



Course Profile

Degree Program:

- ECE-Electrical & Computer Engineering
- ME -Mechanical Engineering
- General Courses for Both ECE & ME Degree Programs

Course Name:

Politics of International Economic Relations

Course Code: VR369

Course Credits: 3

Course Category: Required Elective

Terms Offered:

- Fall
- Spring
- Summer 2014-2015

Course Pre/Co-requisites: None

Instructor:

Name: Dr. Sam Ro
Email: soong-chul.ro@sjtu.edu.cn
Room: Room 411, Law School North Building
Office Hour:

Teaching Assistant:

Name: Mr. Hanrunyu Yan
Email: yanhanry@sjtu.edu.cn
Office Hour: TBA

Class Time and Location:

Tuesday	12.10-13.50	Dong Xia Yuan(F) 101
Thursday	12.10-13.50	Dong Xia Yuan(F) 101

Textbook:

- *Oatley, T. (2012) *International Political Economy* (5th edition). New York: Pearson.
- Spero, J. E. and J. A. Hart (2010) *The Politics of International Economic Relations* (7th edition). Boston: Wadsworth.
- Dicken, P. (2011) *Global Shift* (6th edition) London: Sage.
(online resources <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/dicken6/default.htm>)

Internet Resources:

SJTU library's electronic resources (<http://www.lib.sjtu.edu.cn/view.do?id=1383>) provide a very wide range of resources helpful for your projects. Journal articles available through **JSTOR** or **EBSCO – Academic Source Complete (ASC)** in this list will be very useful. In addition, empirical data can be found online from the websites of international organisations, news providers and individual companies. Some examples are shown below.

Newspapers: (A regular interest in business/financial/economy/market section of any prominent news providers will be very helpful for this course)

Bloomberg <http://www.bloomberg.com/> **Wall Street Journal:** <http://asia.wsj.com/home-page>

The Economist <http://www.economist.com/> **Financial Times** <http://www.ft.com/home/asia>

Forbes <http://www.forbes.com> **Reuters** <http://www.reuters.com/sectors/financials>

Yahoo Finance: <http://finance.yahoo.com/> **The Motley Fool:** <http://www.fool.com/>

UNCTAD: <http://www.unctad.org/en/>; **UNIDLO:** <http://www.unido.org>;

UNDP: <http://www.undp.org>; **ILO:** <http://www.ilo.org>

OECD: <http://www.oecd.org> **World Trade Organisation (WTO):** <http://www.wto.org/>

World Bank (WB): <http://www.worldbank.org>

International Monetary Fund (IMF): <http://www.imf.org/>

Focus on Trade <http://www.focusweb.org/focus/pd/apec/list.html>

Trade Agreements Database (TARA) <http://www.mac.doc.gov/tcc/data/index.html>

Index of Economic Freedom <http://www.heritage.org/index/>

Data on the net: <http://3stages.org/idata/>

* Anonymous sources, including Wikipedia, may be helpful at the start but students are required to trace the sources of information found in such internet websites to evaluate the quality of information in their final analysis.

Grading Policy:

Midterm exam (week 7)	25%
Final exam (week 13)	25%
Quizzes (unannounced throughout the semester)	20%
Discussion and participation	30%

There will be three assignments and discussions based on the topics of the lecture.

Students will be asked to find relatively current information through online news relevant to the discussion topic of the lecture (loosely based on policy analysis and debate in the text book) and write short essays (approximately 500 words) based on the news.

Assignments (15%) and participation (15%) scores are individual-based but to facilitate discussion, 5-6 Students will form a group and the group will choose one country case for each assignment.

Below are some examples of the topics:

1. What motivates governments to take particular policies in relation to trade, investment and monetary arrangements?
Discuss in relation to establishing RTAs, support of WTO, regulation on trade and investment, protectionism and industrialization, exchange rates regime; and in relation to the domestic interest groups and the domestic and international political goals of the state
2. Are certain policies better than others for a country?
Discuss in relation to a) strong currency, b) protectionism against free trade and FDI, c) closed capital account.
3. Is there a hegemonic shift in international economic relations?
Discuss in relation to the US hegemony or the prospects of the liberal orthodoxy of current global institutions of capitalism (WTO, WB, IMF)
4. Can we fix the international financial, trade or investment system?
Discuss problems such as financial crisis, poverty, race to the bottom and evaluate proposed solutions

Guide to your grades:

Presentation / Essay grades

A good essay (or presentation) contains the student's own research and independent analysis based on empirically verifiable facts.

Grades	Description	Marks
A+	Qualifies for A and, in addition, shows independent judgment, imaginative approaches, or outstanding use of primary sources.	96-100
A	Both relevant facts and arguments are visible and the facts support arguments in coherent manner. Arguments are balanced showing comprehensive understanding of the topic and research.	87-95 A0 90-95 A- 87-89
B	Both relevant facts and arguments are visible but they fail to support each other in coherent manner. The work needs more comprehensive research to present balanced arguments. Research or presentation of arguments follows other source rather than student's own argument.	77-86 B+ 84-86 B0 80-83 B- 77-79
C	Either relevant facts or arguments are missing. Severely unbalanced or prejudiced and often contains self-contradiction. Under researched and the organisation relies on a couple of readings.	67-76 C+ 74-76 C0 70-73 C- 67-69
D	Few relevant facts or arguments visible and organised in a disjointed manner.	50-66
F	Lacks both facts and arguments	0-50

Academic Integrity:

All students in the class are presumed to be decent, honourable and bound by the Honour Code of the Joint Institute (visit <http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/honorcode> for more details)

Plagiarism is a very serious offence and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. You must appropriately acknowledge your use of another's work. Putting a list of references at the end of your paper is not enough: your essay must contain in-text citations each time you quote information, results of research, and arguments that you took from other sources. If you are in doubt as to the right way of referencing, consult the instructor BEFORE the submission, NOT after.

In addition, any form of cheating in exam or in preparation of term-paper will result in scoring 0 for the assignment or exam and could lead to further disciplinary actions.

Course Description:

This course aims at providing a broad understanding of how political institutions at national and global levels are involved in the current international economic relations in the areas of international trade, investment and monetary arrangements. For this purpose, students will be introduced to the historical developments of different perspectives on the issues of international political economy (IPE) and how political institutions at various levels manage between different ideas and interests and between winners and losers of the policy outcomes. Apart from lectures, students will engage in case studies to examine the working of the ideas presented in the lecture in the actual world.

Key areas of study:

- Historical development of international economic relations.
- Current trends in international trade, investment and monetary arrangements.
- Political and economic arguments pro- and against- liberalization of trades and investments
- The roles of multinational corporations in global economy
- The roles of global institutions of capitalism in managing trade, investment and monetary arrangements
- Interaction between society, national governments, and international forces in international economic relations.

VR369 Teaching Schedule (Summer 2014)

Week	Date	Tuesday 12.10-13.50 (Dong Xia Yuan 101)	Date	Thursday 12.10-13.50 (Dong Xia Yuan 101)	Assignment
1	May 12	Introduction to the course	14	Introduction to IPE (Chapter 1)	
2	19	Trends and Cases for International Trade Cooperation (Chapter 2)	21	Trends and Cases for International Trade Cooperation (Chapter 2)	
3	26	Politics of International Trade (Chapter 4 and 5)	28	Politics of International Trade (Chapter 4 and 5)	
4	Jun. 2	Trade and Development (Chapter 6 and 7)	4	Class Discussion I	Assignment I
5	9	Multinational Corporations in Global Economy (Chapter 8)	11	The Politics of Multinational Corporations (Chapter 9)	
6	16	The Politics of Multinational Corporations (Chapter 9)	18	Mid-term Exam	
7	23	Balance of Payments (Chapter 10a)	25	Class Discussion II	Assignment II
8	30	Rise and Fall of the Bretton Woods System (Chapter 10b)	Jul. 2	Contemporary International Monetary Arrangements (Chapter 11)	
9	7	Contemporary International Monetary Arrangements (Chapter 11)	9	Politics of Monetary Policies (Chapter 12 and 13)	
10	14	Politics of Monetary Policies (Chapter 12 and 13)	16	American Debt Crisis (Chapter 14)	
11	21	Asian Financial Crisis (Chapter 15)	23	Class Discussion III	Assignment III
12	28	Globalization: Consequences and Controversies (Chapter 16)	30	Review Class	
13	Aug. 4	Final Exam	6		