Course Description
This class examines major theories, concepts, and problems in comparative and international political economy. We’ll be covering such topics as global poverty and inequality, economic development challenges, globalization, trade politics, and monetary systems with a focus on current issues like the Eurocrisis, trade imbalances, and gender discrimination.

Required Reading
The following three books are required for the course, and are available for purchase from the university bookstore:


Any readings NOT included in this list are posted on the course’s Brightspace page.

Class Expectations
This course is **NOT**...

…easy. Expect to read – and study! – for quizzes and exams.

…just a current events course. This is a class about teaching you how to think like a foreign policy/international relations analyst, which means we cover a lot of history, theories, and concepts.

…somewhere you get to talk about your feelings. In the social sciences, strong arguments are made with **evidence**, not opinion or ideology, and we judge the quality of our readings, my lectures, and your work based on what facts we can bring to bear.

I do expect…

…manners. College is a stepping stone to your professional career, and you should conduct yourself as a professional in the classroom. No need for you to wear a suit and tie, but these things will help make the classroom experience more fulfilling for all students:

- No food. Drinks (especially those with caffeine!) are welcome.
- No sleeping in class, and especially, no snoring!
- Cell phones can be distracting to fellow students – please make sure to mute yours and avoid checking your messages during class.
- Keep computer use off the games and/or social networks and on academic content.

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1 Monday night office hours are also Cooper office hours, so if you visit those days, expect to see a dog in the office!
...regular attendance. While I do not take daily attendance (see “Participation” in the grading section for more details), you will not do very well in this course if you regularly miss lecture.

...assignments to be completed in a timely manner. Any assignments for the class handed in after the due date will be penalized 1/2 of a letter grade for every day it is late (beginning at the end of class time). Assignments will not be accepted for grading 1 week after the due date.

...academic integrity. Any work submitted by the student must reflect the student’s own work. Plagiarism is theft of another’s work or ideas, and is a violation both of the student handbook and academic ethics. Not only that, it’s a felony that violates US copyright laws.

In case you are wondering, plagiarism includes:
1) Claiming someone else’s work as your own.
2) Copying the exact phrase from another source without giving the author(s) credit.
3) Using data from another source without giving author(s) credit.
4) Failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
5) Using an idea or concept from an author without giving credit to the source.
6) Giving incorrect information about the citation source.
7) Changing the words or phrasing of the sentence but still keeping the original meaning without giving credit to the source.

From this list, you might notice that most of the time, all it takes to NOT plagiarize is to properly cite and give credit to the people from whom you are borrowing information or ideas. When in doubt, cite it!

For more information, see the OSU Syllabus attachment at the end of this syllabus.

**Grading**

Following university guidelines, our grading scale is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Exceptional &amp; outstanding work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Very good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Adequate work; superficial grasp on concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Very poor work; poor understanding of the material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failing; unacceptable work</td>
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Remember, “A” is a rare grade reserved for projects that demonstrate outstanding skill and effort.

Our class work includes:

- **Participation.** I will not be taking attendance, but will grade you for your engagement in class discussion. Participation is 20% of your final grade, and it will be divided into the following ways:
  - The first 15%: Participate at least once each week. To receive your weekly point, you need to contribute something of substance; one word answers will not net you any points.
  - The remaining 5%: At the end of the semester, I’ll judge the overall quality of your participation. Students who regularly attend the course and actively participate will receive full points here…other students, not so much!
I will update the online gradebook every few weeks so you can see how you are doing in your participation.

- **Regular reading quizzes.** We’ll be taking 12 short (5 questions, multiple choice) reading quizzes during the semester. You can use flashcards or *paper* notes while taking the quiz, but NO books and electronics. To cover times when you are sick or unable to attend, I’ll drop your lowest 2 scores – only your top 10 quizzes will count towards your final grade. The 10 quizzes represent 10% of the final grade.

  Note: None of the reading quizzes will cover *Half the Sky*. I want you to read this book for the experience, and not worry about memorizing or keeping track of the information. However, **you WILL want to read it** and even take notes – *Half the Sky* provides some excellent research that might be useful on your own policy projects.

- **Two in-class exams.** Our exams will be a combination of multiple choice and take-home essay. No makeups will be allowed without a 48-hour prior notice of your absence or a written medical excuse. Each exam is worth 20% of final grade (40% total).

- **Research Project: Policy Solutions for Alleviating Poverty.** A major theme of this course is economic development, and in light of this theme, students will be divided into teams and work on an in-depth project on microcredit and other policy solutions to global poverty. Details for the assignment, including a project outline, will be handed out in class. 20% of final grade.

- **News Presentations.** Several times during the semester, we have scheduled special “News Days.” Students will give short presentations about some current event, and we will then discuss it in class. Everyone will sign up for one day to present, and are expected to coordinate with any co-presenters to make sure they do not cover the same story.

To complete the assignment, you should:

- Find a news story and do some research on it (this means read more than just one news story!).
- **By 9am the day before your presentation:** Post a link to one article that is *longer than 2 pages when printed out* about this current event on the News Discussion forum so your fellow classmates can read it (and/or comment on it) before class.
- **By class time the day of your presentation:** Write a short (1-2 page) essay on how you think this event relates to some class concept. In this paper…
  - Open the paper by summarizing the class concept, theory, or debate you are focusing on.
  - Explain how this news story relates to this class material.
  - You must include a reference list of sources using APSA, APA, or Chicago-style citation format. I expect you to cite more than just one news article!
- **During class the day of your presentation:** Give a short (2-3 minute) overview of the event and how you think it relates to something we covered in class. You should be prepared to answer questions from your classmates.

Half the grade on this assignment will be based on the paper, the other half on your presentation. **This assignment is 10% of the final grade.**
Course Schedule and Readings

Topic I: The Basics of Political Economy

Monday, Aug. 21 – Common Myths of Political Economy
• Review the syllabus. Check out the syllabus quiz on Brightspace.

Wednesday, Aug. 23 – What is IPE?
We will begin the class discussing your initial impressions of Half the Sky, then conclude with an overview of how we study the field of IPE.
• Half the Sky, Introduction & Chapter 1

Friday, Aug. 25 – Discussion: The Challenge of Extreme Poverty
In what ways does extreme poverty disproportionately impact women? In class, we will watch http://www.gapminder.org/videos/the-river-of-myths/
• Half the Sky, Chapter 2 & 3
• Optional reading:
  o Half the Sky, Chapters 4 & 5

Monday, Aug. 28 – Political Economic Theories: Liberalism
• Economix, pp. 14-25.

Wednesday, Aug. 30 – Political Economic Theories: Liberalism
• Economix, pp. 26-41.

Friday, September 1 – No class
• Syllabus Quiz 1 must be done before today!
• Half the Sky, Chapters 6 & 7
• Instead of our regular class meeting, go online and watch the first episode of the Half the Sky documentary at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dT1gNfEa2hc

Monday, September 4 – No class (Labor Day)
• No readings

Wednesday, Sept. 6 – Political Economic Theories: Mercantilism
• Economix, pp. 44-52
Friday, Sept. 8 – Discussion: Religion, Culture, Economics, and Gender Issues

Based on the reading, is gender discrimination caused more by cultural, religious, or economic factors? Hint: think of specific examples from the Half the Sky readings for today

- Half the Sky, Chapter 8 & 9
- News Presentation: Gender and Economics
- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)

Monday, Sept. 11 – Political Economic Theories: Marxism vs. Socialism

What are the key components of structural theories like Marxism? What is “socialism” and how does it differ from liberalism and communism (and where is it similar)? What policies do we associate with socialist economic systems? How different is the US from “socialist” Europe?

- Economix, pp. 53-71

Wednesday, Sept 13 – Political Economic Theories: Wrapping things up

- Half the Sky, Chapter 10

Research Project Assignment 1 & 2 Due: Upload to the Assignment Dropbox. See the assignment handout and the “Group Contract” for more details.

Friday, Sept. 15 – Discussion: Solutions to Gender Inequality

To solve poverty and gender discrimination, Half the Sky advocates for education and microcredit. What are the pros and cons of these solutions? Which one do you like better…and why?

- Half the Sky, Chapters 11 & 14
- Optional reading:
  - Half the Sky, Chapters 12 & 13

Monday, Sept. 18 – Discussion: What is wealth, and why does measurement matter?

What do we mean when we label countries as “wealthy” or “poor”? Why should we care about the measures we use? What is the best way to compare state wealth?

- The real wealth of nations. The Economist, 30 June 2012.
- Hille, Kathrin and Max Seddon. 11 June 2017. Russia’s activists find their voice. Financial Times. Retrieved from https://www.ft.com/content/09d476cc-4065-11e7-9d56-25f963e998b2
- Optional reading:
**Topic II: Comparative Economic Development**

**Wednesday, Sept. 20 – Understanding Global Inequality**

*In class: we’ll be viewing a BBC clip, “Hans Rosling’s 200 Countries, 200 Years, 4 Minutes”*


**Friday, Sept. 22 – Discussion: Economic Inequality**

**News Presentation:** Economic Inequality & Its Impact on Global Politics

- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)
- Optional Reading:

**Monday, Sept. 25 – Poverty Traps: Conflict**

*Why are low-income countries at such a risk for civil war and coups? What are some of the common causes of civil wars (and how many link to poverty)? How do civil wars harm a country’s economy? What can policy-makers do to “reverse the conflict trap?”*


**Wednesday, Sept. 27 – Poverty Traps: Poor Governance & Corruption**

*How does corruption hinder economic growth? What policies can be enacted that would reduce the levels of corruption in a society?*

- Optional readings:

**Friday, Sept. 29 – Corruption (Case Studies)**


**News Presentations:** Corruption

- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)
Monday, Oct. 2 – Poverty Traps: Poor Geography and the Health Trap
 Why is a healthy population so necessary to achieve growth? Why do diseases like malaria and AIDS hurt a country’s economy? Why is disease so prevalent in sub-Saharan Africa (hint: systemically, what is different here?), and what can be done to change things?


Optional readings:

Wednesday, Oct. 4 – Poverty Traps: The Resource Curse
Many states with abundant natural resources are some of the poorest, most corrupt, and most conflict prone in the world – why does the discovery of natural resources sometimes hinder growth? How can this “curse” be avoided?

In class, we’ll be watching the PBS Newshour clip “For Liberia, Natural Resources Are Blessings, Curses on Road to Democracy.”


Optional readings:

Optional viewing:
- The Journeyman Pictures documentary Delta Blues.
- from the PBS Newshour, “For Liberia, Natural Resources Are Blessings, Curses on Road to Democracy” and “Liberia's Oil, Diamond Resources Are Both Blessing and Curse.”
Friday, Oct. 6 – Discussion: The Oil Curse and Democratization

Why is democracy so rare in the Arab world? How does oil wealth impact a state’s economy, politics, and international relations?


- Optional readings:

Monday, Oct. 9 – Poverty Alleviation…and Pathologies (part I)

Begin watching the documentary, Poverty, Inc.


Research Project Assignment 3 Due: Rough draft on the problem of poverty in your chosen country (see assignment handouts for more details).

http://www.latimes.com/la-op-sachseasterly8may8,0,1628034.htmlstory#axzz2qDTg8qNE

Wednesday, Oct. 11 – Poverty Alleviation…and Pathologies (part II)

Continue watching the documentary, Poverty, Inc.

- Grudge Match: “Foreign aid face-off.” 8 May 2006. Retrieved from the Los Angeles Times at http://www.latimes.com/la-op-sachseasterly8may8,0,1628034.htmlstory#axzz2qDTg8qNE

Friday, Oct. 13 – Poverty Alleviation…and Pathologies (part II)

Continue watching the documentary, Poverty, Inc.

- Cash to the poor: Pennies from heaven. The Economist, 26 October 2013.

Optional reading:

News Presentations: Alleviating Global Poverty

- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)

Monday, Oct. 16 – Understanding the Rise of China


Wednesday, Oct. 18 – Exam 1

- No readings

We'll be taking the multiple choice part of our exam in-class. For the take-home essay, upload a copy to the Dropbox before the start of class and bring a paper copy to class.

Friday, Oct. 20 – No class

- Fall Break
Monday, Oct. 23 – China’s Economic Strengths…and Weaknesses

- Yanofsky, David. 12 April 2017. Who is the world’s leading economic superpower? This is what people think. Retrieved from the World Economic Forum at https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/04/which-country-is-the-worlds-leading-economic-power
- Optional Reading:
  - China’s economy: Coming down to earth. The Economist, 18 April 2015.

Wednesday, Oct. 25 – Why China (and everyone else) needs to focus on the environment

- Sustainable development handout
- Optional reading:
  - Thompson, Thomas N. 8 April 2013. Choking on China: The Superpower that is Poisoning the World. Foreign Affairs.

Research Project Assignment 4 Due: Rough draft on why the U.S. should care about alleviating poverty in your chosen country (see assignment handouts for more details).

Friday, Oct. 27 – China’s Modern Economy

News Presentations: China’s Economy in the News
- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)
Topic III: International Political Economy

Monday, Oct. 30 – Globalization: What is it?

- Optional readings:
  - Ghemawat, Pankaj. 2007. Why the World Isn’t Flat. Foreign Policy, 159, 54-60.

Wednesday, Nov. 1 – Building a Globalized Economy: The Rise of Bretton Woods
In class, we’ll be watching a short clip, “Out of the Ashes” from the IMF

- Economix, pp. 133-148

Friday, Nov. 3 – The IMF: Where Countries Go When They Run Out of Money


Monday, Nov. 6 – The Basics of the WTO & Other Trade Blocs

In class, we’ll be watching the Journeyman Pictures documentary The Rise of the WTO.

- Optional Reading:
Wednesday, Nov. 8 – The Debate: Free Trade vs. Protectionism

- Optional Reading:

Friday, Nov. 10 – The Latest at the “Big 3”

**News Presentations**: Recent news from the IMF, WTO, or World Bank

- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)

Monday, Nov. 13 – In-class Paper Workshop

- No readings!

**Research Project Assignment 5**: Bring a paper copy of your individual policy section to class today. You will be giving this copy to another of your team members for them to read over and provide feedback (see assignment handouts for more details).

Wednesday, Nov. 15 – Supply Chains & Comparative Advantage

**In-class**: Watch the video “Made in the World” on the WTO Youtube channel


Friday, Nov. 17 – Foreign Direct Investments & its Impact


**News Presentations**: Recent news on trade and/or foreign investment

- News stories TBA (see discussion forum)

**Research Project Assignment 6**: One member of your team should finish your conclusion and send it to the team member compiling the final paper (see assignment handout for more details).
Monday, Nov. 20 – Discussion: Policy Solutions to Poverty Reduction

*We will discuss some possible solutions for addressing global poverty issues. Students should also be ready to present their conclusions from their research papers.*

- No readings today.

**Final Team Project Due:** Be sure to post ONE copy of your team paper to the online Dropbox **and** bring a paper copy to class.

**Wednesday, Nov. 22-Friday, Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Break**
- No class!

**Monday, Nov. 27 – The Rise of the European Union**

**Wednesday, Nov. 29 – Britain’s “Brexit” Pushback**

**Friday, Dec. 1: The Future of the EU**
- **Final News Presentations:** The Newest in the EU (can include “Brexit” events!)
  - News stories TBA (see discussion forum)

**Monday, Dec. 4 – What Went Wrong in the Eurozone**
  - Optional:
Wednesday, Dec. 6 – Understanding Debt and Financial Crises

- Optional reading:

Friday, Dec. 8 – The Eurozone Today: Who Has Recovered…and Who Hasn’t

- Other news stories TBA
- Optional Reading:

Friday, December 15 – Exam 2

10:00-11:50 am

We’ll be taking the multiple choice part of our exam during the assigned exam time. For the take-home essay, upload a copy to the online Dropbox before the start of class and bring a paper copy to class.