
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

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About the Program

How are global issues shaped by political, economic and social institutions? How does the relationship between states, markets and social movements on a global stage affect issues like migration, poverty, and the environment? How are power and wealth distributed between and within nations?

The International Political Economy (IPE) major prepares students for an increasingly interdependent world through the study of global issues. Students take courses in IPE, as well as in economics, political science, sociology and anthropology, so they can understand the world from different (and sometimes competing) perspectives. The IPE major culminates in a senior thesis in which students demonstrate the depth and breadth of the liberal arts education to tackle a complex question. Many IPE alumni work in careers related to the interests they developed as IPE students.

The IPE program offers study abroad project grants for IPE majors studying abroad. Further, the IPE program funds several competitive summer grants to support IPE majors pursuing an international internship or an independent research project. Upon return, students write a report reflecting on their experience and give a presentation about their work.

The IPE program offers a variety of experiential learning opportunities for students to study outside of the classroom setting and become involved in the community. Almost two-thirds of IPE students study abroad to further their education and international experience, while many others accept international summer internships.

Program Objectives

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.

After graduation, IPE students are equipped with essential writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills that prepare them for a wide range of future careers. IPE alumni have succeeded in a wide range of careers, in business, law, government, non-government organizations, think-tanks, or education, in the US and abroad.

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 in International Political Economy (BA)

1. IPE 101, PG 102, ECON 101, and SOAN 101 or 102.
2. IPE 205 or ECON 271

3. IPE 301
4. MATH 160 or 260 or equivalent.
5. 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. 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:
 - a. Broaden or deepen the student's understanding of IPE theory;
 - b. Provide economic, political, social or historical context for analysis of important IPE issues;
 - c. Provide specific expertise necessary for a student's senior thesis research;
 - d. Develop analytical tools useful in IPE research;
 - e. Deepen knowledge of a particular country or region.
6. Senior Thesis: IPE 401

Notes

- a. To count towards the major a course grade must be C- or above.
- b. Every student must coordinate his or her program with an IPE advisor.
- c. Any changes to major requirements must be reviewed and approved by the student's IPE advisor, and subject to approval of the IPE Director.

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 20.

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

SSI2 166 This Land Is Whose Land? Contested Territories in Modern Times

Other courses offered by International Political Economy faculty.

See *Connections in the Core Curriculum* section of this Bulletin for course descriptions.

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 389 Global Struggles Over Intellectual Property

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.

International Political Econ (IPE)

101 Introduction to International Political Economy Throughout the world, societies, markets, and governments are in upheaval. Some would even argue that we are on the brink of a new world order. So how do we understand the current historical moment? How are nation-states being remade in the face of the hyper-mobility of capital? Are global corporations the new arbiters of rule? What is the fate of global cooperation in an era of growing nationalism? How are emerging economies and global social movements challenging the terms of the globalization debate? How are power and wealth distributed between and within nations? International Political Economy engages students to under-

stand how the relationship between states, markets and civil society on a global stage affect issues like poverty, inequality, unemployment, security, and climate change. *Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, Power graduation requirement. Satisfies the Social Scientific Approaches core requirement. Offered every semester.*

191 Model United Nations 0.25 activity units. In this course students learn about the functioning of the United Nations and participate in a Model UN conference. Students research contemporary issues facing the UN and debate these issues from the perspective of a selected country. Fees may be required to cover conference costs. Course may be repeated. *May be repeated for credit. Pass/Fail Required. Cannot be audited.*

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. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 or ECON 101. Offered every year.*

211 Introduction to Global Development This course serves as an introduction to global development and provides an overview of several problems associated with development and globalization. There are two themes that run throughout the course. 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 pursuing these two themes, this course will cover several topics related to development and globalization: the historical trajectory and meaning of the development idea; the role played by colonialism in shaping the contours of the contemporary world; the policy dimensions of development and globalization; the tradeoffs associated with the modernization of agriculture; the causes and consequences of the debt crisis; patterns of health and illness in low-income countries; the environmental impact of industrialization and growing global consumerism; and the challenges faced by women in low-income countries. *Cross-listed as GDS/IPE 211. Satisfies the Knowledge, Identity, Power graduation requirement. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit. 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 and research methods used to answer questions in IPE. Students identify and research questions suitable for the senior thesis. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 and junior or senior standing. Offered every semester.*

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 do 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. *Cross-listed as IPE/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. *Satisfies the Social Scientific Approaches core requirement. Offered frequently.*

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. *Offered occasionally.*

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. *Cross-listed as ENVR/IPE 360. Offered occasionally.*

361 Business and the Base of the Pyramid The base of the pyramid (BOP) refers to the billions of people living on very low incomes (\$2-4 per day). Currently, various approaches exist as to 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 of demanding consumers, as creative entrepreneurs, as business partners, and as 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, and strategy. *Cross-listed as BUS/IPE 361. Offered occasionally.*

367 Cosmopolitan Countrysides: Understanding Rural Places in Global Context In 2008 the United Nations announced that for the first time in human history, more than half of the world's population lived in cities. In 2016, POLITICO published the headline "Revenge of the Rural Voter" in an attempt to explain the dramatic right turn in US electoral politics. In the wake of that election, rural America is in the spotlight as (largely) urban scholars and pundits attempt to explain the dynamics of rural places to a (largely) urban audience. So, what might they be missing? While urbanization shows no signs of slowing, it more important than ever to study and understand rural places. Although fewer and fewer of us claim rural places as our home, these communities play a crucial role in natural resource management, energy development, agriculture, cultural and historic preservation, global social movements, and domestic politics. This course will examine the political, economic, and social significance of rural communities in an increasingly metropolitan world. Students will be introduced to the discipline of rural social science, and will gain a complex and nuanced understanding of the dynamics of rural communities from a global perspective. *Prerequisite: One introductory social science course from ECON 101, ECON 102, IPE 101, PG 101, PG 102, PG 103, PG 104, SOAN 101, SOAN 102, or permission of instructor.*

380 God, 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 and assesses the constraints and opportunities states face and how they have tried to reshape their political and economic institutions. Attention is paid to relationships that exist between the state, business, labor, civil society, international capital, and foreign governments. Topics include the relationship of economic reform to democratization, regional integration, religious radicalism, and corruption and illicit transactions. *Prerequisite: IPE 101, PG 102, or permission of instructor. 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.*

388 Exploring the Chinese Economy Exploring the Chinese Economy analyzes the economic, political, and social facets of the Chinese economy and their relationships with globalization. First, we discuss China's transition to a market economy and its rise as a global economic power. This includes the role of state and market actors, labor, and the rural-urban divide. Second, students think critically about the role of education and technology in the Chinese economy, including universities, the internet, and social media. Third, we investigate China's place in the global economy, including international trade, foreign investment, the battles of global brands for the Chinese consumer market, and environmental issues. The field school portion of this course will take place between June and August. It will consist of a full time, 8-week internship in Beijing, and weekly cultural activities. Students will be immersed in the Chinese economy, experiencing it as interns, commuters, consumers, and foreigners exploring a new culture. Participation in the field school, including completion of an internship, field notes, and a final video project, is required to pass the course. The instructor will be present for the first three weeks of the field school to meet regularly with students and to ensure that students are settled into their internships. *Prerequisite: IPE 101 and junior or senior standing. Offered occasionally.*

389 Global Struggles Over Intellectual Property See *Connections in the Core Curriculum* section of this Bulletin for course description.

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. Offered every semester.*

405 The Idea of Wine See *Connections in the Core Curriculum* section of this Bulletin for course description.

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 in this course 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. *Cross-listed as IPE/SOAN 407. Offered every year.*

427 Competing Perspectives on the Material World See *Connections in the Core Curriculum* section of this Bulletin for course description.

495 Independent Study Variable credit up to 1.00 unit. Independent study is available to those students who wish to continue their learning

in an area after completing the regularly offered courses in that area. *May be repeated for credit up to 4.00 units. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*

498 Internship Seminar This scheduled weekly interdisciplinary seminar provides the context to reflect on concrete experiences at an off-campus internship site and to link these experiences to academic study relating to the political, psychological, social, economic and intellectual forces that shape our views on work and its meaning. The aim is to integrate study in the liberal arts with issues and themes surrounding the pursuit of a creative, productive, and satisfying professional life. Students receive 1.0 unit of academic credit for the academic work that augments their concurrent internship fieldwork. This course is not applicable to the Upper-Division Graduation Requirement. Only 1.0 unit may be assigned to an individual internship and no more than 2.0 units of internship credit, or internship credit in combination with co-operative education credit, may be applied to an undergraduate degree. *May be repeated for credit. Cannot be audited. Cannot be taken Credit/No Credit.*