

Instructor: Takashi YAMAMOTO, PhD

Email: yamamoto@aiu.ac.jp

Office hours: Mon through Thu Noon-13:00

Office: A4-7 (4th floor, A building)

Semester: Spring

Class hours: TU & TH 10:30-11:45

DESCRIPTION: “Globalization”, or world-wide economic integration, makes states vulnerable to external shocks on the one hand, and it provides measures to take advantages in international market places on the other. These topics become increasingly relevant as the world becomes "smaller" in a variety of ways. This course will introduce you to the study of international political economy. We will study basic tool sets to analyze how domestic politics and policies affect international economic behavior and how the international economy in turn shapes domestic and international politics. We will also examine the complex relationships between politics and economics in the global system. Furthermore, we will attempt to develop a way of thinking critically about how politics and economics interact that will help us explain the behavior of countries, firms, interest groups and individuals.

OBJECTIVES: This course is to provide students with theories and analytical tools on international political economy so that they can examine the reciprocal relationships between state interests and power, world market structure, and economic dynamism. On completion of this course students should be able to critically evaluate the literature on globalization, to express this understanding through written and oral communication, and to present reviews and analyses of particular concepts and issues related to globalization. The study of international political economy requires active inquiries on the application of theories and models on the real-world issues. Therefore, students are expected to familiarize themselves with current issues by reading major newspapers and news magazines.

STUDY MATERIALS:

<Textbooks>

- **Balaam and Veseth. Introduction to International Political Economy, 4th ed.** Prentice Hall, 2008.

<Reference books, sources of readings and other information>

- **Friedman, Thomas.** **The World is Flat.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.
- **Rivoli, Pietra.** **The Travels of a T-Shirt in the Global Economy.** John Wiley & Sons, 2005.
- **Gilpin, Robert.** **Global Political Economy.** Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001

ASSESSMENT: Student achievement of the stated course objectives will be measured in terms of student performance in the following three areas: (i) Analysis paper after the policy simulation (40%), (ii) Participation at the simulation and classes (40%), and (iii) Mid-term examination or paper (20%).

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: Before enrolling in this course, students are expected to have successfully completed principles of macroeconomics and/or microeconomics, or with permission of the instructor. Knowledge in political science and international relations is a plus.

POLICIES: All assignments and exams must be completed to receive a passing grade for this course. Acts of plagiarism or other forms academic dishonesty will be dealt with harshly. See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism> for more information.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES: This course consists of lectures and several rounds of policy simulation. Theoretical and analytical explanation will be covered by lectures. In the first half of the course, students are expected to learn policy implications of the theories and relevance to current issues in international political economy. In the latter half of the course, students will participate in several rounds of policy simulation. Details of the simulation including the topic and the style will be announced after the midterm exam. Each student will participate in the simulation as key decision makers or journalists. After the policy simulation, each student will be required to write a paper, describing the intention of the policies and analyzing the behavior of the participants by using theories and concepts learned in the course.