

## Course information sheet

Course information	
Course title	International Political Economy
Degree	International Relations
Year	Third
Semester	First and second semesters
Hours/week	3 h/w and 2h/w
ECTS Credits	7,5
Type	Obligatory
Department	Economics
Sub-field	International Economics
Coordinator	Robert Robinson

Lecturer information	
<b>Professor: Robert Robinson</b>	
Office	Decanato ICADE Económicas, C/ Alberto Aguilera 23
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Telephone	915422800
Tutorial hours	Consult with professor

## Detailed information about the course

Context of the course
<p><b>Contribution to the professional profile of the degree</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>Prerequisites</b></p> <p>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.</p>

## Thematic units and content

<b>Content – Thematic Units</b>
<b>UNIT 1: THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF IPE</b>
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
<b>UNIT 2: STRUCTURES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY</b>
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
<b>UNIT 3: STATES AND MARKETS</b>
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
<b>UNIT 4: TRANSNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND DILEMMAS</b>
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

<b>Skills - Objectives</b>
<b>Generic skills of degree programme</b>
<b>Instrumental skills</b>
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
<b>Interpersonal skills</b>
CGP 9. Interpersonal skills: listen, discuss and debate CGP 10. Leadership capacity and ability to work in group situations CGP 11. Critical capability CGP 13. Recognition of, and respect for, diversity and multiculturalism
<b>Systemic skills</b>
CGS 14. Capacity to learn and work independently CGS 17. Capacity to elaborate and transmit ideas, projects, reports, solutions and problems
<b>Skills specific to the sub-field of knowledge</b>
CE23. Display an advanced knowledge and understanding of the contemporary international political economy
<b>Learning outcomes (intellectual skills)</b>

**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**

**Learning outcomes (practical skills)**

**CE23.6. An ability to analyze, compare and critically evaluate fundamental assumptions and arguments in IPE and IPE-related literature**  
**CE23.7. An ability to construct and substantiate a critical argument**  
**CE23.8. Be reflective and self-critical in their work**  
**CE23.9. Be able to work with theoretical knowledge and apply theory to key policy issues**  
**CE23.10. Be able to engage in academic and professional communication with others**  
**CE23.11. Preparing and presenting theoretical and applied analyses in international political economy**  
**CE23.12. Analyzing and evaluating complex information, assessment and critical scrutiny of competing approaches and issues in IPE**  
**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.**  
**CE23.14. Development of oral presentational skills, and capacity to work in groups and to pursue independent study.**

**Learning outcomes (attitudinal)**

**CE23.15. Listen, argue and criticize the social and ethical implications of issues in international political economy**

## TEACHING APPROACH AND STRATEGIES

General learning and teaching approach of the course	
<p>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.</p>	
Class-based teaching methods	Skills
<p><b>AF1. Lectures.</b> 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>CE23 CGI1 CGP9 CGP11 CGP13</p>
<p><b>AF2. Class discussions and debates.</b> 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..</p>	<p>CE23 CGI1 CGP9 CGP11 CGP13 CGS14</p>
<p><b>AF3. Audiovisual methods.</b> 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.</p>	<p>CE23 CGI1 CPG9</p>
Outside classroom activities	Skills
<p><b>AF4. Independent study.</b> 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.</p>	<p>CE23 CGI1 CGI4 CGS14</p>
<p><b>AF5. Tutorials.</b> 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.</p>	<p>CGP11 CGS14</p>

## ASSESSMENTS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Assessment activities	CRITERIA	Weight
AE1. 4, Two multiple-choice tests each semester. (Four in total).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure understanding of fundamental ideas and knowledge</li> <li>To measure comprehension of main theoretical frameworks</li> <li>To measure ability to use theories and constructs in practical applications and analysis</li> <li></li> </ul>	50%
AE4. One group presentation each semester (2 in total)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to identify adequate bibliographical sources</li> <li>Ability to carry out a complete research/writing process</li> <li>Ability to present coherent, well-supported arguments</li> <li>Ability to offer original thought and perspectives</li> </ul>	50%

## SUMMARY OF WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS AND TIMING

Class-based and outside class activities	Work period	Submission dates
Written preparation for participation in class discussions, debates and case study analyses.	All planned sessions	All planned sessions
Mid-term tests	To be announced and displayed on Moodle	
Final tests	Exam timetable to be determined by Head of Studies of degree program	

## SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORKLOAD

### CONTACT HOURS

Lectures	Activity based classes	Written tests
60	15	4

STUDY TIME OUTSIDE CLASS		
Independent study/presentation	Group study and discussion preparation	
90	30	
ECTS Credits:7.5		

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

<b>Required textbook</b>
Balaam, D.N. and Dillman, B. (2010) <i>An Introduction to International Political Economy</i> , Longman, 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition.
<b>Recommended reading</b>
Oatley, T (2011) <i>International Political Economy</i> , Longman, 5 <sup>th</sup> Edition. Cohn, T (2011) <i>Global Political Economy</i> , Longman, 6 <sup>th</sup> Edition.
<b>Other resources: web pages</b>
World Trade Organization <a href="http://www.wto.org/">http://www.wto.org/</a> World Bank <a href="http://www.worldbank.org">http://www.worldbank.org</a> International Monetary Fund <a href="http://www.imf.org">http://www.imf.org</a> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) <a href="http://www.unctad.org">http://www.unctad.org</a> Organization of economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) <a href="http://www.oecd.org">http://www.oecd.org</a> European Union <a href="http://www.europa.eu">http://www.europa.eu</a>
The Economist <a href="http://www.economist.com">http://www.economist.com</a> The Financial Times <a href="http://www.FT.com">http://www.FT.com</a>
<b>Transparencies and additional course materials</b>
Accessible via SIFO platform