International Political Economy
Political Science 410-N01; Spring 2005
T/TH 12:15-1:30, OS 501

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Office Hours: T/Th 8:15-9.15 & 11.00-12.00; W 5.00-6.00; or by appointment

Introduction
This course is designed as an introduction to a subfield of international relations called international political economy (IPE). The purpose is to give you the analytical tools necessary to help you better understand the interplay between politics and economies in the contemporary world system. As you will see, the lines between politics and economics are blurred in many ways, defying distinct categorization. Furthermore, with 'globalization' being the latest buzzword, we are inundated with the feeling that the world---the 'global village'---is getting smaller and more interconnected, with the world economy, and even politics, changing at an ever-accelerating rate. We will explore international political economy in a very interactive way through class participation, case studies, and critical analysis. You are encouraged to ask questions, raise interesting points, and explore IPE in new and creative ways. The goal is for you to not only become more aware of the interconnections between politics and the global economy, but also for you to develop your writing, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

Readings
  - #214, Sustainable Development or Environmental Imperialism? Guinea-Bissau and the Hazardous Waste Trade, Mark Montgomery
  - #235, Managing the Asian Meltdown: The IMF & South Korea, Gregory Corning
  - #271, IPR & the Doha Round, Deborah Kay Elms
  - #256, Out of India: Enron and the Politics of Economic Liberalization, Tinaz Parvi & Thomas Rotnem
  - #236, Sexploitation? Sex Tourism in Cuba, Mary Geske & Michael Clancy
- Additional assignments are linked to your course webpage at www.nku.edu/~weirk/courses.html.
Contact Information
Office hours and location are as listed above. If you cannot come to office hours, you can arrange to meet me by appointment. If you need to contact me, emailing me is your best bet. I generally check my email at least once a day Monday through Friday.

Course Requirements

- Assignments = 50% of overall grade
- Final Project = 10% of overall grade
- Final Exam = 15% of overall grade
- Class Participation = 25% of overall grade

Assignments
Assignments throughout the course will include quizzes and critical thought papers. Paper topics will be posted on your course webpage at www.nku.edu/~weirk/courses.html. These papers should be concise, critical analyses. The only length requirement for these papers is that they do not exceed 750 words, or about 3 pages typed. Due dates are listed below, but may be changed at my discretion. Critical thought papers should follow the Paper Guidelines listed below and are subject to the conditions listed.

Final Project
Each of you will choose a different multinational corporation (MNC) to investigate, subject to my approval. The primary purpose of this project is for you to better understand the variety of ways in which MNCs have an impact on the international political economy. A paper guide follows at the end of this syllabus to get you started. We will then spend the last few classes discussing your findings.

These papers are due on Thursday, April 14 at the start of class. Any paper not handed in at the start of the class will automatically start grading at an 80% and will continue to lose 20% each class session it is late. Papers should follow the Paper Guidelines listed below and are subject to the conditions listed. The final project should not exceed 6 pages typed (not including a works cited page), or about 1500 words.

Final Exam
The final exam will be a take-home exam. The final exam should follow the Paper Guidelines listed below and are subject to the conditions listed. The final exam should not exceed 6 pages typed (not including a works cited page), or about 1500 words.

Class Participation
This class is largely centered on class discussion. As it is not possible to participate if you are not in class, it is in your best interest to attend class. You are responsible for coming to class prepared, having completed any readings or assignments. Participation grades are based on the quality of your participation, not solely the quantity. I keep track of not only how often you participate, but take note of what you contribute. At any time, you can ask me where you stand in terms of your participation grade and I will gladly share and discuss it with you.
Additional Information

Late Assignments will cost you. A late assignment will lose 10% of the assignment grade for each class it is late. Any assignment handed in after the collection time at the start of class is considered late. For example, if you receive an 88% on paper #1, but hand it in after class on the due date, your grade will be dropped 10% to a 78%.

Paper Guidelines
Papers must be double-spaced and with page numbers. I will only accept papers that are stapled and in hard copy form at the beginning of class on the due date. Any time you paraphrase, use statistical evidence, or quote, you should follow the citation information below. As in real life, grammar and spelling count and will affect your overall paper grade. PROOF-READ your papers before handing them in!!! If I begin reading your paper and find that it has loads of typos, run-on sentences, and/or incomplete sentences, I will return it to you without a grade. I will expect you to revise and resubmit your paper, which will then be considered a late assignment (see ‘Late Assignments Will Cost You’).

Citation information: Where you quote or paraphrase any source, written or electronic, you need to cite the work (author, year, page number) for any source with an author; (web page name) for an electronic source without an author. These citations should then be listed in your bibliography as such:


Extra credit projects are not an option.

All University policies apply, including the honor code. The work you will do in this course is subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

Students with disabilities who require accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Student Support Services (572-5138) to discuss their specific needs as well as inform me of those needs. Another university service is the Disabilities Office (572-6373). If you have a disability that requires you to take exams in a separate room or if you need additional time, you can contact Dale Adams to work this out.
If you encounter any problems throughout the semester regarding this class or your ability to participate, please let me know ASAP. It is not advisable to wait until the end of the semester to inform me of difficulties you are having, as it is then after the fact.

### Schedule & Reading Assignments

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Paper</th>
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| **January**
T 1/11 | Introduction                               |                                 |           |
TH 1/13 | IPE-an overview                            |                                 |           |
T 1/18  | IPE-an overview                            |                                 |           |
TH 1/20 | IPE-an overview                            |                                 |           |
T 1/25  | IPE perspectives                           | Merchantilism Readings          | Paper #1  |
TH 1/27 | IPE perspectives                           | Liberalism/Neoliberalism Readings |           |

**February**
T 2/1  | IPE perspectives                           | Marxism Readings                |           |
TH 2/3 | *Guinea-Bissau and the Hazardous Waste Trade* | Pew Case #214                     |           |
T 2/8  | Global Monetary System                     |                                 | Paper #2  |
TH 2/10 | Global Monetary System                     | CH 12                           |           |
T 2/15 | *Managing the Asian Meltdown*             | Pew Case #235                    |           |
TH 2/17 | Global Trading System                      |                                 | Paper #3  |
T 2/22 | Global Trading System                      | CH 1                            |           |
TH 2/24 | IPR & the Doha Round                       | Pew Case #271                    |           |

**March**
T 3/1  | Final Project Workday                      |                                 |           |
TH 3/3  | Final Project Workday                      |                                 |           |
3/8 & 3/10 | Spring Break                     |                                 |           |
TH 3/17 | Global Investment and Financial Flows     | CH 8                             |           |
T 3/22 | Global Investment and Financial Flows     | CH 10                           |           |
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Paper</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>TH 3/24</td>
<td><em>Enron in India</em></td>
<td>Pew Case #256</td>
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<td>T 3/29</td>
<td>Transitional and Developing Economies;</td>
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<td>Paper #5</td>
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<td>TH 3/31</td>
<td>Transitional and Developing Economies</td>
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<td><strong>April</strong></td>
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<td>T 4/5</td>
<td>Transitional and Developing Economies</td>
<td>CH 3</td>
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<td>TH 4/7</td>
<td><em>Sex Tourism in Cuba</em></td>
<td>Pew Case #236</td>
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<td>T 4/12</td>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
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<td>Paper #6</td>
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<td>TH 4/14</td>
<td>Final Project Presentations</td>
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<td>Final Projects Due</td>
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<td>T 4/19</td>
<td>Final Project Presentations</td>
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<td>TH 4/21</td>
<td>Final Project Presentations</td>
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<td>Paper #7***</td>
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<td>T 4/26</td>
<td>Final Project Presentations</td>
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<td>TH 4/28</td>
<td>Tying it all Together</td>
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<td>Paper #8</td>
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<td><strong>May</strong></td>
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<td>5/3, 1-3</td>
<td>Final Exam time</td>
<td>Final Exam due</td>
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***Note about paper #7—this assignment requires you to follow a new issue throughout the semester. See your web course page for more specific instructions.
Final Project Paper
As multinational corporations (MNCs) become bigger, more powerful institutions, it is important to see what kind of impact they are having. As such, your assignment is to examine the political and economic international implications, issues, and/or controversies regarding/surrounding MNCs. These questions should be useful in directing you in your research and for essentially answering the question of what impact MNCs have had on the international political economy.

• How many stores/restaurants does this MNC have?
• Is it a franchise, privately-owned, or publicly-owned MNC? Why would this matter?
• Does the MNC own a number of different businesses, stores, and/or restaurants? For example, The Gap, Old Navy, and Banana Republic are all owned by the same corporation.
• How many locations does it have worldwide and where? Is this surprising?
• What does it do to adapt to certain local customs? For example, how does a burger joint adapt in India, a country where the cow is sacred?
• What kind of special products do they offer to entice customers in different countries?
• Does this corporation engage in civic activities, support the community, and/or support a philanthropic foundation?
• Does this corporation offer any insight into its business practices? For example, in the clothing industry, Nike feels the need to give reports and information on its web site about how its factories are run, even going so far as putting a video of one of its factories online so you, the consumer, can see the working conditions.
• Does this MNC tell you where it gets its products? For example, The Body Shop Corporation is driven by a ‘trade not aid’ principle; therefore, it pursues a policy of buying ingredients for its products from local producers rather than exploitative corporations.
• In what ways is this MNC involved in politics? For example, in the US, has this business donated money to a particular political party? Has it lobbied for particular legislation? Has it gotten involved in foreign countries’ elections?
• Has this MNC been involved in any hotly-contested political issues? Consider where this corporation will or will not advertise. Does it stay away from certain television programs or magazines? For example, for a long time, Coors was highly criticized by gays and lesbians as being homophobic. In an attempt to improve its image with these groups, it started more actively supporting gay and lesbian issues and advertising in gay and lesbian publications.
• What kind of relationship does this MNC have with its home country and with its host country/ies?