

POLS 4650-01
Politics of the Global Economy

Spring 2020

Tuesday and Thursday 9:40-11:10, St. Robert's Hall 367

Professor Gabriele Magni

Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30; 4:30-6:00; Thursday: 4:30-5:30 or by appointment

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Pronouns: he, him, his

Course Description

This course examines the interaction between international economics, international politics, and domestic politics. After an introduction to the disciplines of international and comparative political economy, the course is organized around thematic sections. The first one focuses on international trade, i.e. the movement of goods across countries. It analyzes the global trading system, the domestic political dimension of international trade, and public opinion on trade. The second section explores international finance, i.e. the movement of capital across countries. It examines the role of multinational corporations, monetary and exchange rate policies, and public opinion on international transfers. The third section examines immigration, i.e. the movement of people across countries, exploring the political economy of immigration, immigration attitudes, and the link between immigration and redistribution. The fourth section investigates the domestic political effects of economic globalization, examining the effects of globalization on elections, populism, and the welfare state. The fifth section analyzes economic inequality, with a focus on the causes of inequality, its link with redistribution, and its effect on fairness and happiness. In the last part of the course, students will present their research.

Course objectives and student learning outcomes

- Gain knowledge. Students will gain a greater comprehension of the major theoretical approaches to understanding political economy and how these approaches can help analyze substantive areas such as international trade, international monetary policy, globalization and other areas.
- Enhance critical thinking. Students will learn to critically examine the course material presented, including academic readings, news articles, and lectures.
- Enhance information literacy and improve research skills. Students will learn how to conduct their own largely self-directed research projects. There is a long research paper that students must work on for most of the semester. The paper requires students to find and use scholarly information specific to each disciplinary perspective. Students will be

able to differentiate between source types and understand how to use them effectively as evidence in an argument, which requires them to be able to assess material for reliability, validity, accuracy, authority, and bias.

Course requirements

The course will meet twice a week. The requirements for the course are first and foremost regular class attendance, reading of the assigned materials, and active participation in class discussions.

Attendance is obligatory. You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. For every following unexcused absence, your participation grade will be reduced by four (4) points. Further absences will be excused only in reasonable cases. However, you need to contact me ahead of the class session that you plan to miss. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered in class. Make sure you ask a colleague for class notes.

I expect everyone to **arrive on time**. Regular tardiness to class will negatively affect your participation grade. Late arrivals are disruptive and distracting. I appreciate your cooperation.

Please come to **office hours** or contact me by e-mail if you have questions or concerns. If you have any kind of problem with the course or with life, please communicate with me (you do not need to give me any specific details regarding the personal situation you might be going through). Do not let missed classes and assignments get out of hand. I am willing to work with you to help you succeed, but I cannot do so retroactively at the end of the semester.

Students are expected to come to each session **ready for a lively discussion** that will help us all better understand historic and contemporary trends in global politics.

The following are some guidelines to help you get started:

- **Speak up**. Don't be afraid to ask a question or make a comment. I value class participation, and it is possible that other students have similar concerns
- **Respect** one another. Differences of opinion are likely and desirable. Listen to other students' questions, express your disagreements with respect, and always value and engage with your colleagues' opinions
- **Silence your cell-phones**. Should I notice that you are using your phone, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, **your participation grade will be reduced** by three (3 points) for each violation.
- **Laptops are only allowed for note taking**. Violations of this policy will negatively affect your grade. Should I notice that you are on your laptop doing things unrelated to class, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, **your participation grade will be reduced** by three (3 points) for each violation.

Course Readings

All the required readings are available on Brightspace.

In the first part of the course, we will use parts of the following textbook: *Oatley, T., 2019. International political economy. Routledge*. If you prefer to have a hard copy of the textbook, you can order it on Amazon.

Please note that this is a reading-intense class. It is imperative that you complete all the readings before the assigned date in order to succeed in the class.

Class Schedule, Topics, and Readings*

**Please note that I reserve the right to change/add/subtract materials throughout the semester.*

Introduction		
January 14 (T)	Course overview	• <i>No readings</i>
January 16 (R)	International and comparative political economy	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 1
International Trade		
January 21 (T)	The WTO and the world trade system	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 2
January 23 (R)	The political economy of international trade	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 3
January 28 (T)	Domestic politics and trade	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 4
January 30 (R)	Trade and partisanship	• Milner and Judkins 2004
February 4 (T)	Public opinion on trade	• Scheve and Slaughter 2001 • Mutz and Kim 2017
International Finance		
February 6 (R)	Multinational corporations	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 8
February 11 (T)	International monetary system	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 10
February 13 (R)	Monetary and exchange rate policies	• Oatley 2019, Chapter 13
February 18 (T)	Public opinion on international transfers	• Bechtel et al. 2012 • Kleider and Stoeckel 2018

February 20 (R)	*Midterm I*	
Immigration		
February 25 (T)	The political economy of immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peters 2017
February 27 (R)	Immigration attitudes I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheve and Slaughter 2001 • Citrin et al. 1997
March 3 (T)	Immigration attitudes II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hainmueller and Hiscox 2010 • Sniderman et al. 2004
March 5 (R)	Immigration and redistribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alesina et al. 2018 • Munoz and Pardos-Prado 2017
March 10, 12 (T-R)	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>	
The Political Effects of Globalization		
March 17 (T)	Globalization and elections I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jensen et al. 2017 • Colantone and Stanig 2018 (AJPS)
March 19 (R)	Globalization and elections II + Paper abstract and outline due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballard-Rosa et al. 2017 • Colantone and Stanig 2018 (APSR)
March 24 (T)	Globalization and populism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodrik 2018 • Inglehart and Norris 2016
March 26 (R)	Globalization and redistribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter 2010 • Rehm 2009
March 31 (T)	*Midterm II*	
The political effects of economic inequality		
April 2 (R)	Economic inequality: facts and causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milanovic 2013 • Altman 2014
April 7 (T)	Inequality and redistribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magni 2020 • Kuziemko et al. 2014
April 9 (R)	<i>No class – Easter holidays</i>	
April 14 (T)	Inequality and fairness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trump 2019 • McCall et al. 2017
April 16 (R)	Inequality and happiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alesina et al. 2014

+ Paper due		
Paper and poster presentations		
April 21 (T)	Presentation I	• No readings
April 23 (R)	Presentation II	• No readings
April 28 (T)	Presentation III	• No readings
April 30 (R)	Final review	• No readings
May 7 (R)	*Final exam, 8 am*	

Course evaluation

Grades are determined by the quality of the final result (i.e. the work submitted), not by the effort put into the process. The course has the following requirements:

- Midterm exam I (February 20): 20%
- Midterm exam II (March 31): 20%
- Research paper (April 16): 25% (of which: paper: 20%, paper presentation: 5%)
- Final exam (May 7): 25%
- Participation (including attendance, in-class discussion, current events presentation, class and group activities, and comments during paper presentations): 10%

The deadlines listed above are strict: **late midterms and finals will not be scheduled; late papers will not be accepted.** Paper abstracts and research papers must be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date. Please talk to me as soon as possible prior to any due date if you anticipate any issue and have a valid excuse.

The following grading scale applies:

A	94-100	A-	90-93		
B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
D	60-69	F	<60		

Midterm exams

There are two midterm exams. The first one takes place on February 20 and tests all of the material covered until February 18 (included). The second takes place on March 31. Each midterm counts for 20% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Research paper

There is a 10-page research paper, which overall counts for 25% of the final grade. The final paper is due on April 16 and must be submitted via Brightspace. The paper should not be a literature review or summary of the readings. You will be evaluated based on the clarity of your question, the organization and clarity of your argument, the supporting evidence that you provide, and the quality of your writing. The paper must be 10 pages, Times New Roman, 12-point font size, 1-inch margins, double-spaced. Further information on the paper topic will be provided during the semester. The paper must be submitted on Brightspace by the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will not be accepted.

Paper abstract and outline: An abstract (one or two paragraphs stating the research question you will pursue and how you will do it) and an outline of the paper will be due on Brightspace on March 19. I will return your abstract and outline with comments. You should incorporate this feedback into your paper. While the abstract and outline are not graded, being late with the abstract submission will result in a 3-point decrease (out of 100) per day in your paper grade.

Paper presentation (5% of final grade)

In the last two weeks of classes, each student will present their paper to the class. Further information on the format of the presentation will be provided during the semester.

Final exam

The final exam takes place on May 7 at 8 am and counts for 25% of your final grade. Further information about the format of the exam will be provided during the semester.

Participation

Participation is an integral part of the class and counts for 10% of your final grade. While I understand that some students may not be comfortable with speaking up in class, everyone should make an effort and contribute to the discussion. ***Being regularly present in class and paying attention will guarantee you a grade of 75.*** To receive full participation points, you must be present, alert, and active in class. Please note that the quality of participation, and not just the quantity, will affect the overall participation grade. More specifically, your participation grade will be determined by: attendance, participation in in-class discussion, current events presentation, and participation in class and group activities.

Attendance

You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences throughout the semester without penalty. For every following unexcused absence, your participation grade will be reduced by four (4) points. Regular tardiness to class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

Current events presentation

Each student is expected to deliver a presentation on current events related to the class topics. A presentation sign-up sheet will be circulated the first week of class. Presentations will take place during each class, will be informal (no power point), and should last no longer than 3-5 minutes. You are expected to summarize the content of a news article and come up with a discussion question at the end of your presentation. ***You are expected to choose an article related to the lecture or readings of the day.*** Potential sources of articles include (but are not limited to): BBC, The Guardian, France 24 (English version), Spiegel Online (International version), Politico

(European version), El País (English version), Financial Times, The Economist, The New York Times (International version). Please send the link to the article to me and all of your classmates via Brightspace by 11:59 pm on the day before your presentation.

Comments on paper presentations

In the last two weeks of class, each student will present their paper to the class. Your comments to other students' paper will contribute to your participation grade.

Important dates

February 20	Midterm exam I
March 19	Paper abstract and outline
March 31	Midterm exam II
April 16	Final paper
May 7	Final exam

Additional information

Electronics policy

The use of phones is not allowed. Should I notice that you are using your phone, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, your grade will be reduced by three (3 points) for each violation.

Laptops can be used only for note taking. Violations of this policy will negatively affect your grade. Should I notice that you are on your laptop doing things unrelated to class, I will call you out. Starting with the second violation, your grade will be reduced by three (3 points) for each violation.

You may also want to consider taking notes by hand. Scientific evidence shows that writing notes by hand helps remember better. The following article describes the experiment producing this finding: *To Remember a Lecture Better, Take Notes by Hand*

(<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>).

Email policy

While I am always happy to communicate via email, emails are not the best way to discuss substantive questions concerning course material. I encourage you to come to office hours if you would like me to clarify concepts or discuss issues in depth. Please be professional when you write emails: include proper greetings and salutations and check your spelling and grammar.

Grade questions

At times you may have questions about your grades on exams or papers. I am happy to discuss any grading-related issue during office hours. In order for me to re-grade any assignment, you will need to provide me with a written note (hard copy or email) explaining in detail why the grade should be changed. I will then re-grade the entire assignment. I reserve the right to raise or lower your grade accordingly.

Diversity and safe environment

Diverse perspectives and backgrounds enhance our community. As engaged citizens in a global and diverse society, we seek to advance a positive learning and working environment for all through open and substantive dialogue. Accordingly, we will strive to make this class a safe, happy and welcoming environment for all. When we talk about political and social issues, different opinions are likely to emerge. A discussion with diverse perspectives can be enriching, but only as far as we are always respectful of different points of view. Let's always engage in a civil way, even when we disagree with each other. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. If there is anything you would like to communicate to me privately about your involvement in class, please do not hesitate to do so.

Reporting Requirements of Sexual or Interpersonal Misconduct

As "responsible employees," faculty are required to report any case of suspected sexual or interpersonal misconduct and cannot protect student confidentiality. For information about confidential counseling on campus and for general information about consensual relationships, sexual harassment, and sexual assault, please see the LMU Cares website:

<http://studentaffairs.lmu.edu/lmucares/>.

Pronouns and LGBTI services

Please let me know (in whatever way you wish) what you like to be known as/introduced as. I use the following pronouns: he / him / his.

LGBT Student Services at LMU provides educational and support services to students that identify as LGBT+ and allies. The LGBT Student Services Office at LMU focuses on promoting equality, visibility and inclusion of LGBT students within the LMU community. Please visit their website for more information:

<https://studentaffairs.lmu.edu/community/ethnicandinterculturalservices/lgbtstudentservices/>.

Disability accommodations

Disability Support Services (DSS) at LMU assists students with physical, learning, and/or psychological disabilities by offering resources to enable them to achieve maximum independence while pursuing their educational goals. Their objective is to ensure that every student seeking DSS services receives university experiences and opportunities that are identical to those of any other student. They arrange accommodations and services for students with special needs. Please visit the DSS website for more information: <https://academics.lmu.edu/dss/>.

Academic honesty

The academic honesty policy applies to this course. Plagiarism, cheating and other violations will not be tolerated. If you are unsure on whether something constitutes plagiarism, come see me before you submitting your assignments. For more information on the academic honesty policy, please visit the following page: <https://academics.lmu.edu/honesty/>.

The Writing Center at LMU

An important part of improving your writing is getting feedback and revision suggestions on your writing projects in progress. The Writing Center offers free tutoring sessions (online or

face-to-face) in which you can get feedback from a peer writer on your digital and print texts for any class at any stage in your process. To make an appointment with a tutor, follow the “Writing Center Schedule” link in myLMU.

academics.lmu.edu/arc/writingcenter | writing@lmu.edu | 310-338-2847 | Daum Hall, 2nd floor