

## Syllabus "Global Political Economy"

Approved by  
Academic Council  
of the Master's Programme  
№1 dated 27.06.2017

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Author             | Sanjay Rajhans               |
| Number of credits  | 6                            |
| Contact hours      | 52                           |
| Self-study hours   | 176                          |
| Year of study      | 1                            |
| Educational format | Without use of online course |

### I. Aim, Results of Mastering the Discipline and Prerequisites

This course aims to introduce students at an advanced level with the contemporary issues in global political economy, theoretical frameworks and research approaches to analyze the issues of global political economy. The key issue around which the course develops its subject matter is international cooperation in various policy areas and the role of international institutions in facilitating global governance of global issues such as trade, finance, development, climate change, and other social and macroeconomic policies.

The course is a fine balance between traditional International Relations courses that focus on security and foreign policies and courses that are often titled Politics of International Economic Relations that focus on trade and monetary policies. In that, it discusses theories, research methods, globalization and its impact on national public policy substance and processes, evolving relations between states and markets, and among states.

As a result, students should:

- **Know** theoretical foundations of understanding global political economy, contemporary issues of global political economy, international cooperation, and institutions.
- **Be able to** demonstrate theoretical grasp over international public policy substance and processes what are often termed global governance.
- **Acquire the skills for** analyzing the issue of international cooperation on an area of global political economy.

Basic knowledge of concepts and theories of social sciences are required for this course.

This course is based on the following knowledge and competences:

- Basic economic concepts like supply and demand, equilibrium analysis, market failure
- Basic political science concepts like various political theories and types of power in politics
- General knowledge of and interest in global affairs and how do they affect nations

Students are strongly encouraged to watch the following three documentaries: "Commanding Heights" (3 episodes of 2 hour each, available at youtube.com)

Main competences developed by this course can be used to study the following research fields:

- International Relations and Political Economy
- International Development Policy,
- International Energy and Climate Policy,
- International Trade and Finance,
- Theory of International Policy Process

## **II. Content of the Course**

### **1. Introduction to Global Political Economy**

The study of global political economy as a unique discipline is in fact as old as the economic thought. However, the oversimplified assumption that economics and politics could be studied separately in the early and mid-20th century came to an end in the 1970s. Similarly, the assumption that foreign and domestic economic policies of countries could be neatly delineated came to an end during the same decade. Therefore, the subject matter of global political economy is to study the global politics of decisions of production, consumption, and accumulation in a coherent whole.

### **2. Power, States, and Markets**

Politics is defined as who gets what when and how. In that, politics of international economic relations can't ignore the exercise of power in the decision processes of production, consumption, and accumulation. There are two primary mechanisms to make decisions of resource allocation: markets and governments. However, the two are not mutually exclusive alternatives. It is unlikely to find a single country in the world that is pure form of market or planned economy. Therefore how societies come to balance the two is an important question of study in the global political economy. How is power measured and exercised in both these realms is the question critical in the study of global political economy.

### **3. Realism and Liberalism**

Realism is the oldest theoretical approach to understand international economic exchange. In this theoretical framework, economy is subordinate to states' political ambitions and often a mere tool to further security interests. Liberalism emerged in the eighteenth century as an alternative, mostly normative, approach to international economic and political relations. The fundamental idea in this framework is that the economic interest groups are unlikely to favour war because peace and open economy serves their interests better. Given a democratic setup, these interests would bring about a peaceful world order.

### **4. Marxism and Constructivism**

Marxism is arguably the first and only theoretical framework that deals with the global political economy as one whole, where domestic and foreign, politics and economics are intricately linked to each other. In that, even when as a revolutionary idea socialism is nearly dead, the Marxist analysis of the global political economy continues to be relevant for scholars from all sides. Constructivism is a relatively new development in understanding international interactions. It also has less to offer when it comes to economic interactions, that are characterized by interests, since at its core it emphasizes the importance of ideas. Yet the very fact that ideas of free-trade and national regulation continue to compete, constructivism provides a unique framework in studying global political economy.

## **5. Research Issues in GPE**

Research questions in GPE can be answered in many different ways using quantitative and qualitative methods. While quantitative methods require specialized training, students of GPE tend to take qualitative research lightly. The class brings scientific rigor to qualitative research design in GPE.

## **6. Exam**

All the material covered in last five classes. There will be a mix of multiple choices, true/false, short answers, and an essay (compare and contrast), taken to be in two hours.

## **7. Globalization, Welfare State, and Public Policy**

Globalization is changing the political processes across the world. The processes underlying contemporary wave of globalization and its impact on states and their policies become a core issue in the study of global political economy. Of particular importance is the debate between the two camps: the anti-globalization camp claiming that globalization is causing “the race to the bottom” and the pro-globalization camp claiming that globalization is causing “the race to the top”.

## **8. International Trade and WTO**

International trade is at the heart of global political economy and rules of the game are far from settled. The economic and political aspects of international trade are discussed in this class along with a survey of global governance of international trade through the World Trade Organization.

## **9. Monetary Policy, Finance, and IMF**

Globalization requires states to maintain an open capital account and flexible exchange rate regime, however, this impacts national monetary policy and prices. Given the highly volatile international financial markets, it becomes imperative for governments to coordinate their monetary and exchange rate policies. The global governance of national accounts, monetary policy, and exchange rates loosely comes under the purview of the International Monetary Fund, this class deals with both the issues in international finance and monetary policy as well as the IMF.

## **10. Development, World Bank, UN**

Economic development has become an integral part of the global political economic discourse. This includes macroeconomic as well as social policies of states. The World Bank and the United Nations’ various agencies play a critical role in advising and pushing governments to adopt a development agenda. This class discusses various theories of economic development and the global politics and governance of development.

### **III. Grading**

The final and cumulative grades are composed of the grades for participation, presentation, mid-term exam, and final roundtable. O stands for “grade” in the following formula.

$$\begin{aligned} O_{\text{final}} &= 0.7 * O_{\text{cumulative}} + 0.3 * O_{\text{final roundtable}} = \\ &= 0,2 * O_{\text{participation}} + 0,2 * O_{\text{presentation}} + 3 * O_{\text{mid-term exam}} + 0.3 * O_{\text{final roundtable}} \end{aligned}$$

If the cumulative and final grades are non-integer, they are rounded according to algebraic rules. A .5 at the end is rounded upward.

## IV. Grading Tools

### Participation (20%)

Students actively participate in class discussions, particularly during the seminar when their colleagues make presentations. Contributions shall reflect on readings

### Presentation (20%)

An individual or a group of student(s) will choose the topic of the day and present a summary of the readings, a critique, and a practical example to make their point. After 20 minute presentation, there will be an open Q&A and discussion

### Mid-term exam (30%)

This will be a two hour mid-term exam with closed and open end questions

### Final roundtable (30%)

Students will have a simulation exercise of international negotiations on a given issue (e.g. climate change) for which they will prepare a three page dossier representing their country's demands, rationale, and strategy

In presentations and class discussions students are expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the issue at hand and various scholars' arguments. In writing assignments, in addition to the grasp of literature, students should demonstrate sophisticated, nuanced, and critical analysis of policy issues. Students shall also show skills in employing various approaches and methods in order to analyze public policy problems and propose solutions.

## V. Sources

### 5.1. Main Literature

1. Rethinking Global Political Economy : Emerging Issues, Unfolding Odysseys, edited by Kurt Burch, et al., Routledge, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=182582>.
2. Peterson, V. Spike. A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy : Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies, Routledge, 2003. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=182586>
3. Brink, Tobias ten. Global Political Economy and the Modern State System : Global Political Economy and the Modern State System, BRILL, 2014. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/hselibrary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=1694715>

### 5.2. Additional Literature

1. Dingwerth, K., & Pattberg, P. (2006). Global Governance as a Perspective on World Politics. *Global Governance*, 12(2), 185-203. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27800609>
2. Brassett, J., & Tsingou, E. (2011). The politics of legitimate global governance. *Review of International Political Economy*, 18(1), 1-16. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41061583>
3. Krahnemann, E. (2003). National, Regional, and Global Governance: One Phenomenon or Many? *Global Governance*, 9(3), 323-346. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27800486>

4. Defarges, P., & Alsrue, E. (2008). Global Governance: Mirage or Horizon? *Politique étrangère*, 73, 141-151. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42715572>
5. Leander, A. (2009). Why We Need Multiple Stories about the Global Political Economy. *Review of International Political Economy*, 16(2), 321-328. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27756160>
6. Jones, B. (2008). The Global Political Economy of Social Crisis: Towards a Critique of the 'Failed State' Ideology. *Review of International Political Economy*, 15(2), 180-205. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25261963>
7. STEPHEN, M. (2011). Globalisation and resistance: Struggles over common sense in the global political economy. *Review of International Studies*, 37(1), 209-228. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23024591>

### 5.3. Software

| №  | Name                                                                                                | Access conditions                                        |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | MicrosoftWindows 7 Professional RUS<br>MicrosoftWindows 10<br>MicrosoftWindows 8.1 Professional RUS | <i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i> |
| 2. | Microsoft Office Professional Plus 2010                                                             | <i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i> |

### 5.4. Professional databases and reference systems. Internet resources (electronic educational resources)

| №                                                            | Name                            | Access conditions                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Professional databases and reference systems</i>          |                                 |                                                                        |
| 1.                                                           | Consultant Plus                 | <i>From the university's internal network (contract)</i>               |
| 2.                                                           | URAIT Electronic library system | URL: <a href="https://biblio-online.ru/">https://biblio-online.ru/</a> |
| <i>Internet resources (electronic educational resources)</i> |                                 |                                                                        |
| 1.                                                           | Open Education                  | URL: <a href="https://openedu.ru/">https://openedu.ru/</a>             |

### 5.5. Material and technical support

Classrooms for lectures on the discipline provide for the use and demonstration of thematic illustrations corresponding to the program of the discipline, consisting of:

- PC with Internet access (operating system, office software, antivirus software);
- multimedia projector with remote control.