

---

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

---

Professor: Bradford Dillman; Nick Kontogeorgopoulos

Associate Professor: Emelie Kaye Peine, Pierre Ly, *Director*

Visiting Assistant Professor: Jamila Glover, Lisa Nunn

## About the Program

The International Political Economy (IPE) Program offers a multidisciplinary approach to the study of international and global issues. International Political Economy uses tools and methods of political science, economics, and sociology as informed by an understanding of history and tempered by appreciation of cultural differences.

Students in the IPE program 1) gain an appreciation for competing theoretical perspectives; 2) study the overlapping economic, political, and social linkages between global actors and events; 3) master the application of this powerful framework to the analysis of a wide range of issues; 4) consider issues broadly and see how they are interconnected; 5) engage in critical and creative thinking; and 6) develop expertise through senior thesis research on a particular IPE problem or issue.

The program sponsors regular lectures and discussions on campus, which encourage students and faculty to consider the integrated character of global economic, political, and social issues.

## About the International Political Economy Major

The International Political Economy major consists of a thoughtfully integrated set of courses in the social sciences leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in International Political Economy. The goal of this major is to prepare students for an increasingly interdependent world through the study of international and global issues. The IPE major culminates in a senior thesis in which students demonstrate their ability to analyze a complex question, bringing to bear both the depth of their knowledge and the breadth of their liberal arts education.

Students who major in IPE take required courses in International Political Economy, Politics and Government, Economics, Sociology and Anthropology, and Mathematics. They tailor their plan of study to their individual educational goals by choosing additional elective courses. IPE majors are encouraged to pursue foreign travel-study opportunities as part of their undergraduate education. Two-thirds of IPE majors typically study abroad. Many students combine foreign study with background research for the senior thesis.

Students who major in IPE thus combine broad, multidisciplinary studies of IPE, which examine global problems from a variety of perspectives, with the opportunity to study intensely a specific issue in their senior thesis. The IPE major clearly embodies the spirit of liberal education as we understand it at the University of Puget Sound.

## Structure of the IPE Major

The core of the IPE major consists of three required IPE classes (101, 301, and 401) and the three elective courses. The other IPE requirements—in comparative politics, economics, sociology and anthropology, and statistics—provide necessary tools and skills and encourage the breadth of knowledge and sensitivity to differing viewpoints that are hallmarks of IPE at Puget Sound.

**IPE 101:** Introduction to International Political Economy surveys the international and global problems that are at the heart of IPE. This course is designed to be a valuable element of the liberal education for majors and non-majors alike.

**IPE 301:** Theories of IPE is for IPE majors only. It features a rigorous analysis of the main theories of IPE. Students write a final paper that

is intended to establish a theoretical foundation for their senior thesis. Students take IPE 301 in the junior year or in the fall of the senior year.

**IPE 401:** Senior Thesis Seminar is the capstone course in which IPE majors share ideas, engage in critical discussions, and write and defend their senior theses. Ideally, the more that a thesis is able to build upon past work the more it can be expected to achieve.

**IPE Major Electives.** IPE majors take three elective classes chosen in consultation with their IPE advisor. Students who study abroad are usually able to count up to two classes as IPE electives. Elective courses must be pre-approved by the student's IPE advisor in consultation with the student. Elective classes should be chosen to: broaden or deepen the student's understanding of IPE theory; provide economic, political, social or historical context for analysis of important IPE issues; provide specific expertise necessary for a student's senior thesis research; develop IPE research tools; or deepen knowledge of a particular country or region. Please note that at least one of the three IPE Major Electives must be an upper-division IPE course taken on the Puget Sound campus.

## Other Important Issues

Since most IPE majors study abroad at some point in their undergraduate careers, they are advised to consider foreign study options as soon as possible and to give special consideration to foreign language preparation. Although some study abroad programs have no formal foreign language requirement, other programs require as many as two years of prior language study. IPE students and their advisors should give serious consideration to foreign language preparation both for foreign study and with respect to senior thesis research needs and career preparation.

All Puget Sound students must take three upper-division elective classes as part of the university's graduation requirements. IPE students are encouraged to use courses taken for this requirement to broaden their understanding of IPE and contemporary global problems. Many IPE students plan eventually to pursue advanced degrees. It is wise, therefore, to consider what undergraduate courses might be most useful as preparation for law or graduate schools in addition to the coursework required for the IPE major.

Students who expect to pursue Master's or Ph.D. degrees, for example, should consult with their IPE advisors regarding additional coursework that may be necessary or advisable in foreign language, quantitative methods, or research methodology. Students who want to prepare themselves for the MBA degree should supplement the IPE requirements with core business classes such as accounting and finance. Students who plan to enter graduate programs in area studies, such as Asian Studies or Latin American Studies, should consider additional coursework in foreign language and literature, comparative politics, and cultural studies.

## General Requirements for the Major

General university degree requirements stipulate that 1) at least four units of the major be taken in residence at Puget Sound; 2) students earn a GPA of 2.0 in courses taken for the major; and 3) all courses taken for a major must be taken for graded credit. Any exceptions to these stipulations are indicated in the major degree requirements listed below.

## Requirements for the Major

- I. IPE 101, PG 102, ECON 101, and SOAN 101 or 102.
- II. IPE 205 or ECON 271
- III. IPE 301
- IV. MATH 160 or 260 or equivalent.

- V. Elective courses: Three courses (usually upper-division courses) in IPE or related disciplines. Elective courses must be pre-approved by the student's IPE advisor in consultation with the student. A course used to satisfy this requirement may not also be used to satisfy a university core requirement. At least one of the three IPE Major Electives must be an upper-division IPE course taken on the Puget Sound campus. Elective classes should be chosen to:
- Broaden or deepen the student's understanding of IPE theory;
  - Provide economic, political, social or historical context for analysis of important IPE issues;
  - Provide specific expertise necessary for a student's senior thesis research;
  - Develop analytical tools useful in IPE research;
  - Deepen knowledge of a particular country or region.
- VI. Senior Thesis: IPE 401

### Notes

- To count towards the major a course grade must be C- or above.
- Every student must coordinate his or her program with an IPE advisor.
- Where a course both supports a major in IPE and fulfills a major or minor requirement in another field, a student may count no more than two 200- or higher-level departmental units from that major or minor towards the IPE major.

### Course Offerings

Unless otherwise specified, each course carries 1 unit of credit and is offered at least once each academic year. Please see "Frequency of Course Offerings" on page 10.

**Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry.** See *Seminars in Scholarly Inquiry in the Core Curriculum* section of this Bulletin for course descriptions (page 10).

### SSI1 173 Alexander Hamilton's America: The Political Economy behind the Musical

**Connections courses.** See Connections in the Core Curriculum section of this Bulletin for course descriptions (page 24).

#### IPE 389 Global Struggles over Intellectual Property

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

#### CONN 307 Hooch: The Natural and Social Science of Liquor

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

#### CONN 395 China and Latin America: A New Era of Transpacific Relations

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

#### IPE 405 The Idea of Wine

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

#### IPE 427 Competing Perspectives on the Material World

Satisfies the Connections core requirement.

**101 Introduction to International Political Economy** This course provides a multidisciplinary introduction to the study of international social, political, and economic problems. Concepts, theories, and methods of analysis drawn from economics, history, political science, and sociology are developed and applied to enable students to understand broadly a number of relationships between states, markets, and societies at a global level. *Satisfies the Social Scientific Approaches core requirement. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirement. Offered every semester.*

**205 The Political Economy of International Trade and Finance** This course trains students in the modern International Political Economy analysis of the battle between the winners and losers of economic globalization. The first part of the course focuses on political economy approaches to international trade issues, including discussions of trade policy in rich and poor countries, the role of government in assisting displaced workers, the regulation of labor standards and the politics of multinational corporations. The second part of the course provides students with a well-rounded understanding of the political, economic and social aspects of the international financial system and financial crises. This includes political economy analyses of important recent events such as the US credit rating downgrade and the European debt crisis. It is advised that students take IPE 205 (or ECON 271) as soon as possible after taking ECON 101, beginning in the Fall semester of the sophomore year. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 or Econ 101. Offered every year.*

**301 Theories of International Political Economy** This course examines theoretical explanations of international political economy relationships and events. Students become acquainted with important theoretical debates in the IPE literature, study research methods used to answer questions in IPE, and assess empirical research on the global political economy. *This course is a prerequisite for IPE 401. Prerequisites: IPE 101 and junior or senior standing. Offered every semester.*

**311 Political Economy of International Development** This course serves as an introduction to the political economy of international development and explores two themes. First, what are the tradeoffs inherent to the process of industrialization, globalization, and economic growth? Second, what are the political, social, and economic challenges faced by low-income countries? In focusing on these themes, this course addresses several questions: What is the meaning of development? How has colonialism shaped the contours of the contemporary world? What are the tradeoffs associated with mechanization and other features associated with the modernization of agriculture? What is the debt crisis and what are some possible solutions to the crisis? What are the greatest causes of illness and death in low-income countries? What is the environmental impact of the growing global demand for modern consumer conveniences? What are some of the problems faced by women in low-income countries? *Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, and Power graduation requirement. Offered every year.*

**321 The Business of Alleviating Poverty: NGOs, Corporations and Social Entrepreneurs** This course studies the interaction between states, markets and civil society in the fight against global poverty. More precisely it analyzes the roles of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), corporations and social entrepreneurs. The course addresses a number of issues: What do NGOs do and how to they finance their operations? Can multinational corporations play a role in the fight against global poverty and, if so, how? How can we make sense of so-called "social enterprise"? What is the role of the state in regulating and encouraging private solutions to poverty? Are these private solutions further proof of economic liberal dominance or a move toward a new form of capitalism tailored to serve social needs? *Offered frequently.*

**323 The Political, Economic, and Social Context of International Tourism** In the contemporary world, tourism is often the foremost process that brings together people from different parts of the world, allowing those from vastly different societies to interact on a face-to-face basis under peaceful, if not always equal, circumstances. As such, tourism as a phenomenon and as a process raises questions about global interconnections and global movements of finance, cultural and material artifacts, ideas, and people across national and cultural boundaries. The two questions this course addresses throughout the semester are

1) what are the economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental impacts of tourism in low and middle income countries? and 2) what are the tradeoffs associated with tourism? In tackling these two questions the course examines a wide range of issues, including the political, economic, social, and cultural implications of tourism, the impact of global tourism on environmental and global conservation efforts, and tourism as a vehicle of social change and as a facilitator of cultural and material globalization. *Crosslisted with SOAN 323. Offered frequently.*

### **331 International Political Economy of Food and Agriculture**

Everyone eats, and therefore everyone has a relationship to global agriculture. But because less than one percent of the US population earns a living from farming, most Americans rarely think about where our food comes from. This course explores the origins of our current global food system, the political-economic relations that structure it, and emerging alternatives to industrial food. The course begins with an overview of the global food system, including the actors and ideas that have shaped its historical development. Second, students examine the dominant paradigm of industrial agriculture and the politics of its organization primarily in the US context. Finally, students discuss some of the most prescient debates over the future of our food system with a focus on the local context. Note: this course includes a required weekly three-hour experiential session in addition to regular class sessions. This experiential session provides students the opportunity for hands-on learning through field trips, volunteering, and community-based projects. Students use class materials to bring an analytical lens to these experiences, and the course culminates in a major research project and presentation that engages local community gardeners. *Prerequisite: IPE 101, 201, or PG 103. Usually offered every year.*

**333 Political Economy of Southeast Asia** This course serves as an overview of the political, economic, social, and cultural processes shaping the region known as Southeast Asia. This course utilizes a range of disciplinary approaches in order to illustrate patterns of change in the Southeast Asian context. Throughout, the course integrates discussion of theoretical issues with examples from around Southeast Asia. By applying theoretical material to specific countries and real-world examples, the class explores the ways in which broad perspectives intersect with economic, political, and social issues to shape the nature and direction of change in Southeast Asia. *Usually offered every year.*

### **360 Food Systems Northwest: Circuits of Soil, Labor, and Money**

Eating food is critical to everyday life, and yet many have the luxury to treat daily sustenance as an afterthought. For some, the connections between food and the larger environmental and social systems that sustain human life are largely invisible. This experiential course explores these interactions through an extensive and intensive investigation of the Northwest food system from farm to fork. For three weeks, the course travels among the campuses of Whitman College, the University of Puget Sound, and Willamette University, tracing the themes of soil, labor, and money across the Northwest foodscape. Beginning at Whitman, students focus on the political economy of the food system, training a global lens on the industrial wheat farms, chicken processing plants, and large-scale dairy operations of the Walla Walla Valley. At the University of Puget Sound, the focus shifts to urban agriculture and food justice, tracing the three themes through questions of poverty and access to food, urban planning, and the challenges of growing food in the city of Tacoma. Finally, the course concludes at Willamette where students will live and work at Zena Forest and Farm, putting the methods of sustainable agriculture into practice and exploring the opportunities and obstacles associated with smaller-scale organic agriculture in the Willamette Valley. *Offered occasionally.*

**361 Business and the Base of the Pyramid** The base of the pyramid (BOP) refers to the four billion people living on less than \$2 per day. Currently, various approaches exist on how best to align business activity with the needs and potential of this segment of the global population. Those at the BOP can be seen as a large untapped market, creative entrepreneurs, business partners, and innovators. This course examines the various BOP perspectives to need satisfaction, poverty alleviation, and economic growth through business activity. The focus is on emerging business models that address individual and social needs in an innovative, profitable, sustainable, and socially-responsible manner. This course integrates concepts of development economics, international business, leadership, and strategy. *Cross-listed with BUS 361. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Offered occasionally.*

**380 Gods, Guns, and Oil in the Middle East** This course examines the efforts of states in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to adapt to the international political economy. It examines how states have tried to reshape their political and economic institutions in the face of religious radicalism, armed conflict, and changes in global markets. Attention is paid to relationships that exist between governments, businesses, civil society, and opposition groups. Topics include the relationship of economic reform to democratization, regional integration, and corruption and illicit transactions. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 or PG 102. Offered every other year.*

**382 The Illicit Global Economy** This course examines patterns of illicit activity in the global economy. A political economy approach is used to understand reasons why illicit behavior occurs, how it occurs, and who the relevant actors are. Attention is focused on production and distribution of commodities, especially those that originate in developing countries. Commodities are broadly defined to include drugs, money, guns, people, diamonds, oil, timber, and intellectual property. The course concludes with a discussion of efforts by states and multilateral institutions to combat illicit transnational activity. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 or permission of the instructor. Offered every year.*

**401 Senior Thesis Seminar** Rigorous examination of topics of current interest in International Political Economy. This course is designed to allow students to participate in focused discussion and thoughtful analysis of a number of topics in IPE while they research and write their senior theses. *Prerequisite: IPE 301 and instructor permission. Offered every semester.*

**407 Political Ecology** Political ecology is an active interdisciplinary framework with foundations in anthropology, geography, environmental studies and the biological sciences. Its central contention is that our understanding of environmental issues and environmental change must include an analysis of the social, political, economic, and cultural context in which they are produced. Through a set of advanced readings in the social sciences, students become familiar with the genealogy of this interdisciplinary approach, the keystone texts that inform contemporary political/ecological work, and the new directions that comprise the cutting edge of political ecology. Recurring themes in the reading list will examine indigenous peoples struggle over resources, the construction of nature through the capitalist lens, and an examination of sustainability in both discourse and practice. Students conduct original ethnographic research that builds upon these areas of interest. Advanced coursework in anthropology, sociology, and/or international political economy is strongly recommended. *Crosslisted with SOAN 407. Offered every year.*