

Hosei University
Department of Global and Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS)

Course Syllabus

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY
Spring Semester 2024

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Classes:

Class days and Time: Wednesday / 1st (8:50-10:30) /
14 classes in total

Course Description:

This course will examine the structure of contemporary global political economy. Students will be introduced to the theories, debates and paradigms using case studies to develop an understanding of the global political economy. Economic and social inequality, development disparities and challenges in different regions of the world will be presented. The contemporary issues such as the global capitalism, the role of the new technologies, gender and the social and environmental implications of neo-liberal globalization will be presented. The global production systems, international trades, the economy and political institutions will be as well discussed with the challenges toward greater equity and security in the global political economy, the role of multinational corporation and the global supply chains. Finally, students will also debate on the new political economy landscape and its effect on the global supply chain, the consequences of the conflicts in Ukraine and in Israel and its impacts in the global economy, among other topics. Specific attention will be put on the role of China and its increased participation in the global political economies, the geopolitical situation in the world and the recent trends regarding India's new enthusiasm in the new globalization regime.

Students are expected to participate as active learners (active learning), responsible for guiding and contributing to the content of the course, and whenever possible using their own background, knowledge, and experiences (for example living in a different country or place).

Course Objectives:

1. To learn and apply major conventional political science and political geography concepts to the current global political issues;
2. To acquire some knowledge of global affairs;
3. To strengthen analytical skills, I encourage students not to restrict themselves with the assigned readings but additionally to update themselves with current news so we can include them in the discussion for each class.
4. Active learning: students will be involved in the learning process by participating in class.

Goal:

Students through the discussions and debates in class with back up from recent news will be able to learn to express their opinions and develop their critical thinking skills. Groups discussions will be organized as well so students can improve their speaking skills through teamwork.

Method required:

Each class includes lectures and discussions related to the class contents. Students are expected to participate in the class discussion. Each student will also do one or two mini presentations (depending on the number of students) on a topic from the news in relation with the course contents topics. In addition, at the end of the semester there will be the group project presentation (with an individual essay) (topic to be decided later with the supervision of the professor). Students will provide oral and/or written feedback to each student regarding their presentation and written assignments.

Students can take notes either using a computer or any other electronic devices or by hand writing. It is not permitted to take photos of the notes on the board or of the slides. It is important to refine your academic skills so, taking notes effectively will help to

support your learning. The professor will provide oral and written feedback to each student.

Course Readings:

Textbook:

Robert O'Brien, Marc William, *Global Political Economy: Evolution and Dynamics*, Red Globe Press, 2016

Additional Class Materials:

Supplemental academic articles and other readings to complement the textbooks will be assigned during the semester (please **check Hoppii regularly for the class materials**).

Online Resources for Complementing Study on Currents Events in the World

Examples of Websites:

- ❑ Financial Times: **Register your Hosei University address so you can read it for free:**
<https://www.ft.com/join/licence/a3ef554b-d6fc-4096-be84-137b5863ecca/details>
- ❑ The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- ❑ The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/international>
- ❑ The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>
- ❑ Foreign Affairs: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/>
- ❑ The Wall Street Journal: <http://www.wsj.com>
- ❑ Time: <http://time.com/>
- ❑ Foreign Policy: <https://foreignpolicy.com/>

English language newspapers published in Japan:

- ❑ The Japan Times Online: <http://www.japantimes.com>
- ❑ Mainichi Daily News: <http://mdn.mainichi.jp/>
- ❑ Daily Yomiuri On-Line: <https://japannews.yomiuri.co.jp/>
- ❑ Asahi.com English News by Herald Tribune / The Asahi Shimbun:
<http://www.asahi.com/english/>
- ❑ Several websites on Japan news

<http://www.newsonjapan.com/>

□ Nikkei (English): <https://asia.nikkei.com/>

- Facts and data

CIA World Factbook:

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

Work Expected Outside Class (Preparation / revision):

It is important to revise each class work regularly. Mini quizzes from time to time after completed chapters of the textbook will be held in class. Students should understand that full attendance of classes is important in addition to study outside class as well. Attendance is mandatory.

Be always ready by preparing and studying the pages of the textbook and the academic readings given in advance before coming to the next class. Please follow the course contents agenda written in the course syllabus to prepare for the next class. It is expected that students will manage their review of each chapter of the textbook and study regularly in order to be ready for the midterm and final exams. Revision should be done regularly. To revise the class work, check the major concepts in the textbook and review them and review as well the contents of the discussions done in the class (writing notes of questions and discussions contents will help this process of revision). Additional homework will be assigned sometimes such as analyzing or interpreting a graph or a map, or preparing an update with a current affair in the world related to the discussion/class contents. This will be integrated in the evaluation for class participation.

Grading:

Participation	15%
Discussion Participation in group and news debriefing report, one news report presentation, and book presentation	20%
Essay (20%) and Presentation Project (10%)	30%
Book Review (Submission in Class 12): written assignment and oral presentation	20%
(Critical review of an academic paper) with short presentation in class	15%
Total	100

Percentage Based Scores is following Hosei University Standard. Please check the policy of Hosei University.

It is important to note that the course grade is based on the quality of work submitted.

Assignments:

Further details will be given in the class during the semester for **the essay and presentation project.** The presentation date will be decided in the class. The project is to select a current issue in a specific region in the world related to the field of Global Political Economy to explore and research. Students will need to get approval from the professor for the subject they wish to investigate. This is a group project but the essay will be submitted as an individual assignment. Students are expected to read several articles from trusted sources on the topic they have chosen. For the bibliography, academic books should be used. A minimum of 3 or 4 articles should be from academic journals.

As for other types of resources and references to be used for the assignments, advice will be given during the semester. In case of any doubts during the research process students are encouraged to seek advice from the Professor.

For the book review assignment: further details will be given in class during the semester. **The submission of the assignment in print in CLASS 12.** After date submission is not accepted unless you have a formal certificate (medical or other reasons beyond your control. Please check the policy in the next section. Presentation of the book contents (short presentation) will be done in class 13 and 14.

When preparing any written assignment, students have to follow standard academic guidelines to properly use the different sources. Please use the APA formatting and of Style:

www.apastyle.org

An overview of the APA style can be found here:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/10/>

Absences and Late Assignments:

Regular attendance is mandatory. According to Hosei University, Faculty of Global and Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS) policy, only two unexcused absences are allowed.

You are encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one other student in the class in order to get up-date in case of absence. If you are absent, it is you, as a student, to take the responsibility to get any information, notes about the contents of the class. Students are encouraged to exchanges with fellow students in the class in order to get notes and other information regarding the class missed. If you have an absence for medical reasons or you will be late due to train delay, or a job interview please provide a medical doctor certificate, or a document from the train station, or a document regarding the job interview. If you will not attend the class, please contact me in advance by e-mail.

Assignment should be due in time. All assignment typed will be submitted as print paper. Although you can give your assignment in any time before the date, later paper (report) will not be accepted in general.

Exception

I accept late assignments in the case of serious illness, family emergency, or other events beyond your control. For this you need to provide the professor an official document that explain or prove your reason of absence. And also, you need to contact the professor in advance whenever possible about any problem.

Participation in the class (and discussion):

Students will participate in the class. Students are encouraged to contribute to comments, to participate in the class discussions, to ask questions in the class. Everybody is expected to participate in the class discussions and share their ideas during the semester.

Participation will help to learn from each other. In expressing viewpoints, students should try to raise questions and /or comments in a way that will promote learning. Thus, questions and comments should be asked or state in a way to promote a greater insight into and awareness of topics.

In order to have an open and honest dialogue and to encourage different type of

viewpoints it is important for the class participants to treat each other with respect. The purpose of the class discussions is to generate a better understanding about different topics in the field Global Political Economy.

Academic integrity:

Students are responsible for understanding Hosei University policy related to academic integrity.

Notes on sources for research project: the controversy of Wikipedia's reliability:

Sources used for papers short and /or assignment should be from reliable sources. However, different types of sources are available today on the Web. For example, created by an open community of authors (without any restriction), Wikipedia (<http://wikipedia.org/>) has become a powerful source of information available freely today. However, for university level research papers, it cannot be considered as the primary or sole reference central for an argument or idea. Wikipedia has some limitations, as it is written by an unregulated community of author located anywhere in the world and often are anonymous. Students are not recommended to use this source as reference for academic assignments.

Class Protocol and Etiquette:

Successful achievement in class depends on an atmosphere of respect and a commitment to learning (it includes academic integrity, courtesy, and enthusiasm for learning).

- Arrive in class in time and be prepared.
- Be courteous.
- If the train is delayed, then provide a train delay certificate that you should get at the station. However, only up to four certificates can be accepted by semester. Arriving late many times will disturb the class study environment.
- For the Zoom meeting: the protocols are the same for a normal face to face class.
- Turn off cellular phones and other electronic devices and put it in your bag before entering the class.
- Sleeping in the class will not be tolerated (unless you have a documented medical condition that causes you to sleep uncontrollably).

- Avoid leaving the class during the lecture (unless there is an emergency). Please go beforehand to the toilet.
- Talking. Spoken contributions are related toward the course content.
- Civility. Classroom discussions of the course contents are likely to provoke strong reactions sometimes in some of you. Respectful debates are strongly encouraged.
- There will be no eating in the class.
- However, you can bring drinks such as water or tea.
- Doing full make-up during the class is not accepted.
- Avoid to get up and to leave the classroom during the lecture (unless it is unavoidable or there is an emergency). Please go the bathroom before you come to the class.
- Students wishing to record lectures because of a specific need must consult with me prior to record any lectures. Students should understand that many others students feel uncomfortable when they are recorded.
- You can use a PC to take notes but not to browse the Internet during the class unless you have the authorization from your professor.
- As for the presentation, students must arrive in time in the class.
- Taking photos during the lectures or in the class is not allowed unless requested by Hosei University.
- Cheating and Plagiarism are not allowed. Please refer to Hosei University policy.
- AI type of software cannot be used for the assignments for this course. Write all the assignments in your own words.

Instructor and student communication:

Students are urged to talk to me about their problems or concerns they have with the class. Feel free to come to talk to me even during the class break or before and after the class. *Do not hesitate to ask questions and express your concerns in the class via email, through conversation, or by writing me notes. When the student is preparing an email to the professor, please write the topic of your concern in the subject and identify yourself with your ID number and the class number in the message as well.* Always address your professor in the emails. Do not send an email without a salutation. And do your best to communicate in a professional manner. Usually, an email received will get an answer in general within 24 or to 48 hours. When it is sent over the weekend, students can expect a response from the Monday.

Course Outline:

This is a tentative class schedule. It may change if necessary.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Session and Date	Themes	Topics
Class 1	Introduction (overview of the course)	Theories of Global Political Economy - Introduction to the Theories of global political economy (Chap. 1&2 of the textbook) - Week-by-week explanation of the course contents - Explanation of attendance policy, assignments and homework and grading policy.
Class 2	Understanding the evolution of the world economy	Evolution of the world economy from the industrial revolution Support sources: Wilson Center Digital Archive https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/ Sources on international history (government documents) Images of colonialism: https://library.harvard.edu/collections/images-colonialism
Class 3	Presentation of the post-war global economy	The global economy: from 1945 to today
Class 4	What is the global trade? Understanding the factors explaining the international trade patterns	International trade WTO https://www.wto.org/ UNCTAD https://unctad.org/en/Pages/Home.aspx Fair Trade International https://www.fairtrade.net/ International Chamber of Commerce https://iccwbo.org/ Consumers International: https://www.consumersinternational.org/
Class 5	- Transnational production systems or networks	Transnational production Ranking of countries FDI investment http://www.global-production.com/index.htm

	- Group Discussion on the impact of transnational corporations	OECD FDI main aggregates : https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/content/data/data-00338-en
Class 6	- Understanding how the global financial system operates - Class discussion and decisions on the topics for the essay-presentation project	The global financial system IMF https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm Bank of International Settlement https://www.bis.org/ Center for financial stability http://www.centerforfinancialstability.org/index.php
Class 7	- International Division of Labor - Analyzing women in the world economy	The international division of labor International Labor Organization: http://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm International Trade Union organization: https://www.ituc-csi.org/ Anti-slavery International https://www.antislavery.org/
Class 8	- Understanding the notion of development today	Economic development World Bank: http://www.worldbank.org/ UNDP http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/ Sustainable Development https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs
Class 9	Discussion and debate Submission of the Essay (for the groups that will present in class 10)	Gender UN Women http://www.unwomen.org/en Gender gap: WEF https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-gender-gap-report-2023/ Research by Prof. Claudia Goldin (Nobel Prize) on gender gap pay Global Employment Trends http://www.ilo.org/emppolicy/lang--en/index.htm
Class 10	What are the most challenging environmental issues today in the world? Essay-Presentation (group) Submission of the Essay (for the groups that will present in class 11)	Global environmental changes International Panel of Climate Change: https://www.ipcc.ch/ Carbon Footprint: https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/consider-your-impact/carbon-calculator/ UN environment program https://www.unenvironment.org/

Class 11	<p>Essay-Presentation (group)</p> <p>Submission of the Essay (for the groups that will present in class 12)</p> <p>Looking at the security in political economy</p>	<p>Security</p> <p>Interpol: https://www.interpol.int/</p> <p>Related to health emergency: https://www.who.int/csr/en/</p> <p>Food security http://www.fao.org/home/en/</p> <p>OECD tax and crime http://www.oecd.org/tax/crime/</p> <p>UN - Drugs and crime https://www.unodc.org/</p>
Class 12	<p>Essay-Presentation (group)</p> <p>Submission of the Essay (for the groups that will present in class 13)</p> <p>Ideas on global political economies</p> <p>Submission of the Book Review</p>	<p>Ideas: theoretical perspectives on global political economy</p>
Class 13	<p>Essay-Presentation (group)</p> <p>Mini-Oral presentation of the book review- 1</p>	<p>Governing the global political economy</p> <p>UN Global Compact: https://www.unglobalcompact.org/</p> <p>EU https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en</p> <p>Governing the global political economy II</p> <p>World Economic Forum: https://www.weforum.org/</p> <p>Anti-corruption: https://www.transparency.org/</p> <p>G20: https://g20.org/</p>
Class 14	<p>Mini-Oral presentation of the book review</p> <p>Submission of the last assignment (critical review of an academic paper) with short presentation in class</p>	<p>Governing the global political economy</p>

Reminder:

Full details of course policy and others requirements will be distributed and explained on the first day of the class and later during the semester.

Some of the contents described in the course syllabus may be changed if necessary.