

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Winter 2024

First version of the syllabus: January 7, 2024

This version of the syllabus: March 26, 2024

For an up-to-date version of the syllabus please visit the [course Moodle page](#).

Course number:	POLI 305	Delivery:	In-person
Department:	Political Science	Faculty:	Arts and Sciences
Instructor:	Prof. Alexandra O. Zeitz	Prof Email:	alexandra.zeitz@concordia.ca
TA:	Avery Monette	TA Email:	avery.monette@mail.concordia.ca
Time:	Wed & Fri 16:15-17:30	Course Website:	POLI 305 Moodle
Classroom:	MB 3.430 SGW		
Office hours:	Thursdays, 15:00-17:00. Sign-up on the office hours scheduler .		
Office hour Zoom:	850 0966 9759	Office hours password:	“chat”
Textbook:	John Ravenhill, ed. <i>Global Political Economy</i> . Oxford University Press.		

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to concepts and frameworks in international political economy. It covers the politics of global trade, finance, and monetary relations, as well as other important dimensions of international economic interdependence, including international development, the environment, and migration. The course invites students to think critically about the causes and consequences of interdependence in the contemporary international economy. Students will apply frameworks and theories from international political economy to current events in the global economy.

Learning outcomes

Students who take this course will:

- Understand and explain patterns of interdependence in the global economy
- Interpret dynamics in the contemporary economy using frameworks from international political economy
- Develop, verbally and in writing, arguments about the causes and consequences of relationships in the international economy

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to acknowledge that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather. Tiohtiá:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

This territorial acknowledgement and resources were created by Concordia University's Indigenous Directions Leadership Group (2017). To read the entire territorial acknowledgement and learn more about why it was written this way, please visit <https://www.concordia.ca/about/indigenous/territorial-acknowledgement.html>.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Course expectations

I expect that you attend classes prepared, open-minded, and curious. You will get the most out of class sessions if you have done the reading and preparatory assignments and you arrive prepared to learn, including from your peers. I expect that you engage with others in the class in a constructive, open-minded, and respectful manner. If you ever feel that the classroom environment is discouraging your participation, please let me know.

Course materials

This course has one required textbook, which you must purchase before the start of the semester:

John Ravenhill, ed. *Global Political Economy*. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020

You can purchase this textbook via the [Concordia BookStop](#) before term. The textbook is also available as an ebook, and widely available for rental and purchase secondhand. The fifth edition is also fine for this course. The remainder of the course materials will be accessible via the Concordia Library or Course Reserves.

Policy on attendance and absences

Attendance is essential to getting the most out of this class. For interactive group work in class, your peers' experience in the class also depends, in part, on your participation. To receive marks for participation in the group policy discussions, you must attend. If you are ill and unable to come to class, please complete the [university's short-term absence form](#), which does not require a medical note. If you have a medical or personal reason for a longer absence, please let me know as soon as possible. To make sure you do not fall behind, it is important that I know sooner rather than later if you will not be able to come to class.

Policy on late work

If you are ill, please complete the [university's short-term absence form](#), which does not require a medical note. If you are unable to submit a piece of work on time for another reason, please contact me as early as possible so we can work out a plan. If you miss a quiz for an excused absence, you will take the quiz at an agreed office hours slot. Work that is more than one day late without a previous extension will receive a reduced grade, and work that is more than seven days late without a previous extension will receive a failing grade.

Policy on generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, in this course as learning aids or to help produce assignments. However, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit. Material drawn from ChatGPT or other AI tools must be acknowledged; *representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated will be considered an academic offense*. Students may not directly copy from any generative artificial intelligence applications, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the purpose of completing assignments in this course.

Acknowledging the use of AI: Students must submit, as an appendix with their assignments, any content produced by an artificial intelligence tool, and the prompt used to generate the content. Any content produced by an artificial intelligence tool must be cited appropriately. The Concordia Library has prepared a helpful [guide](#) on citing artificial intelligence sources.

Accessibility and accommodations

If you require accommodations or modification of any of the following course procedures because of a disability or other condition, please let me know early in the semester. You can contact me via email or speak with me during office hours. For more information, students can contact the [Concordia Access Centre for Students with Disabilities \(ACSD\)](#).

Behavior

Everyone in this class is expected to be constructive and respectful throughout the course, including in their communications. Concordia students are subject to the [Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#) which applies when students are physically or virtually engaged in any University activity, including classes, seminars, meetings, etc. Students engaged in University activities must respect this Code when engaging with any members of the Concordia community, including faculty, staff, and students, whether such interactions are verbal or in writing, face to face or online/virtual. Failing to comply with the Code may result in charges and sanctions, as outlined in the Code.

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own (even if you worked together as a group) is plagiarism. Using someone's ideas without citing them appropriately is also plagiarism. You must give a citation when you use someone else's ideas in-text, even if you do not quote them word-for-word. It is completely normal to draw on the ideas of others, but you must acknowledge their intellectual contributions! Develop good note-taking and citation habits to ensure you adequately and appropriately reference others' work. If you have any questions, please get in touch. See the Political Science Department Statement on Plagiarism at the end of the syllabus for more information.

Changes to the syllabus

I may change the schedule of meetings and assignments listed in this syllabus as might become necessary based on events throughout the semester. I will announce any changes to the syllabus and the updated syllabus will be available on the [course Moodle page](#).

Extraordinary circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances and pursuant to the Academic Regulations, the University may modify the delivery, content, structure, forum, location and/or evaluation scheme. In the event of such extraordinary circumstances, students will be informed of the changes.

ASSESSMENT

Assignment	Weight	Due date
1. Quiz 1	5%	In class, Friday, February 9
2. Quiz 2	5%	In class, Friday, February 23
3. Quiz 3	5%	In class, Friday, March 15
4. Quiz 4	5%	In class, Friday, April 12
5. Weekly discussion prep sheets	5%	Each Friday, 10am
6. Weekly discussion participation	5%	Each Friday, in class
7. Discussion portfolio	10%	Midnight, Tuesday, April 16
8. Simulation report	10%	Midnight, Friday, April 5 Sunday, April 7
9. Mid-term exam	20%	In class, Friday, March 8
10. Final exam	30%	Exam period

1-4. Quizzes

There will be four short quizzes throughout term, which will cover material from the preceding weeks. The quizzes will be based on the required readings (usually, chapters from the textbook) and lectures. The quizzes are intended to test your comprehension and retention of core concepts from each week.

5. Weekly discussion prep sheet

One aim of this class is for you to apply concepts and frameworks from international political economy to contemporary events and debates. To achieve this aim, you will have one reading each week that touches on a contemporary issue in the global economy, usually quite short and often from a news or opinion outlet. In class, you will be assigned to small groups in which you discuss the policy reading and identify connections to the main theoretical frameworks and arguments from the reading and lecture week. To prepare for these discussions, you will complete a short prep sheet on each week's policy reading. You will get a point for submitting the prep sheet and an extra point if the prep sheet is especially detailed or thoughtful.

6. Weekly discussion participation

Each week, you will work in small groups to discuss the policy readings. You are expected to contribute actively to the small group discussions, drawing on the material from your prep sheet. We will use these small group discussions as the basis for larger class discussions. Active participation in group discussions and larger class discussions accounts for 5% of your final grade.

7. Discussion portfolio (800 words)

At the end of the semester, you will submit a portfolio of all of your group discussion prep sheets, with a short (800-word) reflection on the three topics for which you believe the frameworks from international political

economy best helped you understand the current event. For each topic you chose, explain the following: Which themes or arguments from the reading or lecture apply to this event or question? What do you think best explains this event or question?

8. Simulation report (800 words)

On April 3 and 5, you will work in groups to do a simulation activity in which you prepare for an international agreement on trade, finance, or development. You will be given in-class instructions on the activity. After conducting the in-class simulation, you will be given a set of prompts to complete a short report, reflecting on how the experience of the simulation related to the theories of economic interdependence learned in the course.

9. Mid-term exam

You will take a timed mid-term exam in-class on March 8. This will include a combination of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and one short essay.

10. Final exam

The final exam will consist of a timed three hour exam in which you will write three essays in response to questions of your choosing from a list of questions covering topics in the course.

Note

Final grades may be adjusted to bring grades in line with the expected distribution in the course. In making those adjustments, I will reward those whose performance has improved over the course of the term, reflecting the effort they put into improving their grades.

Requirements for all written assignments

All written work must conform to the following requirements:

- Written work should be submitted via Moodle as a Word document (.doc/.docx), with your name in the title of the document and in the document itself
- I do not care which referencing format you use (e.g. in-text or footnotes), but you must be consistent.
- You must provide citations for all references, quotations, and uses of evidence.
- You must include a final bibliography
- All written work must be original. Work submitted for assessment must not be, or have been, submitted for other courses
- Use a standard typeface in 12 point font with double-spaced type
- Use 2.5cm margins and include page numbers

COURSE STRUCTURE

Part 1	EMERGENCE AND STUDY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
Jan 17 & Jan 19	Origins of the global economy
Jan 24	Study of global political economy
Part 2	TRADE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY
Jan 26	Global trade - theory and approaches
Jan 31 & Feb 2	Governing global trade
Feb 7 & Feb 9	Multinational production, globalization, and the state
Part 3	THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND GLOBAL FINANCE
Feb 14 & Feb 16	Challenges of international monetary cooperation
Feb 21 & Feb 23	The contemporary monetary system
Feb 28 & Mar 1	No class - Reading week!
Mar 6 & Mar 8	Financial crises, the IMF, and other crisis-fighting solutions
Mar 13 & Mar 15	Power and interdependence in the international financial system
Part 4	THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND INTERDEPENDENCE
Mar 20 & Mar 22	International development and foreign aid
Mar 27 & Mar 29	The environment and the global economy
Apr 3 & Apr 5	Simulation activity
Apr 10 & Apr 12	Migration in the global economy
Apr 16	Make-up day for Mar 29 - Overarching themes in IPE

PART 1 - EMERGENCE AND STUDY OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Wednesday - Origins of the global economy

- When did global economic interdependence emerge?
- What are the precursors to contemporary interdependence?

Required reading:

- Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams. *Global Political Economy: Evolution & Dynamics*. London: Red Globe Press, 2020, Ch. 3, "Forging a World Economy: 1400-1800," available as an [eBook](#) via Concordia Library

Further reading:

- Anya Hageman and Pauline Galoustian. *Economic Aspects of the Indigenous Experience in Canada*. 2021. URL: <https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/indigenouseconomics244/>, Chs. 6-7.

Friday - The emergence of a global economy

- How did industrialization shape the modern economy?

Required reading:

- Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams. *Global Political Economy: Evolution & Dynamics*. London: Red Globe Press, 2020, Ch. 4, "Industry, Empire, and War: 1800-1945," available as an [eBook](#) via Concordia Library

Wednesday - Studying the contemporary global economy

- What are the main themes in the study of the modern global economy?

Required reading:

- John Ravenhill. "The Study of Global Political Economy". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 1, pp. 1-24

PART 2 - TRADE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

Friday - Global trade - theory and approaches

- What explains global trade integration?

Required reading:

- Thomas Oatley. *International Political Economy*. Sixth Edition. Routledge, 2018, Ch. 4, “A Society-Centred Approach to Trade Politics,” available on Course Reserves.

Suggested research reading:

- Alexandra Guisinger. *American Opinion on Trade: Preferences without Politics*. Oxford University Press, 2017, Ch. 4, “Economic Vulnerability, Self-Interest and Individual Trade Preferences,” available on Course Reserves

Wednesday - Governing global trade

- How can international institutions manage global trade?
- What are the benefits of regional trade agreements?

Required reading:

- Silke Trommer. “The Evolution of the Global Trade Regime”. *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 5, pp. 111–139

Suggested research reading:

- Dani Rodrik. “What Do Trade Agreements Really Do?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 32.2 (May 2018), pp. 73–90

Friday - Policy session: Traditional knowledge and intellectual property protections

- Can global trade governance be used to protect traditional knowledge?

Policy reading:

- Ugonma Nwankwo and Charles Kenny. “Their Knowledge, Their Rights: Using Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property to Protect Communities”. *Center for Global Development* (2021). URL: <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/their-knowledge-their-rights-using-traditional-knowledge-and-intellectual-property>

Wednesday - Multinational production, globalization, and the state

- What are the consequences of contemporary global production?
- What does globalization mean for the modern nation state?

Required reading:

- Eric Thun. "The Globalization of Production". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 7, pp. 175–196

Suggested research reading:

- Layna Mosley. "Workers' rights in global value chains: possibilities for protection and for peril". *New Political Economy* 22.2 (Jan. 2017), pp. 153–168

Friday - Policy session: Onshoring and "friend-shoring"

- After recent supply chain crises, should countries pursue policies to make supply chains more resilient?

Policy reading:

- Raghuram G. Rajan. "Just Say No to "Friend-Shoring"". *Project Syndicate* (June 2022). URL: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/friend-shoring-higher-costs-and-more-conflict-without-resilience-by-raghuram-rajan-2022-06>

PART 3 - THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM AND GLOBAL FINANCE

Wednesday - Challenges of international monetary cooperation

- What are the political trade-offs associated with different monetary systems?

Required reading:

- Eric Helleiner and Melsen Babe. "The Evolution of the International Monetary and Financial System". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 8, pp. 199–221, **only pgs. 199-209, up to "The collapse of the gold exchange standard and the future of the dollar"**

Suggested research reading:

- Barry Eichengreen. *Globalizing Capital: A History of the International Monetary System*. Princeton University Press, 2008, Ch. 4, available as an [ebook](#) via Concordia Library

Friday - Policy session: Spillovers of US monetary policy

- What effects does US monetary tightening have for the rest of the world?

Policy reading:

- Colby Smith. "Lael Brainard signals Fed concern over emerging market vulnerabilities". *Financial Times* (Sept. 2022), available via Concordia's access to the [Financial Times](#).

Wednesday - The contemporary monetary system

- How does the contemporary monetary system affect relations among states?

Required reading:

- Eric Helleiner and Melsen Babe. "The Evolution of the International Monetary and Financial System". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 8, pp. 199–221, **only pgs. 209-221, from "The collapse of the gold exchange standard and the future of the dollar" to the end of the chapter.**

Suggested research reading:

- Carla Norrlof et al. "Global Monetary Order and the Liberal Order Debate". *International Studies Perspectives* 21.2 (Feb. 2020), pp. 109–153, **Introduction**

Friday - Policy session: Will China's renminbi replace the US dollar as the world's reserve currency?

- What would have to happen for the RMB to displace the US dollar as the global reserve currency?

Policy reading:

- Alicia García-Herrero. "Could the RMB Dislodge the Dollar As a Reserve Currency?" *Brink News* (Aug. 2021). URL: <https://www.brinknews.com/could-the-rmb-dislodge-the-dollar-as-a-reserve-currency/>

Wednesday - Financial crises, the IMF, and other crisis-fighting solutions

- How does global governance address the risk of global financial crises?

Required reading:

- Louis W. Pauly. "Financial Openness and the Challenge of Global Governance". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 9, pp. 222–246

Suggested research reading:

- Barry Eichengreen and Ngaire Woods. "The IMF's Unmet Challenges". *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 30.1 (Feb. 2016), pp. 29–52

Wednesday - Power and international interdependence

- How does financial interdependence affect the power relationships between states?

Required reading:

- Vinod K. Aggarwal and Cédric Dupont. "Cooperation and Conflict in the Global Political Economy". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 3, pp. 52–75

Suggested research reading:

- Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman. "Weaponized Interdependence: How Global Economic Networks Shape State Coercion". *International Security* 44.1 (July 2019), pp. 42–79

Friday - Tariffs, sanctions, and weaponized interdependence

- Is the US' use of financial sanctions ultimately self-defeating?

Policy reading:

- Daniel W. Drezner. "The United States of Sanctions: The Use and Abuse of Economic Coercion". *Foreign Affairs* (2021), available online via Concordia's access to [Foreign Affairs](#).

PART 4 - THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

Wednesday - International development

- What opportunities and constraints does the global economy mean for developing countries?

Required reading:

- Nicola Phillips. "The Political Economy of Development". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 13, pp. 354–383

Further reading:

- Homi Kharas. "Development Assistance". *International Development: Ideas, Experience, and Prospects*. Ed. by Bruce Currie-Alder et al. Oxford University Press, 2014. Chap. 50, pp. 848–865

Friday - Policy session: The rise of China and changes in the international development landscape

- Does China's rise fundamentally change international development?

Policy reading:

- Nancy Qian. "The Case for Chinese Foreign Aid". *Project Syndicate* (2021). URL: www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/economic-benefits-of-chinese-foreign-aid-by-nancy-qian-1-2021-11

Wednesday - The environment and the global economy

- What does global economic interdependence mean for efforts to address climate change?

Required reading:

- Peter Dauvergne. "The Political Economy of the Environment". *Global Political Economy*. Ed. by John Ravenhill. Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2020. Chap. 14, pp. 384–412

Suggested research reading:

- Jeff Colgan et al. "Asset Revaluation and the Existential Politics of Climate Change". *International Organization* 75.Special Issue 2: Challenges to the Liberal International Order: International Organization at 75 (2021), pp. 586–610

Wednesday - The global economy and international migration

- What explains global patterns of economic migration?

Required reading:

- Margaret E. Peters. *Immigration and International Political Economy*. Oxford University Press, May 2017, available on Course Reserves.

Suggested research reading:

- Jennifer Fitzgerald et al. "Defying the Law of Gravity: The Political Economy of International Migration". *World Politics* 66.3 (July 2014), pp. 406–445

Friday - Policy session: Economic migration

- How has the pandemic affected economic migration?

Policy reading:

- Delphine Strauss. "Plunge in migration risks global revival, says OECD". *Financial Times* (Sept. 2021), available via Concordia's access to the [Financial Times](#).

Tuesday - Overarching themes in IPE

- What are pressing issues in the politics of the contemporary economy?

Policy reading:

- Brahim Sangafowa Coulibaly. "Rebooting global cooperation is imperative to successfully navigate the multitude of shocks facing the global economy". *Brookings Institution* (Sept. 2022). URL: <https://www.brookings.edu/essay/rebooting-global-cooperation-is-imperative-to-successfully-navigate-the-multitude-of-shocks-facing-the-global-economy/>

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The Department of Political Science has zero tolerance for plagiarism.

1. What is plagiarism? The University defines plagiarism as “the presentation of the work of another person, in whatever form, as one’s own or without proper acknowledgement” ([Concordia Undergraduate Calendar 2020/2021, section 17.10.3](#)). Plagiarism is an academic offence governed by the Code of Conduct (Academic). To find out more about how to avoid plagiarism, see the [Concordia University Student Success Centre](#).
2. What are the consequences of getting caught? Students caught plagiarizing are subject to one or more of the following sanctions: (a) a written reprimand; (b) a piece of work be re-submitted; (c) a grade of zero for the piece of work in question; (d) a grade reduction for the course; (e) a failing grade for the course; (f) a failing grade and ineligibility for a supplemental examination or any other evaluative exercise for the course; (g) the obligation to take and pass courses of up to twenty-four (24) credits in addition to the total number of credits required for the student’s program as specified by the Dean or Academic Hearing Panel. If the student is registered as an Independent student, the sanction will be imposed only if he or she applies and is accepted into a program; (h) suspension for a period not to exceed six (6) academic terms. Suspensions shall entail the withdrawal of all University privileges, including the right to enter and be on University premises; (i) expulsion from the University. Expulsion entails the permanent termination of all University privileges. In the case of a student who has already graduated, the only two available sanctions are (i) a notation on the student’s academic record that he or she has been found guilty of academic misconduct; or (ii) a recommendation to Senate for the revocation of the degree obtained ([Concordia Undergraduate Calendar 2020/2021, section 17.10.3](#)).
3. For complete regulations and resources on avoiding plagiarism, see:
 - [Academic Integrity and the Academic Code of Conduct Concordia Undergraduate Calendar](#)
 - [Concordia Political Science Guidance on Plagiarism](#)
 - [Student Services Resource “Avoiding Plagiarism”](#)

Third party technology

Students are advised that an external software, website and/or tool (“Third Party Technology”) may be used in the course and students may be asked to submit or consent to the submission of their work to an online service. Students are responsible for reading and deciding whether or not to agree with the Third Party Technology’s terms of use. Use of any Third Party Technology is voluntary. Students who do not consent to the use of Third Party Technology should identify themselves to the course instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternate acceptable modes of participation that do not require them to give the third party intellectual property rights. By using the Third Party Technology, students agree to provide and share their work and certain personal information (where applicable) with the third party provider. Students are advised that the University cannot guarantee the protection of intellectual property rights or personal information provided to any third party provider (website or software company) and that applicable intellectual property and personal information laws could be those of foreign jurisdictions.

Intellectual property

Content belonging to instructors shared in online courses, including, but not limited to, online lectures, course notes, and video recordings of classes remain the intellectual property of the faculty member. It may not be distributed, published or broadcast, in whole or in part, without the express permission of the faculty member. Students are also forbidden to use their own means of recording any elements of an online class or lecture

without express permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized sharing of course content may constitute a breach of the [Academic Code of Conduct](#) and/or the [Code of Rights and Responsibilities](#). As specified in the [Policy on Intellectual Property](#), the University does not claim any ownership of or interest in any student IP. All university members retain copyright over their work.