### Course information sheet

#### Course information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>International Political Economy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>First and second semesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours/week</td>
<td>3 h/w and 2h/w</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS Credits</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Obligatory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-field</td>
<td>International Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td>Robert Robinson</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Lecturer information

**Professor: Robert Robinson**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Decanato ICADE Económicas, C/ Alberto Aguilera 23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>e-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robrob@comillas.edu">robrob@comillas.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>915422800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial hours</td>
<td>Consult with professor</td>
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#### Detailed information about the course

**Context of the course**

**Contribution to the professional profile of the degree**

International Political Economy (IPE) is a field of International Relations which represents the combination of, or relationship between, politics and economics. This sub-discipline deals with the way in which economic and political factors interact at the international level. It can be conceptualized as an academic crossroads or disciplinary intersection of politics and economics which seeks to explore and analyze the mutual interaction between states and markets. The academic concepts or buzzwords of ‘globalization’, ‘hegemony’ and ‘interdependence’ are central to analyses of IPE. International trade, international finance and money, foreign investment and multinational corporations and economic development constitute the core of IPE.

**Prerequisites**

Basic economic literacy is essential for students of IPE. The course Economic Approaches to International Relations (the First Year course of the International Relations undergraduate degree at Comillas) provides a conceptual and theoretical foundation to follow contemporary debates on the subject. An equivalent Introduction to Economics (Microeconomics and Macroeconomics) course will suffice.
### Thematic units and content

#### Content – Thematic Units

**UNIT 1: THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF IPE**
- Topic 1: What is International Political Economy?
- Topic 2: The Economic Liberal Perspective
- Topic 3: The Mercantilist Perspective
- Topic 4: The Structuralist Perspective
- Topic 5. Alternative Perspectives of IPE

**UNIT 2: STRUCTURES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY**
- Topic 6: The Production and Trade Structure
- Topic 7: The International Monetary and Finance Structure
- Topic 8: International Debt and Financial Crises
- Topic 9: The Global Security Structure
- Topic 10: The Knowledge and Technology Structure

**UNIT 3: STATES AND MARKETS**
- Topic 11: Development and Developing Countries
- Topic 12: Regional Economic Integration: the case of the EU
- Topic 13: Emerging Forces: the case of the BRICs
- Topic 14: Development, Economy and Democracy in the Middle East and North Africa

**UNIT 4: TRANSNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND DILEMMAS**
- Topic 15: Illicit transactions in the global economy
- Topic 16: Migration and Tourism
- Topic 17: Multinational Corporations in the global economy
- Topic 18: Food and Hunger
- Topic 19: Oil and Energy
- Topic 20: Environment

#### Skills - Objectives

**Generic skills of degree programme**

**Instrumental skills**
- CGI 1. Analytical capacity and ability to synthesize
- CGI 2. Problem resolution and decision-making ability
- CGI 4. Ability to manage information from diverse sources
- CGI 7. Oral and written communication in a foreign language

**Interpersonal skills**
- CGI 9. Interpersonal skills: listen, discuss and debate
- CGI 10. Leadership capacity and ability to work in group situations
- CGI 11. Critical capability
- CGI 13. Recognition of, and respect for, diversity and multiculturalism

**Systemic skills**
- CGS 14. Capacity to learn and work independently
- CGS 17. Capacity to elaborate and transmit ideas, projects, reports, solutions and problems

**Skills specific to the sub-field of knowledge**
- CE23. Display an advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary international political economy

**Learning outcomes (intellectual skills)**
CE23.1. Describe and define the process of globalization, particularly in the economic field
CE23.2. Describe the ways in which economic and political factors interact at the level of international relations
CE23.3. Understand the major theoretical perspectives and debates in international political economy.
CE23.4. Display an awareness of the historical development of the global political economy
CE23.5. Understand key structures of the international economy (trade, investment, finance, monetary matters, development regionalization, globalization, democratization) and place these in a theoretical and historical context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes (practical skills)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CE23.6. An ability to analyze, compare and critically evaluate fundamental assumptions and arguments in IPE and IPE-related literature</td>
</tr>
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<td>CE23.7. An ability to construct and substantiate a critical argument</td>
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<td>CE23.8. Be reflective and self-critical in their work</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.9. Be able to work with theoretical knowledge and apply theory to key policy issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.10. Be able to engage in academic and professional communication with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.11. Preparing and presenting theoretical and applied analyses in international political economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.12. Analyzing and evaluating complex information, assessment and critical scrutiny of competing approaches and issues in IPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CE23.13. Ability to pursue independent research work, writing of concise academic papers, bibliography and other library skills, and capacity to reflect on the frameworks and concepts provided by the program, to complete work within set deadlines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.14. Development of oral presentational skills, and capacity to work in groups and to pursue independent study.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcomes (attitudinal)</th>
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<tr>
<td>CE23.15. Listen, argue and criticize the social and ethical implications of issues in international political economy</td>
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TEACHING APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

General learning and teaching approach of the course

The main teaching approach is based on the encouragement of active participation in class and group situations. The primary means of imparting knowledge and understanding is through the lecture but students are strongly encouraged to engage in independent reading for which they are given extensive support and guidance on reading materials and their appropriate use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class-based teaching methods</th>
<th>Skills</th>
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| **AF1. Lectures.** The purpose of lectures is to introduce students to the main areas of the course and to provide the grounding for further study. Use will be made of this traditional teaching method as a way of presenting the greatest amount of information to a large number of students in a relatively efficient manner. However, it is expected that students will interrupt, make comments and ask questions throughout the lecture thus transforming it into an active learning process. Often the lecturer will provide some recommended reading to do before the lecture which will give the student an idea of the nature of the topic to be covered. Students find that they get much more out of the lecture if they do the recommended reading beforehand. | CE23  
CGI1  
CGP9  
CGP11  
CGP13 |
| **AF2. Class discussions and debates.** Discussions constitute a primary teaching method in order to stimulate critical thinking. Students have an opportunity to make significant contributions to the learning of others and develop their own analytical skills and articulate their ideas and opinions clearly. Discussion class where students study a subject in depth and exchange ideas. | CE23  
CGI1  
CGP9  
CGP11  
CGP13  
CGS14 |
| **AF3. Audiovisual methods.** Extensive use throughout the course will be made of film and TV documentaries in order to stimulate interest in, and motivate reflection and discussion on issues relevant to international political economy. | CE23  
CGI1  
CGP9  
CGP11  
CGP13  
CGS14 |

Outside classroom activities

| **AF4. Independent study.** Students are expected to undertake independent study which will concentrate on reading the textbook and researching in the library to carry out in-depth investigations of areas of interest. There is only a limited amount of information that can be covered in class time, so students will be expected to study independently on a regular basis. As a general rule of thumb you should aim to do two hours of independent study for every hour you do in the classroom. | CE23  
CGI1  
CGI4  
CGS14 |
| **AF5. Tutorials.** An exploration of progress in the course with the lecturer, either one-to-one or in a small group. Resolution of learning problems and difficulties. | CGP11  
CGS14 |
### ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment activities</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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| **AE1. 4,** Two multiple-choice tests each semester. (Four in total). | • To measure understanding of fundamental ideas and knowledge  
• To measure comprehension of main theoretical frameworks  
• To measure ability to use theories and constructs in practical applications and analysis  | 50% |
| **AE4.** One group presentation each semester (2 in total) | • Ability to identify adequate bibliographical sources  
• Ability to carry out a complete research/writing process  
• Ability to present coherent, well-supported arguments  
• Ability to offer original thought and perspectives | 50% |

### SUMMARY OF WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS AND TIMING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class-based and outside class activities</th>
<th>Work period</th>
<th>Submission dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written preparation for participation in class discussions, debates and case study analyses.</td>
<td>All planned sessions</td>
<td>All planned sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term tests</td>
<td>To be announced and displayed on Moodle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final tests</td>
<td>Exam timetable to be determined by Head of Studies of degree program</td>
<td></td>
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### SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORKLOAD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT HOURS</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Activity based classes</th>
<th>Written tests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDY TIME OUTSIDE CLASS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent study/presentation</th>
<th>Group study and discussion preparation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECTS Credits: 7.5

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Required textbook

Recommended reading

Other resources: web pages
International Monetary Fund [http://www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [http://www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)
Organization of economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) [http://www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

The Economist [http://www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com)
The Financial Times [http://www.FT.com](http://www.FT.com)

Transparencies and additional course materials
Accessible via SIFO platform