POLI 245: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

We review research on how politics shapes 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 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 national 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 so as to expose students to the chief methods by which 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 list and come to seminar each week prepared to discuss them in detail. What is the variation that authors’ seek to explain (i.e., the dependent variable)? Why should we care about this variation? What are authors’ explanations for this variation (i.e., independent variables)? What are the strengths and weakness of each author’s research design? How do authors’ arguments and methods relate to one another?

Literature Review Essays (35%): Student will prepare five 3-5 page (double-spaced) literature review essays over the course of the quarter on five weekly topics (excluding week 1 and week 10). Background readings assigned for weeks 2-9 will help students place newer research in the context of older debates and research traditions in IPE. The goal of these review essays is to track the research trajectory on a particular topic and understand why certain arguments and debates became prominent while others faded away. 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 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: GLOBALIZATION AND HISTORY**


**WEEK 2: INDIVIDUALS, FIRMS, INDUSTRIES, AND FACTORS**


**Background Readings:**


**WEEK 3: TRADE AND ELECTIONS**


Background Readings:


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


Background Readings


WEEK 5: INSTITUTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ARGUMENTS


Background Readings


WEEK 6: MIGRATION


**Background readings**


**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: CAPITAL MOBILITY AND EXCHANGE RATES**


Background Readings:


WEEK 9: INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS


Background Reading


WEEK 10: NEW TOPICS


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