

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

International Political Economy

Lecturer:

Dr. Alisa Rubin Peled peleda@idc.ac.il

Tutors:

Dr. Alisa Rubin Peled peleda@idc.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4300	Lecture	3	3

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	212430001	English

Course Description

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The goal of this course is to provide students with a broad knowledge of the leading theoretical approaches and major issues in the field of international political economy (IPE) in order to develop a deeper understanding of current world affairs. The course begins by defining international political economy and introducing the main theoretical perspectives (mercantilism, liberalism, structuralism, and recent theoretical developments). The course then explores several of the leading issues in IPE, including: international trade, international financial flows and monetary relations, foreign direct investment (FDI) and the role of transnational corporations and the environment. Next, the course explores the political economy of several countries and regions, including Great Britain, the United States, Russia, China and India. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on applying the theoretical concepts to current IPE issues, including writing (with the intention of publishing) an op-ed, participating in in-class debates and exercises as well as hearing guest speakers on relevant current issues.

Course Goals

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance at lectures and class participation is important in order to succeed in this class. Complete academic integrity is required of all students.

Grading

Grade Components

Participation—presence and participation in in-class debates and exercises and online forums (10%)

Op-ed (20%) + 2 bonus points in the final grade for publication

Final exam—Take Home (70%)

Lecturer Office Hours

Instructor: Dr. Alisa Rubin Peled

Office hours: Thursday, 15:15-16:15 (via zoom) and in PE 311 (Psychology Building, 3rd floor)

Link to the office hours: Join URL: <https://idc-il.zoom.us/j/86153251368>

e-mail:

Teaching Assistant

Teaching Assistant: Avi Jager

E-mail: avi123jag@gmail.com

Reading List

Bibliography

Each week, the readings for the next class meeting and recitation will be announced in class and will appear under "what's new" on the website. All required readings will be uploaded to the course website. Recommended readings will not be included on the final examination. The due dates for all assignments will also be posted on the website under "what's new."

Main Course Texts/Journals

1. Balaam, David N. and Veseth, Michael. *Introduction to International Political Economy*. 4th edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. (Balaam and Veseth)
2. Wild, John J. et al. *International Business*. 3rd Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2006. (Wild)
3. *The Economist* (weekly journal of business and politics) www.economist.com
4. *New York Times* (a leading US daily newspaper) <https://www.nytimes.com/>

Recommended Texts/Websites

1. Gilpin, Robert. *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2001. (Gilpin)
2. Levitin, Daniel J. *A Field Guide to Lies*. New York: Dutton, 2016. (can be downloaded online)
3. Harari, Yuval Noah. *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (London: Penguin Random House, 2018).

Course Topics and Readings

I. Theoretical Perspectives on International Political Economy

- Definition of International Political Economy
- Mercantilism and Economic Nationalism
- Liberal Perspective
- Structuralist Perspective
- Critical Perspectives (rational choice, environmental, feminist, postmodern)

Required Readings:

1. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 2, "Wealth and Power: Mercantilism and Economic Nationalism," pp. 21-36)
2. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 3, "Laissez-Faire, Laissez-Passer: The Liberal IPE Perspective," pp. 37-56)
3. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 4, "Marx, Lenin and the Structuralist Perspective," pp. 62-80)

Recommended Readings:

1. Gilpin (Chapters 1-5, pp. 3-128)--excellent discussion of main theoretical debates in the field) (IDC Library: 337 GIL)
2. Selections from *Foreign Affairs* (Jul/Aug 2018, Vol. 97 Issue 4)—"Which World are We Living In? (Realist, Liberal, Marxist)
3. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 5, "Alternative Perspectives of International Political Economy," pp. 81-98)

II. Major Issues in International Political Economy

- International Trade
- International Finance
- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Transnational Corporations (TNCs)
- Impact of the Environment on IPE

Required Readings:

1. Wild (Chapter 6, "Business-Government Trade Relations," pp. 177-202)
2. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 7, "A Beginner's Guide to International Finance," pp. 143-165)
3. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 17, "Transnational Corporations: In the Hurricane's Eye," pp. 364-385)
4. Balaam and Veseth (Chapter 20, "The Environment: The Green Side of IPE," pp. 432-454)

Recommended Readings:

1. "Thirsty Planet: Special Report, Water" (*The Economist*, March 2, 2019)
2. Balaam and Veseth (Chapters 6-8)
3. Gilpin (Chapters 8-11)

III. The Changing Relationship between the Firm and the State around the World

- Great Britain
- United States
- China
- India
- Russia
- Regional Surveys: Middle East, East Asia, Latin America and Africa

Required Readings:

1. Zakaria (Chapter 4, "The Challenger" (China), pp. 100-144.
2. "The Capitalist Charade," (Chapter 8, pp. 156-176) in Michael Pillsbury, *The Hundred-Year Marathon: China's Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower* (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2016)
3. "Return to Centre: Special Report, China's Belt and Road" (*The Economist*, February 8, 2020)
4. Zakaria (Chapter 5, "The Ally" (India), pp. 145-183)
5. "A New Kind of Cold War: Special Report, China and America" (*The Economist*, May 18, 2019)
6. Selected readings from *The Economist*, TBA (to be announced)

Recommended Readings:

1. "China vs. America: Managing the Next Clash of Civilizations," Graham Allison, *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2017)
2. Selections from *Poorly Made in China*, Paul Midler (Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley, 2009 and 2011)
3. "The Post-American World Economy," Adam Posen, *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2018)
4. Yergin, Daniel and Joseph Stanislaw. *The Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World Economy*. New York: Touchstone, 2002 (Excellent source to review historical development of the relationship between market and state in various regions and countries) (IDC Library: 338.9 YER)

IV. Toward the Future: Recent Developments and New Models

- The Impact of the Coronavirus Epidemic: The Future of Democracy and Liberalism in an Era of Economic and Political Crisis
- China vs. America: The New Global Order
- The Impact of Inequality and Migration
- The Activity of Terrorist Groups on Social Media Platforms

Required Readings:

1. Selected chapters from Yuval Noah Harari, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* (London: Penguin Random House,

2018).

2. Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism* (London: Profile Books, 2019), pp. 495-525
3. "The Visible Hand: A Special Report on State Capitalism" (*The Economist*, January 21, 2012).
4. "Taming Leviathan: A Special Report on the Future of the State" (*The Economist*, March 19, 2011)
5. "The Magic of Migration: Special Report, Migration" (*The Economist*, November 16, 2019)
6. Fringe Groups Splinter Online After Facebook and Twitter Bans, by Sheera Frenkel (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/11/technology/fringe-groups-splinter-online-after-facebook-and-twitter-bans.html>).
7. The Extremists, Conspiracy Theorists, And Conservative Stars Banned From Social Media Following The Capitol Takeover, by Jack Brewster (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jackbrewster/2021/01/12/the-extremists-conspiracy-theorists-and-conservative-stars-banned-from-social-media-following-the-capitol-takeover/?sh=e628ddd68c4f>).
8. Far-right groups move online conversations from social media to chat apps — and out of view of law enforcement, by Gerrit De Vynck and Ellen Nakashima (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/01/15/parler-telegram-chat-apps/>).

Recommended Readings:

1. Katherine Boo, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity* (New York: Random House, 2012).
2. "The Economist at 175: Reinventing Liberalism for the 21st Century," (*The Economist*, September 15, 2018)
3. Sarah Smarsh, *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* (New York: Scribner, 2018)