Politics 172B
International Political Economy
Fall 2012
Wednesday 9-11:50am (Block S8)
Olin-Sang 104

Instructor: Kerry A. Chase  
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Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11am  
Location: Olin-Sang 106

Description
This seminar surveys the politics of international economic relations. Its purpose is to examine how international and domestic factors influence national policies and the organization of the world economy. The substantive focus is international trade, finance, and currency management. Topics include the historical foundations of the modern world economy; the origins and effects of international institutions; exchange rate systems; international debt and finance; trade liberalization and protection; and international trade agreements.

Information for Majors
Politics 172B counts toward the international relations subfield distribution requirement for Politics majors and minors. It also counts as a department seminar. Politics 172B is a foundational class for the Global Governance specialization and an elective course for the Global Economy specialization in International and Global Studies.

Prerequisites
Enrollment requires sophomore, junior, or senior standing. Completion of POL 15A, Introduction to International Relations, is strongly recommended. This means that I will generally assume familiarity with theories of international relations. Exceptions to this prerequisite are possible for students with prior coursework in this area (e.g. LGLS 127B; ECON 160A; ECON 161A; ECON 175A). However, prior coursework in economics is not required, and I will not assume knowledge of economic terms and concepts.

Course Requirements
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:
1. Regular attendance and class participation (15%)
2. Weekly readings memos (5%)
3. Weekly quizzes (20%)
4. Two short papers (30% each) or one research paper (60%)
Regular Attendance and Class Participation (15%)
It is essential that you come to class prepared to discuss the scheduled topic and the assigned readings. Course meetings will include some lecturing but the priority is class discussion. I want everybody to participate, so I may call on you at any time.

The attendance and class participation portion of the course grade will be based on the frequency of attendance and the quality of participation. High-quality participation demonstrates knowledge of the assigned readings and/or an honest effort to grasp their most difficult parts. Asking insightful questions is also an effective way to participate.

Weekly Readings Memos (5%)
Every week before class, you must send me a memo on the week’s readings. Your memo should answer two questions: 1). What did you find most interesting in the readings? 2). What did you have the most difficulty understanding in the readings?

Respond to each question in separate paragraphs of about 3-6 sentences each. If you reference a specific part of a reading, be sure to include citations and page numbers. E-mail your weekly memo to me at chase@brandeis.edu no later than 8:30am before class meets. Please send your memo as text, not an attachment.

Weekly Quizzes (20%)
We will begin every class (except one) with a short quiz related to course readings. Quizzes will be closed-book and you may not use notes. Questions will be designed to test your reading comprehension; they will cover a mix of factual and conceptual issues, typically in a multiple choice and/or fill in the blank format.

The weekly quiz portion of the course grade will be an average of your quiz scores over the term. In computing this portion of the grade, I will drop your lowest quiz score and I will average your second and third lowest quiz scores into one.

Two Short Papers (30% each)
Short papers are written responses to an essay question posted to Latte. There are two essay choices; you will select one. Responses will use material from course readings and outside research, including original documents. Short papers must be no more than 4,000 words of text and notes (not including references).

The first short paper is due Monday, November 19. The second short paper is due Wednesday, December 19.
Research Paper Option (60%)
You may choose to write a term research paper instead of short papers. Research papers will analyze a subject of your choosing related to international political economy. This assignment requires outside research and use of original documents and/or data sources.

The research paper is due Wednesday, December 19. If you choose the research paper option, you must submit a term paper prospectus no later than Monday, November 5. The paper prospectus is a statement of your research plans; it will count 5% toward your final grade and the completed research paper will count 55%. Research papers must be no more than 9,000 words text and notes (not including references).

Paper Submission
All papers are due in my mailbox outside Olin-Sang 204 by 3pm by the date indicated. You are always welcome to submit papers before the due date.

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 this formula: \( \text{SCORE} = 0.15 \times \text{PARTICIPATION} + 0.05 \times \text{MEMOS} + 0.2 \times \text{QUIZZES} + 0.3 \times \text{PAPER1} + 0.3 \times \text{PAPER2} \) or \( \text{SCORE} = 0.15 \times \text{PARTICIPATION} + 0.05 \times \text{MEMOS} + 0.2 \times \text{QUIZZES} + 0.05 \times \text{PROSPECTUS} + 0.55 \times \text{TERMPAPER} \).

Course Policies
A statement of course policies on absences and late papers can be found on Latte. Please be sure to consult this handout if you cannot complete an assignment on time, or if you have an illness or family emergency that interferes with your participation in the course.

Electronic Devices
If you choose to bring a computer or tablet to class, I expect that your use is strictly for note taking or other purposes directly related to our discussion for that day. E-mail, Internet surfing, instant messaging, etc. are discouraged in the strongest terms. Phone-like handheld devices are not permitted under any circumstances.

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.
Student Athletes
If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for the course, please provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than September 19.

Course Readings
You are expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of the respective course meeting. Reading assignments average 60-80 pages per session plus original documents. Course readings appear in the following sources:

Required Text
Thomas Oatley, *International Political Economy: Interests and Institutions in the Global Economy*, 5th ed. (Longman, 2012). You can purchase the text at the [Brandeis University Bookstore](https://www.brandeis.edu/bookstore) or at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The text is also on reserve at the Main Library.

Electronic Readings
Electronic readings are uploaded to Latte: follow the hyperlinks in the electronic copy of the syllabus or find them listed underneath the relevant course module. Please bring copies to class in either print or electronic form to assist you during class discussion.

Course Schedule

**September 5** 
Introduction: Politics and Markets

**September 12** 
The Gold Standard

**September 19** 
Trade Liberalization and Protection


**September 26**  
**Yom Kippur (no class)**

**October 3**  
**Debt and Reparations**

- Documents: *Hague Agreement regarding the Complete and Final Settlement of the Question of Reparations from Germany* (1930), Articles I-XI of the Final Agreement; Annex I; Annex III, Parts I-III; and Annex VIII, Articles I-XII.

**October 10**  
**Bretton Woods**

- Documents: *White Plan* (1942); *Keynes Plan* (1942); *Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund* (1944), Articles 1-8.

**October 17**  
**The Gold-Dollar Standard**

- Oatley, *IPE*, Ch. 10, The International Monetary System and Ch. 12, Society-Based Models of Monetary and Exchange-Rate Politics: 215-224, 249-260.
October 24  The Monetary System after Gold

- Oatley, *IPE*, Ch. 11, Cooperation, Conflict, and Crisis in the Contemporary International Monetary System and Ch. 12, Society-Based Models of Monetary and Exchange-Rate Politics: 225-241, 260-272.

October 31  The Debt Crisis


November 7  Financial Crises

- Oatley, *IPE*, Ch. 15, Developing Countries and International Finance II: A Decade of Crises: 323-345.
- James Raymond Vreeland, *Who Controls the IMF?* and *Why Do Governments
Participate in IMF Programs? Ch. 2-Ch. 3 in *The International Monetary Fund: Politics of Conditional Lending* (Routledge, 2007): 37-72.


November 14  **Currencies and Domestic Politics**


November 21  **Thanksgiving (no class)**

November 28  **The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade**

- Documents: *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (1947), Articles 1-2, 6, 11, 19-23, 25-28, and 31-35.

December 5  **The World Trade Organization**


**December 12 Trade and Development**

• Documents: *WTO Doha Declaration* (2001).