Course Architecture
This is an introductory course for doctoral students interested in the study of International Political Economy (which is a subfield of both the International Relations field, and the Political Economy field). IPE is an expansive area covering a wide range of subjects. It includes the study of how global markets and economic connections (via trade, FDI, capital flows, aid, and remittances) shape global politics or domestic politics/policy, or how global political arrangements such as inter-governmental and private regimes shape domestic politics and policy. Scholars also reverse the independent variables and dependent variables, and study how domestic factors shape national-level responses to global/regional regimes, etc. And of course, we can throw in the interactions of domestic and international factors to explain the dependent variable of our choice. The range of issue areas covered by scholars is also impressive – from traditional suspects such as regimes, trade flows, and financial flows to newer suspects such as environmental issues, labor issues, and human rights. In recent years, the literature on diffusion and networks has gained prominence. Scholars increasingly (and thankfully) examine both state and nonstate actors in the study of IPE. In terms of methods, while statistical techniques (specifically, cross sectional time series) tend to dominate, there are a fair number of case studies, survey work, formal models, and increasingly, field experiments. While much of the work is dominated by rational choice institutionalists, constructivists and critical scholars have made valuable contributions.

Given the complexity of the field, my objective is to expose you to important concepts and themes in IPE. This would allow you to assess the state of the art and identify specific issues you wish to examine in more depth and detail in your own work. Importantly, this course seeks to prepare you for the IR comprehensive exam.

Readings
Given the short duration of the quarter system, and the rather large array of topics covered by IPE scholars, designing a comprehensive syllabus is a challenge. I have decided to assign articles which cover important IPE debates, especially the new and emerging issues. I have already covered some of the IPE classics in POLS 521, Introduction to IR (the syllabus is on my home page). For the comprehensive exams in IR or PE, I recommend you review the IPE readings covered in 521 as well.
I will create an electronic reserve for the assigned articles.

**Course Expectations**
This doctoral seminar requires active student participation. You are expected to energetically and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and to the collective learning processes.

**Student Presentations**
For every session, students will present and critique the assigned articles. The discussant-presenter is expected to prepare a two page (single-spaced) summary and critique of article, and email it to the class by Wednesday, 9:00 am.

How to structure your memo? Assume a prominent journal has requested you to review the assigned article. How might you evaluate it? First, identify the big idea, the intuition behind and the motivation for the paper, and eventually the core research question. Situate this in the relevant literature. Then, evaluate the clarity of the key hypotheses, the appropriateness of the empirical methods and the data employed to test them. Assess if the findings are interpreted correctly. Finally, ask yourself: did this paper move forward our understanding of IPE? If so, how? If not, why not?

The discussant-presenter should budget about 10 minutes for the in-class presentation. To minimize transaction and governance costs, I will assign the articles. You are free to “trade” (1 for one is the exchange ratio) among yourselves and arrive at an equilibrium that suits your intellectual tastes.

I strongly recommend that you save all the memos generated in this course because they will be very helpful in preparing for the IR or PE comprehensive exam.

**Class Participation**
To have a meaningful discussion, please review all readings prior to the class. Those not assigned to present any reading should email a 2-3 discussion questions to me. I will forward them to the class. This one page “Discussion Questions” memo should reach me by Wednesday, 9:00 am. Please provide short discussion on how your questions relate to the theoretical or empirical issues raised in the assigned readings (you are not obliged to cover all). You are encouraged to relate these readings to articles you may have reviewed in other seminars. As scholars you must learn to cumulate knowledge: drawing connections with readings in different seminars is therefore a very good exercise.

**Research Proposal**
A five page (single-spaced) research proposal is due December 4. Treat this as a first cut for a grant proposal or your MA/PhD proposal. One page proposal outlines are due November 20. The research proposal could be structured as follows:
Research Puzzle: What is the central issue you want to study and why is it theoretically important? It might be helpful to identify your dependent variable(s), independent variable(s), and the logic connecting the two.

Research Context: How does your topic speak to the IR literature? What are relevant concepts or models? What are the research contributions?

Research Design: What is the appropriate research strategy to examine your research puzzle? What are your hypotheses? Are they falsifiable? What are your data requirements? How would you analyze and interpret the data?

Contributions: What new theoretical insights your research is expected to provide? What are the implications for future IR research?

Evaluation
Key questions memos and class participation: 30 points
Article critique: 50 points
Research proposal: 20 points

Class Schedule

Session 1, September 25
Getting Started: Some interesting stuff IPE Scholars write on


**Session 2: October 2**

**Regimes and International Organizations**


**Session 3, October 9**

**Trade Regimes**


• Julia Gray. Forthcoming. Domestic Capacity and the Implementation Gap in Regional Trade Agreements *Comparative Political Studies*.

**Session 4, October 16**
**Trade Preferences and Attitudes**


**Session 5: October 23**
**Finance, Money, and Currency – 1**


**Session 6: October 30**

**Finance, Money and Currency - II**

  
  (Also see Jana Von Stein, Jana. 2005. Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance. *American Political Science Review* 99:611-22.)


Session 7, November 6
Diffusion and Networks


Session 8, November 13
Foreign Direct Investment


**Session 9: November 20**

**Foreign Aid**


**Session 10, November 27**

**Environmental Issues**


• Dustin Tingley1 and Michael Tomz. 2013. Conditional Cooperation and Climate Change. *Comparative Political Studies*.

**Session 11, December 4**

**Human Rights, Labor Rights, Migration**


