International Political Economy: Rich and Poor Nations
Political Science 235Y
Professor Woods

Email Protocol: Emails should begin with Professor Woods, or Mr. Woods. For the T.A., it should be Sir or Mr. Cardin. Don’t start an email with “Hey, Hello or no formal salutations at all!” Absent a minimal of protocol emails will be ignored!

All students will be addressed by me and the T.A. as Sir or Madame. Once last names are known, Mr. or Miss may be used as well.
Office hours: via email: dwoods2@purdue.edu; Teaching Assistant, P.R. Cardin, pcardin@purude.edu

Key University Dates

- January 11 - Classes start
- January 18 - MLK holiday
- January 19 - Last day to register without a late fee
- January 25 - Last day to cancel a course assignment without it appearing on record.
- February 8 - Last day to withdraw a course with a grade of W or to add/modify a course with instructor and advisor signature
- March 14-19 - SPRING BREAK
- March 21 - Last day withdraw from a course with a W or WF grade
- March 21 - Last day to add/modify a course with instructor, advisor and department head signatures
- April 30 - Classes End
- May 2-7 - Final Exams

Course Objectives

The overarching goal of this class is threefold:

To introduce students to the basic concepts and models of international political economy
To give students the tools to critically analyze IPE-related topics
To use the concepts and tools to understand the structure of the global economy, notably the gap between rich and poor nations

Expectations

What I Expect From You:

Take advantage of the learning modules and the material within them.
Complete all assignments on time. That is, take your tests when they are scheduled and turn in your essay assignments when they are due.

Keep up with the readings and videos.

What to Expect From Me:

- Well organized learning modules
- Clear lessons plans and learning objectives
- Exams and essays graded promptly and accurately
- Prompt response to questions and issues that arise

What are the marketable skills acquired in an IPE course

By the end of the course students should have obtained:

- a good vocabulary of IPE terms and concepts
- a good basis to analyze IPE structures
- basic understanding of economic models
- critical comparative analysis skills
- the ability write short analytical essays
- enhanced critical thinking and writing skills

Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to International Political Economy (IPE). IPE is a field of study that intersects with international relationship, comparative politics, policy studies and economics. In this class you will study the structures, agents and relations of the global economy from four different IPE perspectives. The main thematic focus of the course is the relationship between IPE and the gap between rich and poor nations. Thus, we begin the course with an overview of the gap. And then we move onto four perspectives that encompass ideas, theories, ideologies, norms, and political economy models that help us understand and explain how the international system works and in whose favor.

Throughout the semester we will use the perspectives to explore international trade, the international monetary system, multinationals as well as foreign direct investment and nature and for reason for the gap between rich and poor nations. This online course will look to answer some tough questions, like what is the source of global inequality, is the international system of trade and finance responsible for the gap between nations, what is the role of global “powers” in shaping how the global system works and in whose favor, and why some countries like South Korea and now China developed so rapidly while others seem to be “trapped” in poverty.
Please let me state the obvious: **this is an online course.** Thus, it is organized differently than sitting in a classroom. There are no formal lectures. It is based on the principle of interactive learning. The interactive learning takes place within learning modules. Within these modules, there are structured lesson plans and specified learning objectives. As you progress in the modules, you will be given an opportunity to assess what you have learned and how well you have grasped the material. Learning exercises follow each learning objective in each module. At the end of each learning module, there is a lessons learned, points earned assessment. The same questions you answer in the learning exercises are generally the same ones on the lessons learned, points earned assessment at the end of each module. In addition to the lessons learned, points earned assessments, you will have to write two short analytical essays and a final paper.

**Assignments:**

5 Lessons learned, points earned assessments worth 75 percent of your grade  
2 short analytical essays worth 2.5 points each, totaling 5 points  
A final 4-5 page essay worth 20 percent of your grade.  
Bonus point opportunities will be offered for for 10 additional points.

**Grading Scale**

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**Some friendly advice:** set a schedule with the lesson plans and stick to it! Taking an online course require self-motivation and sticking to a learning schedule. I have developed detailed lesson plans and a course schedule. My advice is that you adapt it to your schedule. The deadline for when things are due is **ironclad. Late assignments will not be accepted under any circumstances!** The course is set up in a way that gives you ample time to do the assignments.

**General University Policies**

- Students are encouraged to refer to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity (http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php)
- Cheating will be punished with a failing grade in the class and a report to the Dean of Students.
- Students are encouraged to refer to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity
- Although in this distance course there is no attendance requirement, students are expected to keep up to date with all assignments.
To reiterate, late assignments will not be graded. Organize your time appropriately to meet the required deadlines for exams, course activities, and essays.

It is your responsibility to meet the deadlines in the syllabus. Thus, it is best to undertake the assignments as soon as you are prepared in order to leave yourself extra time to cover situations in which you may face an illness or other emergency.