Politics 165A
Globalization and Governance in the Trading System
Fall 2007
Fridays 1:40-4:30 (Block S4)
Golding Judaic Center 107

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Golding 120

Description
“Globalization” has become a popular buzzword of our time, and its economic features have inspired political debate, social protest, and international discord in recent years. This research seminar examines how globalization has affected society and politics, and how nations, groups, and individuals have responded to it. The course will focus on the globalization of the trading system, specifically the rules and authority of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and related international agencies; the policymaking functions of national political institutions, primarily in the United States; and the role and influence of firms, labor unions, citizen groups, and other private actors.

Prerequisites
Students should have taken Politics 15A, Introduction to International Relations, or a course on international economic issues such as Economics 8B, The Global Economy.

Admission Procedures
Signature of the instructor is required for admission to the course. The order of enrollment preference will be: 1). Politics and IGS majors, by graduation year; 2). Seniors and Juniors in other majors who have satisfied the prerequisites and completed at least two politics courses. Politics graduate students may also enroll. First-year students and students without prior coursework in international relations or political economy will not be admitted.

Course Requirements
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

1). Regular attendance and class participation (15%)
2). A discussion session presentation (10%)
3). A research paper (45%)
4). A research paper prospectus (10%)
5). A research paper presentation (20%)
Class Attendance and Participation (15%)
Because the course is a small, highly interactive research seminar, it is essential that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Class attendance, and the level and quality of your participation, will be the deciding factor in cases where the final grade is borderline.

Discussion Session Presentation (10%)
At each class meeting for which readings are assigned, one student will give a presentation of the key issues raised in the topic for that week and provide a critical analysis of the argument and methodology of the readings. Presentations must use PowerPoint. A sign-up sheet to schedule the discussion session presentations will be posted on my office door in Golding 120 on Monday, September 3 at 9am.

Research Paper (45%)
You must write a research paper of at least 20 pages. The research paper is due by 4pm on Monday, December 17. Completed papers must present a clear research question; a thesis statement; evidence to substantiate the thesis, drawn from class discussions, readings, and outside research; and complete citations of published work from which you obtained ideas and information. The general parameters of the assignment are as follows:

1). Papers must include a political economy component. You should focus on policy toward at least one type of cross-border economic activity or its effects, e.g. trade, exchange rates, capital flows, foreign direct investment, immigration, labor and environmental standards, pollution, etc.
2). Papers must include a clear research question that seeks to explain some political outcome or anomaly related to economic globalization.
3). Papers must involve outside research. You should consult scholarly articles and books, official government publications and websites, and other sources of information and data.

Research Paper Prospectus (10%)
A prospectus of your research paper is due at the start of class on October 12. In about 5 pages, it should present your research question and proposed explanation, and describe the sources you will consult and the evidence you will provide to substantiate your thesis.

Research Paper Presentation (20%)
Research paper presentations are scheduled for December 7. In about 15 minutes, you will discuss your research question, scholarly debates on the topic, and your findings using PowerPoint.
Grading
Assignments will be graded out of 100 points based on the following scale: A (93 and above); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (65-69); F (less than 65). Final scores and grades will be computed in Microsoft Excel using the following formula: \[ \text{SCORE} = 0.15 \times \text{ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION} + 0.1 \times \text{DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION} + 0.45 \times \text{PAPER} + 0.1 \times \text{PROSPECTUS} + 0.2 \times \text{RESEARCH/PRESENTATION}. \]

Disability Statement
If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please make sure that I receive your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. For questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at 6-3470.

Course Policies
A statement of course policies regarding absences and late papers can be found on Latte. If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for this course, please make sure to provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts.

Discussion Questions
Uploaded on Latte are discussion questions to accompany the weekly course readings; you are encouraged to consult these questions before starting the reading assignments.

Course Readings
You are expected to complete the course readings in advance of the class meeting for which they are assigned. Please note that the reading load is demanding—120 pages per week, on average, with a few sessions as high as 140 pages—and plan ahead. You can purchase books at the Brandeis University Bookstore or online at amazon.com; they are also on reserve at the Main Library. Course readings appear in the following sources:

Required Texts


Electronic Readings
Electronic readings are indicated by a hyperlink. While these readings are distributed electronically, I expect you to print all of them. There is no Xeroxed, bound reader for the course, but you are welcome to share print-outs and form groups to save on printing costs. Readings available through LTS have a stable URL in the hyperlink, or you can use the bibliographic information to locate the journal issue in e-Journals A-Z. Other readings are uploaded to Latte; follow the hyperlink or find them in the “Files” button.

Course Schedule

**August 31**  Introduction: Globalization and Governance

**September 7**  Creating the Trade Regime: The GATT

- WTO website: [Principles of the Trading System](#) and [The GATT Years](#).

**September 14**  Rosh Hashanah (No Class)
September 21  Strengthening the Trade Regime: The WTO

- WTO website: What Is the World Trade Organization?; The Uruguay Round; and Developing Countries: Overview.
- John H. Barton et al., The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO, Chap. 6-8: 153-217.

September 28  Dispute Settlement in the WTO

- WTO website: Settling Disputes: A Unique Contribution.
- John H. Barton et al., The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO, Chap. 3: 61-90.

October 5  Trade Rules and Non-Tariff Barriers

- Dan Ikenson, Threadbare Excuses: The Textile Industry’s Campaign to Preserve Import Restraints, Cato Center Trade Policy Analysis #25, October 2003.
October 12  Environmental Standards and Consumer Safety

- WTO website: [Standards and Safety](#) and [The Environment: A New High Profile](#).
  Also read the text of [GATT Article XX](#).

October 19  International Labor Standards

- WTO website: [Labor Standards: Highly Controversial](#).

October 26  Negotiating NAFTA

November 2  Dispute Settlement in NAFTA
- World Trade Institute website, skim Chapter 11: Investment.

November 9  Agriculture in NAFTA and the WTO

November 16  NAFTA and Labor
November 23          Thanksgiving (No Class)

November 30          NAFTA and Standards


December 7          Research paper presentations