

**COMILLAS**

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE**2025 - 2026****FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA****Datos de la asignatura**

Nombre completo	Economía política internacional
Código	E000010710
Nivel	Intercambio
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Responsable	Ileana Daniela Serban y Ariel James
Horario de tutorías	Online (TBC)

Datos del profesorado**Profesor**

Nombre	
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Economía
Correo electrónico	smiguez@comillas.edu

DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA**Contextualización de la asignatura****Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación**

International Political Economy is a cross-cutting course building on multiple disciplines such as International Relations and political economy, yet it does not require specialised knowledge in economics, finance, or international trade. The course is taught in English. Readings and group work are also done in English.

The course focuses on offering a panoramic and global vision of the *International Political Economy* discipline, focused on two dimensions: descriptive and normative. The descriptive dimension covers the main areas of applied knowledge that make up the field of connections between economics and international relations, such as: international trade throughout history, the global institutional order following the Second World War and the fall of the socialist regimes, the basic structures of the monetary system and debt, as well as the dynamics of population growth and migration.

The normative dimension analyses the possible scenarios of international relations from an economic perspective focused on 'ought to be', that is, how international relations focused on economic policy should be from an ideal point of view. This includes topics such as: free trade and fair trade, the concept of sustainable development, the ideal of human development, or food security.

Additionally, the course offers a knowledge perspective applied to specific cases, which is developed through a methodology of group expositions around the fundamental axes of the economic-political conflict at international level, using concrete historical and contemporary cases for debate. Among the case studies, topics such as: the role of the BRICS in the new international concert, the main scenarios of international economic policy in regions such as Asia, Africa, North America and Latin America, as well as such as transnational conflicts over the use and commercialisation of natural resources. The relationship between economics, politics,



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globalization, and cultural identity is also analysed, with an emphasis on contemporary identity conflicts.

Contextualisation of the subject

Contribution to the training and professional profile of the degree

The students are introduced to a process of analysis and discussion around the main concepts of international trade and finance on a global scale, as well as to the studies of the development and construction of the nation state in the 21st century, with the aim of being able to have a rational, coherent, consistent and applied perspective of the principles of the new economic policy and the international political economy.

The course provides a critical perspective in a diachronic framework that encompasses the core areas of the global political economy, namely: the difference between political economy and economic policy, international business, development economics and development at a trans-regional and global scale, the international financial system, globalisation, financial and stock market crises, the fight against poverty and the adverse effects of climate change, the role of international development and cooperation institutions, the balance between different nations and regional blocs in the field of trade, as well as the normative dimension of patents and fees in the new global order.

The course approach is based on the constructivist model, according to which the framework of action of states and economic groups is modelled by both material and social issues, including domains such as culture and social institutions. These are fundamental aspects to understand the international political dynamics linked to the global financial and economic order.

During the course, considerable effort is devoted to understanding the complex process of building political and economic relations at both the local and the regional, trans-regional and transnational levels, taking into account monetary and productive factors, with a special emphasis on understanding the historical variables that have shaped the current international scenario of politics and economics.

Prerrequisitos

There are no formal prerequisites.

Competencias - Objetivos

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

Conceptual approaches in IPE

Foundations of IPE: Defining IPE and explaining conceptual approaches to IPE

The General Theory of Employment, Interest, and Money

The Economy-Policy binding



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Game theory and cooperation

Regionalism and IPE

Regionalism: European Union

Regionalism: North America

Regionalism: Latin America

Regionalism: Middle East

Regionalism: East and South-East Asia

Policy topics in IPE

The ideal of Poverty Reduction and the End of Hunger

Economic impact of climate change

Globalisation and cultural identity

Globalisation and the future of labour

Human Development Index

Ethics in global supply chains

Global migration trends

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

Metodología Presencial: Actividades

- Lectures presenting the main concepts, raising debates around the mandatory readings, and helping the students to use IPE concepts to address real world dilemmas.
- Group debates during practical sessions on a case study.
- Individual presentations of the main argument of an essay debating the utility of an IPE concept.
- Group revision of the main content before the final exam.

Metodología No presencial: Actividades

- Preparing the readings for each session.
- Preparing the individual essay.
- Preparing the group debate.
- Final revision for the end of term exam.



RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

SUMMARY/DIVISION OF STUDENT WORK HOURS			
HORAS PRESENCIALES			
Theory Classes	Practical Classes	Academically Guided Activities	Assessments
25	25	5	5
HORAS NO PRESENCIALES			
Self-study of Theoretical Content	Self-study of Practical Content	Group Work Exercises	Revision
40	20	10	20
ECTS CREDITS			6

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Individual participation during lectures and practical sessions (10%)

Individual essay (20%)

Group Presentation (20%)

Final exam (50%)

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

Basic Bibliography (in addition to the mandatory readings for each session that will be provided by the professor)

Ferguson, N. (2008). *The ascent of money: A financial history of the world*. New York: The Penguin Press. Pp. 65-91.

Thornton, D. L. (2012). *The US Deficit/Debt problem: A long-run perspective*. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review, November/December, 94(6), 441-55.

White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy. (2018). *How China's economic aggression threatens the technologies and intellectual properties of the United States and the world*. Report, June.



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Ocampo, J. A. *The Latin American Debt Crisis in historical perspective*. School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Dixon, J.; Gulliver, A.; Gibbon, D. (2001). *Farming systems and poverty: Improving farmers livelihoods in a changing world*. Washington: FAO. World Bank.

Stern, N. (2006). *Stern Review on The economics of climate change*. Government of the United Kingdom. HM Treasury, London. Pp. 92-115.

International Labour Office. (2011). *Equality at work: The continuing challenge*. International Labour Conference. Report of the Director-General. 100th Session. Geneva. Pp.19-54.

UNDP. (2016). Human Development- Achievements, challenges and hopes. *Global 2016 Human Development Report*. New York: United Nations. Chapter 1. Pp. 25-47.

Martin, S.; Weerasinghe, S. (2017). Global migration governance frameworks: Existing architecture and recent developments. In Marie McAuliffe & Martin Ruhs (Eds.), *World Migration Report 2018*. International Organization for Migration (IOM). Geneva: The UN Migration Agency. Chapter 5. Pp. 125-147.

Bibliografía Complementaria

Cox, R. W. (Ed). (1997). *The New Realism: Perspectives on Multilateralism and World Order*. New York: St Martin's.

Finnemore, M.; Sikkink, K. (2001). Taking Stock: The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics. *Annual Review of Political Science* 4:1, 391-416.

Frieden, J. & Lake, D. A. (Ed.). (2000). *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power and Wealth*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Friedmann, T. L. (2005). *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Gilpin, R. (1987). *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Gilpin, R. (2001). *Global Political Economy*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Greider, W. (1997). *One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Held, D.; McGrew, A.; Goldblatt, D. & Perrator, J. (1999). *Global Transformations: Politics, Economics and Culture*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Lindblom, Ch. (2001). *The Market System: What It Is, How It Works, and What To Make of It*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Newmann, W. W. (2016). A Brief Introduction to Theories of International Political Economy. *Genocide Studies International* 10, No. 1, 7-26.

O'Brien, R. & Williams, M. (2004). *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Ravenhill, J. (2008.) *Global Political Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Rivoli, P. (2009). *The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy: An Economist Examines the Markets, Power, and Politics of World Trade*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley.

Stiglitz, J. (2004). *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: W. W. Norton.



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