

San Jose State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 155: Wealth of Nations, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

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| Instructor: | Dr. Sergio Béjar-López |
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| Email: | Sergio.Bejar@sjsu.edu (preferred method of contact) |
| Office Hours: | M & W 12:00 – 1:00 PM |
| Class Days/Time: | MW 1:30-2:45 PM |
| Classroom: | DMH 149A |

Course Description

This course examines how states, international and multinational bodies, and global social movements shape trade, financial, and labor relations. Topics include: international trade and protectionism, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, regional integration, and transnational corporations.

Detailed Course Description

This course will help students to develop a conceptual and empirical background that is necessary to understand globalization and the changes taking place in the international economy. Our main focus will be to critically analyze some of the most important issues in the current international economic system. At a broader level, we will study topics such as the politics of trade policy, foreign direct investment, financial crises, and the future of the global economic system. More specifically, we will also analyze the politics of trade conflict at the GATT/WTO, trade reforms in developing countries, the role of multinational corporations in the world economy, the role of international financial institutions like the IMF, and debates over outsourcing and financial crises. For each topic, we will analyze different theoretical explanations and a variety of historical and contemporary examples.

Communication and Office Hours

YOU MUST CHECK YOUR CANVAS PAGE ROUTINELY. Please feel free to contact me at sergio.bejar@sjsu.edu. I will respond to every email within 24 hours, and often sooner. Do not wait to contact me until the last minute to email me about a paper or an exam; I receive many, many emails before deadlines and exams, and may not be able to email you back immediately.

Office hours are a great opportunity for you to get additional feedback on your work or just continue a conversation that we began during class – please use them!

Political Science Learning Outcomes

Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.

Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand how politics and economics intersect to produce different policies and outcomes;
- 2) Identify the most important issues in the current economic system;
- 3) Evaluate the outcomes of globalization and other economic policies;
- 4) Compare and contrast different theoretical explanations of phenomena occurring in the international economy.

Students will satisfy these requirements through a combination of exams, in-class group discussions, and written papers.

Course Workload Expectations: Succeeding in a Four-Unit Course

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. Because this is a **four-unit course**, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week, in addition to time spent in class, on scheduled tutorials, assignments, or activities. This additional unit will allow for more in-depth investigation and engagement with course topics. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Required readings

1. Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*, 3rd ed. (New York: Pearson, 2019).

You can purchase the required textbook either at the SJSU bookstore or online.

Students will also be required to read numerous academic papers and newspaper articles that will be available on Canvas. You do not have to read the entire journal article unless you want to. In fact, I will provide the page numbers in the journal-length articles that you are expected to read for each class. The reading load for this course is thus fairly light. Because the reading load is less, I expect students to read the material carefully and participate constructively in class.

In addition, you need to either buy an i>clicker (SJSU bookstore) or set an electronic device that you can use as your clicker (i.e. cell-phone). You will find more instructions about his below.

Expectations & Course Activities

You are fully responsible for your performance in the course. I expect you to fulfill the course requirements to the best of your ability. You should come to class prepared to engage in discussions that will touch on the readings listed in the schedule below. Therefore, it is best if you do the reading in the textbook *before* the dates shown. With much information conveyed in class it is difficult to receive a good grade if you choose not to do the readings and/or attend lectures. Politics is a live field of study, and there are always current events across the world that we can link to our readings and discussions, so time will be devoted to discuss such events.

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are highly recommended. Attendance at lectures has always been a good predictor of a student's performance on exams. If you miss class, you are expected to get notes from a fellow student – 'private make-up lectures' with the professor **will not take place**.

Courtesy, active listening, and participation will make this course a more enjoyable and productive experience for you and for others. Please plan to dedicate your full attention to the discussion and activities of class.

Policy on Technology in the Classroom

1. Computers, tablets, cell phones, etc. may be used for note-taking only in lecture, or to look something up at the request of the professor. Please do all of your emailing and Facebook and twittering and snapchatting and so on outside of lecture.
2. Students should not use text or use cell phones in class. I strictly enforce this rule. If you don't want me to continuously stop class to ask people to put phones away, please refrain from using them!

Course Requirements

Grades in the course will be based on the following items:

- Two midterm exams (30% each)
- i>clicker participation 15%
- In-Class Group Activities 10%
- Policy/Executive Briefing 15%

Two In-Class Midterm Exams (30% each)

You must sit in these exams at the scheduled time. There will be no make-up exams unless you have a documented medical excuse. Make travel plans accordingly. The exams will include material presented both in the reading and in the lectures.

Policy/Executive Briefing (15%)

You will work on a globalization case study: The Future of Money: Give Bitcoin a Chance? Your job is to prepare a two-page executive briefing offering a recommended course of policy action for the case study, due in class on May 16th.

Policy Briefing Primer: You should use the following template (which we will discuss in further detail in class this semester) to write your two-page policy briefing.

1. Bottom line: Your policy briefing should offer a recommended course of action for the case study.
2. Coherent Story: Your briefing should have an introduction, body, and conclusions, just like a paper.
3. Introduction: What is the problem? Why is it important? What is your one-sentence bottom-line?
4. Body: You should explicitly identify your policy recommendations and their expected effect. Why is your proposed course of action better than alternative policy solutions? Make

sure to outline concrete, alternative actions and present supporting evidence for your policy choice.

5. Conclusion: What are the broader implications of your recommendations?

Please see below for some sample questions from the first case, 'The Future of Money: Give Bitcoin a Chance?.'

1. What would be the relative costs and benefits of adopting Bitcoin compared to using more traditional paper currencies backed by gold, silver, or central banks (i.e. gold standard, Bretton Woods, and today's Bretton Woods junior system)? Could Bitcoin provide a successful medium of exchange? Would it offer a reliable store of value?
2. What are the policy implications of a potential economy-wide adoption of Bitcoin? Does it increase or decrease the likelihood of currency volatility, inflation, and speculative bubbles?

i>clicker Participation (15%)

During most lectures, there will be questions on the reading(s) and assigned podcasts/videos to be answered by students with i>clickers. Responses will help the professor focus the lecture on concepts that are poorly understood by the students. i>clicker questions can be asked from minute one and until the end of class. You will not be able to make-up for any of the missed questions, so plan to arrive early to class.

Bring your clicker to every lecture class. Each student must bring his/her own i>clicker to every lecture this term. Physical i>clickers or i>clicker GO are acceptable options. o NOTE: i>clicker GO is a mobile app for your phone/laptop. If a student chooses this option, he/she is responsible for costs and any internet access issues.

Instructions to set your i>clicker up can be found in the following link:

<https://engineering.sjsu.edu/e10/wp-content/uploads/iClicker-Account-Setup-Guide-Student.pdf>

In-class Group Activities (10%)

There will be a total of five (5) in-class group activities during the semester. The only task you need to do in order to earn these points is to show up to class and participate in those exercises. The dates for these activities will not be announced, so you need to attend classes regularly if you'd like to earn these "free" points.

Grading and Written Work Policies

A plus = 97-100%; A = 93-96.9%; A minus = 90-92.9%
B plus = 87-89.9%; B = 83-86.9%; B minus = 80-82.9%
C plus = 77-79.9%; C = 73-76.9%; C minus = 70-72.9%
D plus = 67-69.9%; D = 63-66.9%; D minus = 60-62.9%
F = 59.99% - 0%

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

I expect my students to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this.

Late Work

Missed exams may be re-taken under the following circumstances only:

- 1) Death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, or child) within 2 weeks before the exam.
- 2) Unforeseeable medical emergency affecting yourself, your spouse, or your child (something beyond feeling under the weather---car accident, major sickness, or the like).
- 3) Participation in an official SJSU-sponsored academic or sporting event.

In the case of reasons (1) or (3), you must give me at least 24 hours advance notice (such as an e-mail or phone call) that you will miss the exam or it may not be made up. I may require supporting documentation. Conflicts with a work schedule and leaving for a non-academic trip or vacation are not an excuse to miss an exam or any other assignment in this class; I suggest that you consult the course schedule in advance and drop the course if you cannot be present for the classes and assignments.

Each day a paper is late will result in a drop of 5 percentage points, e.g., 95% to a 90%, etc.

All work is late if submitted after the date and time specified as the due date, **even if only one minute late**. The number of days late is counted from the due date and time. To ensure fairness (particularly in a large class), this policy will be strictly enforced.

Extra-Credit

There will be NO extra-credit opportunities. If you are looking for a course that allows students to make-up points lost in exams or assignments, this class is not for you.

University Policies

Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs **maintains university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc.**”

You may find all syllabus related University Policies and resources information listed on GUP’s Syllabus information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

Tentative Course Schedule

| Week | Topics and Readings |
|-------------|--|
| January 28 | Overview and course requirements |
| January 30 | What is International Political Economy? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oatley, Chapter 1.• The Economist. (2016). “Temporary relief: Greece gets its bail-out.” May 28.• The Economist. (2016). “The Roots of Euroskepticism,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally March 12.• Listen to “Brexit” podcast (~20 minutes): http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2016/06/22/483142244/episode-707-brexit |
| February 4 | The WTO and the World Trade Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oatley, Chapter 2.• Bown, Chad. (2016). “The sky fell on the U.S. poultry industry last year. But NAFTA and the TPP helped protect U.S. exports.” Washington Post, Monkey Cage, August 30.• Listen to Planet Money Podcast: The Cotton Wars (October 29, 2010): http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/05/03/180912847/episode-224-the-cotton-wars |
| February 6 | The Political Economy of Trade Cooperation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oatley, Chapter 3.• Chrystia Freeland. July 2011. “Winners and Losers in the Apple Economy.” Reuters, U.S. edition. http://blogs.reuters.com/chrystia-freeland/2011/07/01/winners-and-losers-in-the-apple-economy/• The Economist. (2016). “The economic consequences,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally April 9. |
| February 11 | Who is Against Immigration? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayda, Anna Marie. 2006. Who is Against Immigration? A Cross Country Investigation of Individual Attitudes Toward Immigrants The Review Of Economics and Statistics 88(3): 510-30. |
| February 13 | A Society-Centered Approach to the Politics of Trade <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oatley, Chapter 4. |

| Week | Topics and Readings |
|-------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/06/21/194326482/episode-467-tiretaxes-and-the-grizz |
| February 18 | <p>A State-Centered Approach to the Politics of Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oatley, Chapter 5. The Economist. (2013). “The Entrepreneurial State.” August 31. Listen to “The Chicken Tax” http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/06/12/414029929/episode-632-the-chicken-tax |
| February 20 | <p>Trade and Development I: Import Substitution Industrialization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oatley, Chapter 6. Listen to http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/01/08/168871212/episode-428-turning-aboomtown-into-a-real-town |
| February 25 | <p>Trade and Development II: Economic Reform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oatley, Chapter 7. Listen to http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2013/05/14/184019151/episode-458-bangladeshs-t-shirt-economy Listen to Where to Hide 50,000 Euros: http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/07/17/423895962/episode-639-where-to-hide50-000-and-other-stories-from-greece Jolly and Irwin (2015). "Swiss Franc Soars After Central Bank Drops Cap," NY Times, Jan. 15, 2015. http://nyti.ms/1zgVNfg |
| February 27 | <p>The Politics of Multi-National Corporations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oatley, Chapter 9. The Economist. (2016). “A matter of business,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally April 16. Scott, Mark. (2016). “Ireland Doesn’t Want Apple’s Back Taxes, but the Irish Aren’t So Sure.” New York Times, Sept. 11. • Listen to http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/460/retraction |
| March 4 | <p>Review for Midterm Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None! Study for the Exam ☺ Work hard to avoid the sirens or other problems. |
| March 6 | <p>Mid-term Exam</p> |

| Week | Topics and Readings |
|----------|---|
| | Covers Material from Lectures 1-10 |
| March 11 | <p>Political Economy Through the Music of Bob Marley READING ASSIGNMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marley Bob and King Sporty. 1983. "Buffalo Soldier." • Marley Bob, 1980. "Redemption Song." • Marley, Bob. 1973. " I shot the Sheriff." • Marley, Bob. 1976. "War." • Marley, Bob. 1977. "One Love/People Get Ready." • Ford, Vincent. 1974. "No, Woman, No Cry." |
| March 13 | <p>The Political Economy of Remittances READING ASSIGNMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singer, David Andrew. 2010. "Migrant Remittances and Exchange Rate Regimes in the Developing World," American Political Science Review 104(2): 307-323. |
| March 18 | <p>The International Monetary System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 10. • Listen to http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/08/19/139791374/the-frid-podcasts-witzerlands-too-strong-for-its-own-good Listen to http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/07/08/421228146/episode-637-the-last-euro-in-greece |
| March 20 | <p>Contemporary International Monetary Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 11. |
| March 25 | <p>A Society-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange-Rate Regimes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 12. • The Economist. (2016). "Where does the buck stop?" August 13. • The Economist. (2016). "Two out of three ain't bad." August 27. • Watch http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/425748/april-23-2013/austerity-s-spreadsheet-error • |
| March 27 | <p>A State-Centered Approach to Monetary and Exchange-Rate Regimes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 13. • The Economist. (2013). "Monetary policy after the crash: Controlling interest," September 21. • The Economist. (2015). "A tight squeeze: Rich-world governments will not |

| Week | Topics and Readings |
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| | have much 10 wriggle room when the next crisis strikes.” Jun 13. |
| April 8 | TBD |
| April 10 | Developing Countries and International Finance I: The Latin American Debt Crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 14. |
| April 15 | Developing Countries and International Finance II: A Decade of Crises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley, Chapter 15. • Listen to http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/10/14/141365144/friday-podcast-theprice-of-default • Read http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/10/19/141499114/argentinas-default-contd |
| April 17 | Global Financial Crises <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch “How the euro caused the Greek crisis.” Vox.com, July 2, 2015 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULQiCN0YNmw . • Listen to: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/355/the-giant-pool-ofmoney • Listen (again) to “Continental Breakup” podcast http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radioarchives/episode/455/continental-breakup • Eichengreen, Barry. (2012). “When Currencies Collapse,” Foreign Affairs, January/February. • The Economist. (2016). “Minsky’s Moment.” July 30. • The Economist. (2016). “If it were done,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally June 4. • Listen to “Yes or No” podcast: http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/07/01/419238213/episode-636-yes-or-no |
| April 22 | The European Monetary Union <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MacNamara, Kathleen R. 2008. A rivalry in the Making? The Euro and International Monetary Power. <i>International Political Economy</i> 15(3): 439-459. |
| April 24 | Regional Economic Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nedal, Dani. 2013. |
| April 29 | The BRIC Economies and the Emerging Global Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goldman Sachs. 2003. “Dreaming with BRICs: The Path to 2050” <i>Global Economics Paper</i> no. 99. |

| Week | Topics and Readings |
|--------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Economist</i> (Print edition), April 15th 2010. “The BRICs: The trillion-dollar club.” <u>Read full article.</u> <p>Daniel W. Drezner. March/April 2007. “The New World Order,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> Vol. 86, No.2. <u>Read pages 34-41.</u></p> |
| May 1 | <p>Globalization Consequences & Controversies I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oatley. Chapter 16. |
| May 6 | <p>Globalization Consequences & Controversies II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Economist. (2016). “Beyond the fringe,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally June 11. • Watch “Brexit: What happens when Britain leaves the EU.” Vox.com, June 25, 2016. <u>http://www.vox.com/2016/6/23/12021222/brexit-what-happens-next</u> • The Economist. (2016). “Let them not come,” in Brexit Briefs. Originally April 2. • Matthews, Dylan. (2013). “Five things economists know about immigration.” Washington Post, Wonkblog, January 28. <u>http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2013/01/29/five-things-economists-know-about-immigration/</u> • Listen to: <u>http://www.npr.org/sections/money/2015/08/14/432285154/episode-645-howto-stop-an-asteroid</u> • Mankiw, Greg. (2007). “Climate Change as Repeated Prisoners Dilemma,” April 14. <u>http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/2007/04/case-for-small-carbon-tax.html</u> |
| May 8 | <p>Review for Midterm 2</p> <p>None! Study for the Exam 😊 Work hard to avoid the sirens or other problems.</p> |
| May 13 | <p>Midterm Exam 2</p> <p>Covers material from lectures 13-27</p> |
| May 16 | <p>Policy Briefing due in Class</p> |