International Relations
Master in Social Sciences

Carlos III – Juan March Institute of Social Sciences

Spring 2021

Dr. Iasmin Goes (Sessions 1–6)
Email: igoesara@clio.uc3m.es
Office: 18.2.E.10
Office hours: Thursdays 1:15–4:00 pm

Dr. Ignacio Sánchez-Cuenca (Sessions 7–12)
Email: igsanche@clio.uc3m.es
Office: 18.2.E.16
Office hours: by appointment

Meeting Time and Location
Thursdays 10 am – 1 pm, Aula 18.1.A01

Course Description and Objectives

The course is structured in two parts. The first part will cover topics around international political economy, with a focus on four issues: international organizations, finance, investment, and trade. Session 1 examines why states join international organizations and what these institutions can or cannot accomplish. Sessions 2 and 3 focus on international monetary and financial relations, including discussions about sovereign debt (session 2) as well as central bank independence and monetary integration (session 3).

Session 4 combines financial relations to international investment, looking at capital mobility both in terms of portfolio investment (equity, securities, debt) and in terms of foreign direct investment. Session 5 zooms in on foreign direct investment, including a discussion of how bilateral investment treaties help mitigate political risk. Finally, session 6 examines international trade, with a focus on who supports protectionism, and when. Along the way, we will identify the welfare effects and distributional consequences of foreign economic policy decisions. We will use the tools of political science to analyze how interest groups, voters, bureaucrats, policymakers, ideas, and power politics interact to shape policy outcomes.

The second part of the course covers conflict and violence. The first two sessions deal with the core of IR conflict, interstate war. Since wars are less frequent these days, the big puzzle is the decline of war in the international order. First, we discuss in session 7 the democratic and capitalist peace theories and then, in session 8, historical arguments are introduced. Sessions 9 and 10 address the most prevalent form of conflict today, civil war. Session 9 discusses the different types of civil wars, and the political dynamics that they set into motion, while session 10 introduces the literature on the causes of civil war and the methodological problems to identify them.

Finally, sessions 11 and 12 tackle terrorism. Session 11 is about the nature of terrorism and terrorist groups. Session 12 is, in a sense, less academic and more oriented to current affairs, reviewing what we know about Jihadist insurgency, with an emphasis on Al Qaeda and ISIS.

Readings

The readings are mandatory, except those marked as “recommended” or (in the IPE sessions) as “presentations.” The key to succeed in this course is to do the readings in advance. You can find all the reading materials in Aula Global.
Assignments

You have to write a research paper (80% of the final grade). You can choose to do the paper either in international political economy or conflict. Depending on the choice, the paper will be evaluated by the instructor teaching on that area. The remaining 20% of the grade corresponds to class participation and class presentations.

In addition to the core and recommended readings, sessions 2 to 6 each include 4 papers that illustrate the IPE topics discussed on that week (see “Presentations” below). At the beginning of the semester, you will sign up to present a paper of your interest. In the corresponding session, you will give a 5–10-minute presentation to your colleagues, connecting the paper you read to the main discussion.

Course Outline

Part 1: International Political Economy

Feb 11: Session 1. International Organizations

Core Readings

Why states cooperate


International organizations as a seal of approval


How professional training affects the functioning of international organizations


Recommended Readings


Feb 18: Session 2. Sovereign Debt

Core Readings

Background


Borrowing from capital markets


Borrowing from the IMF

Recommended Readings


Presentations (5)

Sovereign debt resettlement in Iceland


Bond markets vs. bank lending in Latin America


IMF lending in Africa


Why some countries like IMF conditionality


The relationship between IMF loans and capital markets


Feb 25: Session 3. Monetary Politics

Core Readings

Background


The emergence of central banks


Monetary integration in Europe


Recommended Readings


Presentations (4)

Ideology and central bank independence


How central banks reduce borrowing costs in times of war


How central bank independence improves credit ratings


Remittances and fixed exchange rates


Mar 4: Session 4. Capital Mobility

Core Readings

Causes of financial openness


Consequences of financial openness


Portfolio investment vs. foreign direct investment


Recommended Readings


Presentations (4)

Regime type and capital mobility


Ideology and capital mobility


When do leftist governments in Latin America embrace financial openness?

Workers’ preferences and capital account policy


Mar 11: Session 5. Foreign Direct Investment

Core Readings

*Why firms invest abroad*


*Political risk*


*Bilateral investment treaties*


Recommended Readings


Presentations (4)

*Colonialism and international investment*


*Preferences for FDI in Latin America*


*Why Brazil never ratified a BIT*


*The political consequences of offshoring*


Mar 18: Session 6. Trade

Core Readings

*Background*

Trade policy preferences


Trade policy in the developing world


Recommended Readings


Presentations (4)

Tariffs and non-tariff barriers


Tariffs and gender


Trade policy preferences in the United States


The benefits of joining the GATT/WTO


Part 2: Conflict and Violence

Mar 25: Session 7. Democratic and Capitalist Peace Theories

Core Readings


Recommended Readings


### Apr 8: Session 8. Introducing History to Explain the Decline of War

**Core Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


### Apr 15: Session 9. Civil War: Types and Dynamics

**Core Readings**


### Apr 22: Session 10. Civil War: Causes

**Core Readings**


### Apr 29: Session 11. Terrorism

**Core Readings**


**Recommended Readings**


### May 6: Session 12. Jihadist Insurgencies: Between Terrorism and Guerrilla

**Core Readings**

- Seth G. Jones et al. 2017. *Rolling Back the Islamic State.* Santa Monica: Rand Corporation. [Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 5]