International Political Economy

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| **Credit level:**5 |
| **Length:** semester 1 |
| **ECTS credit value:** 8 |
| **College and School:** Lazarski University in Warsaw, Faculty of Economics and Management |
| **Module Leader:** Dr Tomasz M. Napiórkowski |
| **Host Course:** BA International Relations |
| **Pre-requisites:**N/A |
| **Co-requisites:**N/A |
| **Special features:**N/A |
| **Access restrictions:**N/A |
| **Summary of module content:** International Political Economy. The aim of this module is to introduce students to a medium level analysis of international relations from the economic perspective. Economy is the basis for most international relations seen in the world today both, positive (the concept of EU funds, foreign direct investment, multinational enterprises etc.) and negative (war for resources, sanctions etc.). Hence, it is imperative that students focusing on international relations have the capability to analyse those relations also form their economic perspective. Students will become familiar with trade and exchange rate theory to a level required to recognize how these two drivers of economic international relations between countries impact decisions made by politicians on a macro and global level. Therefore, explained issues range from definitions to concepts and theories of international economics. Students will delve on three influential theories of International Political Economics – liberalism, mercantilism, and economic structuralism – to gain understanding of how political dynamics influence decisions regarding resource allocation. Through engaging discussions, case studies, and real-world examples, students will develop analytical tools to navigate the multifaceted landscape of contemporary global economic and political interactions. |

**Assessment Methods**

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| Rank | Assessment type | Assessment name | Weighting | Qualifying set (where the minimum mark required applies across multiple assessments) |
| 1 | Coursework | Research paper (2500 words) | 50% |  |
| 2 | Closed Book Exam | Final exam | 50% |

**Synoptic assessment**

N/A

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

* LO1 - Understand the role of international trade and finance in shaping of today’s globalised world, connecting these economic processes to key theories of international political economy.
* LO2 - Analyse the economic foundations of international relations, particularly the ways in which economic factors influence global political interactions and power dynamics.
* LO3 - Critically analyse impact of specific economic events on international relation trends.
* LO4 - Analyse real-word scenarios through the prism of IPE theories, demonstrating the ability to connect theoretical concepts with practical situations and current global events.

**Course outcomes the module contributes to:**

* L5.2 An awareness of the key traditions in international political theory and an ability to differentiate between specific thinkers and debates within the various traditions of International Relations.
* L5.8 An ability to successfully complete tasks that are transferrable to an appropriate professional employment setting.
* L5.9 Develop the skills to work collaboratively as well as individually in a learning and research environment.

**Indicative syllabus content**

* Economics as a foundation for international relations.
* Who produces what and sells it to who and why – international trade theories.
* International trade policy.
* Foreign exchange as a result and as a determinant of international relations.
* Mercantilism: unveiling historical power dynamics.
* Liberalism: markets, institutions, and global cooperation.
* Economic structuralism: unravelling inequality and power disparities.

**Teaching and learning methods**

This module will be taught by means of lectures, seminars, and self-directed study. **Lectures** will introduce key concepts and frameworks in International Political Economy (IPE), ensuring students have a strong foundational understanding of the role of trade, finance, and economic events in shaping global relations. **Seminars** will facilitate active learning through group discussions, case studies, and the application of theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios. Furthermore, students will receive guidance as to which supplementary publications they should be reading to further connect theory with practice using real-world examples.

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| Activity type | Category | Student learning and teaching hours\* |
| Lecture | Scheduled | 30 |
| Seminar | Scheduled | 60 |
| Tutorial | Scheduled |  |
| Project supervisor | Scheduled |  |
| Demonstration | Scheduled |  |
| Practical classes and workshops | Scheduled |  |
| Supervised time in studio/workshop | Scheduled |  |
| Fieldwork | Scheduled |  |
| External visits | Scheduled |  |
| Work based learning | Scheduled |  |
| Scheduled online learning | Scheduled |  |
| Other learning | Scheduled |  |
| Total scheduled |  | 90 |
| Placement | Placement |  |
| Independent study | Independent | 110 |
| Total student learning and teaching hours |  | 200 |

\*hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

**Assessment rationale: why has this assessment been used for this module?**

**Coursework** (2500 words): a research paper allows students to delve into specific topics, apply theoretical frameworks, analyse case studies, and articulate arguments supported by evidence while addressing real-world challenges. Additionally, the assessment’s emphasis on applying theoretical frameworks to practical scenarios enhances problem-solving abilities, which are highly valued by multinational corporations, think tanks, and international development agencies. This assessment will contribute to LOs 2 and 3.

Students may use AI tools as limited research assistance and for improving grammar and spelling. These tools should enhance, not replace, students’ critical thinking: all substantive analysis, arguments, and conclusions must be students’ own intellectual work. Students remain fully responsible for fact-checking all information, regardless of source. Use of AI beyond the permitted scope (grammar, spelling, and research assistance) may result in academic penalties.

**The final examination** (100 minutes) helps students to develop analytical reasoning, critical evaluation of complex global economic relationships, and the ability to articulate nuanced arguments under time constraints—skills essential for careers in diplomatic service, international organizations, policy analysis, economic consulting, and government relations. This type of assessment directly addresses LOs 1 and 4.

**Assessment criteria: what criteria will be used to assess my work on this module?**

**The Coursework** researchpaper will examine the extent to which the student has demonstrated an understanding of the role of international trade and finance in shaping of today’s globalised world. It should incorporate elements such as trade and investment agreements as well as the underlying reasons for the increasing protectionism among developed economies. The paper will also require students to use economic theory (e.g., comparative advantage) to analyse the economic underpinnings of international relations between countries (i.e.., who produces and trades what and why). The marking scheme for the paper is divided into five components, each accounting for 20% of the grade: (1) quality of writing, (2) use of evidence, (3) quality of argument and analysis, (4) context and facts and (5) for use of references and citations.

**The final** exam will consist of about six topics, from which student will select two-three, on which they will elaborate through an analysis of real-word scenarios through the prism of IPE theories, demonstrating the ability to connect theoretical concepts with practical situations and current global events. This approach allows students to select not only the topics, on which they would like to elaborate on, but also provides them with greater freedom to communicate with the teacher through a wide range of selected tool. The marking scheme for the final exam is divided into five components, each accounting for 20% of the grade: (1) theory; (2) tools used; (3) real-world references; (4) overall discussion, and (5) conclusions. Students will be asked to provide diagrams and calculations, where appropriate.

**Sources**

**Essential readings**

Reinert, K.A., 2020. An Introduction to International Economics. New Perspectives on the World Economy, 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press.

Krugman, P. R., Obstfeld, M., 2006. International Economics: Theory and Policy. 6th ed.

Addison Wesley (or newer).

David Balaam, Bradford Dillman, 2014. Introduction to International Political Economy, 6th ed. Boston: Pearson

**Recommended Reading**

Students are recommended to read periodicals that focus on economic topics as current events will serve as the backstory to topics covered in class.