TRADE POLICY PREFERENCES**


WEEK 3: TRADE AND ELECTIONS


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


**WEEK 5: 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**


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