COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore the future of the international economic and financial system. We will consider issues of debt sustainability, the political foundations of banking crisis and the political economy of macroeconomic policy formulation. We will ask how to promote openness, tolerance, mobility, fairness and democracy in today’s post-global financial crisis slow- growth global economy.

Questions will include: what does the available evidence tell us about the relationship between political institutions and economic development? Can we identify those institutional arrangements that promote economic growth, internal peace and general welfare? Can the global financial system be reformed to enhance global economic justice and to make globalization work better for developing countries? What role does democracy play in development? How much of the future of development depends on internal or external initiatives? Why do good policies come about in one country and not the other? What prevents underdeveloped countries from turning their assets into capital? How do we account for the persistence of global poverty? What prevents poor countries from adopting policies that promote growth?

Using the reading material, you will be able to identify both the general dilemmas of globalization and economic development in the particular contexts of economic institutions in individual countries and regions. You will be able to explore and discuss strategies to surmount basic global development challenges. You will be able to express your ideas on development strategies by providing particular country examples, case studies, charts and tables, and expressing those ideas in your course work. A wide range of policy options and
case studies on the impact of globalization, the policies of government and of multilateral institutions will be considered.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge and Understanding: Students will grasp key ideas, concepts, events, and developments shaping the global political economy.
- Analytical Skills and Abilities: Students will be able to identify, assess and analyze the political and economic dynamics of global change, including the role of national governments; regional and global organizations; trans-national corporations and interest groups.
- Professional Development: Students will be able to assess essential scholarly contributions to political economy analysis and make a succinct presentation on a precise topic pertaining to the global political economy.

REQUIRED BOOKS


Root, H. L. (2019). Networks and Change in Economic History. Relevant chapters to be distributed

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADES

Students are expected to keep up with each week’s required readings and to participate in class discussion.

20% - Class discussion and one class presentations of a title in the syllabus.

30% - Short weekly writing submissions (No more than 750 words on each week’s assigned readings)

50% - final exam (Take home essay)

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS
WEEK 1 (JANUARY 24): Introduction and Orientation

WEEK 2 (JANUARY 31): Institutions, Risk and Uncertainty
 Required Reading:

WEEK 3 (FEBRUARY 7): The Great Debate on the Role of the State and Economy
 Required Reading:

WEEK 4 (FEBRUARY 14): Social Networks and Political Economy
GUEST SPEAKER JOE SHAHEEN
 Required Reading:
Root, Hilton. 2019 Networks and Change in Economic History, Chapter Two.

WEEK 5 (FEBRUARY 21):
International Development
Guest Speaker Kanishka Balasuriya

WEEK 6 (FEBRUARY 28) Complexity and the Economy
 Required Reading:
Ch.1, Ch.5 and Ch.9

WEEK 7 (MARCH 7): Cognition
 Required Reading:
Ch.10

WEEK 8 (MARCH 14): Regime Stability and Resilience
 Required Reading:
WEEK 9 (MARCH 21): Law and political Economy

Students can choose one of these volumes.

WEEK 10 (MARCH 28): Political Economy and Innovation

Required Reading:
W. BRIAN ARTHUR. (2015). Complexity and the Economy, Oxford University Press Ch.4, Ch.7 and Ch.8

Recommended:
George S. Yip, Bruce McKern, China's Next Strategic Advantage: From Imitation to Innovation, MIT Press.

WEEK 11 (APRIL 4): The Political Economy of China’s Transition

Required Reading:

Recommended:

WEEK 12 (APRIL 11): The End of Power

Required Reading:
Root, Hilton. 2019, Networks and Change in Economic History, chapter8.
WEEK 13 (APRIL 18): Thanksgiving recess

WEEK 14 (APRIL 25): Corruption
Required Reading:
Recommended:

WEEK 15 (MAY 2): The Coming Uncertainty
Required Reading:

WEEK 16 (MAY 9): READING DAYS

WEEK 17 (MAY 16): FINAL

Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of a graduate education. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course.

To help enforce the policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services.
Statement on special needs of students
If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

Online Student Journal
New Voices in Public Policy: I will consider nominating the very best papers in this course for publication in New Voices in Public Policy. New Voices is a student- and faculty-reviewed journal that shares SPP's finest student work with the rest of the world.

SPP Policy on Plagiarism
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The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

Required Reading:
Recommended: