Description of the module

Module overview
This course familiarizes students with international trade and finance concepts, and their application to managerial decision making. Opportunities and risks in the global economy will be analyzed across a range of countries and industries. We prepare students to identify global trends by highlighting how comparative advantages evolve and change. Case analyses and a class project play major roles in achieving the objectives of the course.

The course takes an international political economy approach, providing students with an introduction to the different theoretical traditions and focusing on a selection of contemporary issues in the global political economy landscape.

Teaching is by 1x3 hour seminar per week. I encourage you to participate in class discussions as this contributes positively to the class experience and enhances your understanding of the material.

Assessment
Students’ progress will be assessed in three ways:

- One 2,000-word essay
  - Worth 45% of final grade
  - Due October 17th
  - The essay will allow students to gain more in-depth understanding of a specific topic. Possible essay topics will be communicated in due time.

- One 2-hour exam
  - 45% of final grade
  - In week of 10th-14th December

- Participation
  - 10% of final grade
  - This includes participation in weekly class discussions and group works.

Readings
Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*). Readings without asterisk are intended as supplementary material, and are useful starting points for your essays.

Most of the required readings come from J. Ravenhill (ed.), Global Political Economy, 5th ed. (Oxford: OUP, 2017). Copies of it are available at the Senate House and at the British Library. Students can also find second-hand copies on Amazon.

Useful introductory texts (not required)
S. Strange, ‘International Relations and International Economics’, *International Affairs*, 46 (1970), 304–15. *(Hereafter these texts are indicated by the author’s name and year of publication.)*

**Course structure**

**Introduction**

Week 1: 05/09: IPE as a discipline

**Theoretical perspectives**

Week 2: 12/09: Mainstream approaches to IPE

Week 3: 19/09: Critical approaches to IPE (+ session on essay writing)

**Contemporary issues**

Week 4: 26/09: Globalisation

Week 5: 03/10: Global production

Week 6: 10/10: International trade

Week 7: 17/10: WTO Simulation

Week 8: 31/10: International money and finance

Week 9: 07/11: Visit to Lloyd’s (TBC)

Week 10: 14/11: Inequality, development and foreign aid

Week 11: 21/11: The IPE of migration

Week 12: 28/11: The political economy of the EU

**Concluding session**

Week 13: 05/12: The backlash against globalisation + Revision

Weekly topics

Introduction to IPE

1. 05/09: IPE as a discipline

→ Introduction to the module, IPE as a discipline, overview of main IPE theories.


Theoretical perspectives

2. 12/09: Mainstream approaches to IPE

→ Theoretical perspectives: realism, liberalism.

Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 2, 3.
Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 2, 3.
3. **19/09: Critical approaches to IPE (+ session on essay writing)**

→ Theoretical perspectives: constructivism, Marxism, neo-Gramscianism.
→ Session on essay writing.

*Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 4, 5.

*Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 4, 5.
A. Heywood, Global Politics, 2nd ed. (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2014), ch. 3.

4. **26/09: Globalisation**

→ Definition, trends, perspectives, theories of globalisation, globalisation or regionalisation/triadisation, theories and evidence on the role of the state.

5. **03/10: Global production**

- Multinational corporations, global value chain, foreign direct investments, MNC governance and location, social implications (e.g. on development).


Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 6, 17.


Gilpin (2001), ch. 11.


6. **10/10: International trade**

- Trade theories, history of international trade system, GATT, WTO, difficulties of achieving multilateral liberalization, regional trade agreements, trade wars, reform of WTO.


Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 6.


Gilpin (2001), ch. 8.


7. **17/10: WTO Simulation**

→ Students represent different countries and engage in first-hand negotiations over a topic of contemporary relevance in GPE. Instructions will be provided during the course of the module.
→ Mid-term essay deadline.

- **24/10: Mid-term break: No class**

8. **31/10: International money and finance**

→ History of international monetary system, BW institutions, collapse of BW, foreign exchange rates, the impossible trinity, the future of the dollar, financial crises.

*Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 8.
Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 8.
Gilpin (2011), ch. 9, 10.
L.H. White, ‘How Did We Get Into This Financial Mess?’, in Oatley (2012).

9. **07/11: Visit to Lloyd’s (TBC)**

→ We will visit Lloyd’s, the world’s leading insurance market, during class time.

10. **14/11: Inequality, development and foreign aid**
Definition of inequality and development, nexus between globalization and inequality, effectiveness of foreign aid, relationship between economic growth and democratization.


* D. Moyo, *Dead Aid: Why aid is not working how there is another way for Africa* (London: Penguin, 2011), ch. 3.


11. 21/11: The IPE of migration

Questions addressed include: Why does migration occur? Can states control it in age of globalization? What is the effect of migration on sending and receiving countries?


12. 28/11: The political economy of the EU

→ History and theories of EU integration, EMU, sovereign debt crisis.

* Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 12.
W. Bonefeld, ed., The Politics of Europe (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001)

Concluding session

13. 05/12: The backlash against globalisation + Revision

→ Causes of the backlash, possible future developments, revision in view of final exam.

Balaam and Dillman (2014), ch. 15.
Donald J Trump, ‘Inaugural Address’ (20 January 2017),
https://www.whitehouse.gov/inaugural-address.

14. **12/12: Final exam**

*Please note, the syllabus may be subject to change, following appropriate notification.*
Course Policies

Technology and Media

Blackboard
Students are expected to check the Blackboard prior to class to check for updates and announcements.

Laptop Usage
Students may bring a laptop to class. Students may not use their laptops during class for anything that is not part of the class activity, hence would distract them from the class, including but not limited to: checking e-mail, instant messaging, accessing social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, browsing the web for non-class-related materials, working on assignments for another course, etc. If this appears to being abused I will request that laptop computers be closed for the duration of the class.

Student Expectations

Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend every class. Absences for reasons of religious holidays, serious illness, death in the student’s immediate family, or required participation in a University sponsored event are, with the appropriate documentation permitted. All requests for absence must be processed through the office of the Assistant Head of the London Centre for Academics who will notify the instructor. Once an absence is excused, the student will be given an opportunity to make up any missed class examinations or other graded assignments.

Fordham University’s Policy on the Integrity of Full-Time Study
Fordham University cannot compromise on its objective of the honest and wholehearted pursuit of academic excellence. Students must guard against allowing outside activities from interfering unduly with their academic pursuits.

Professionalism Policy
Students are expected to practice professional and courteous deportment during class. Internet surfing, texting, tweeting, facebooking, myspacing, IM-ing, playing games, or any other similar activity will distract you and your classmates and will result in a reduction of the student’s grade.

Fordham University’s Academic Conduct Policy
As a Jesuit, Catholic university, Fordham is committed to ensuring that all members of the academic community strive not only for excellence in scholarship but also for integrity of character. In the pursuit of knowledge and personal development, it is imperative that students present their own ideas and insights for evaluation, critique, and eventual reformulation. As part of this process, each student must acknowledge the intellectual contributions of others.

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an honest, truthful, and responsible manner. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, falsification, unapproved collaboration, and destruction of library materials.

In this course—and in every course—you are expected to abide by Fordham University’s Code of Conduct which includes, but is not limited to, Standards of Academic Integrity. For inclusive information on the University’s policy on cheating, intentional or unintentional plagiarism,
falsification and unapproved collaboration among other things, please visit the following website: https://www.fordham.edu/info/25380/undergraduate_academic_integrity_policy. Sanctions for violations of academic integrity outlined in the Fordham University Student Handbook include a receiving a failing grade on the assignment/examination, and possibly of receiving a failing grade for the course.

**University Policy regarding Disability Services**

If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodations, you need to register with the Office of Disability Services for Students (ODS) in order to request academic accommodations for your courses. Please contact the main ODS office at disabilityservices@fordham.edu to arrange for services and documentation. Accommodations are not retroactive, so you need to register with ODS prior to receiving your accommodations. Please see me during office hours if you have questions or would like to submit your academic accommodation letter to me.