Welcome!
Welcome to RPOS 395 International Political Economy! I am your instructor, Xiaoye She. In this course we will together explore the essential topics of international political economy (IPE).

Please read through the course information page carefully BEFORE the course starts. Feel free to contact me (my contact info is listed below) if you have any question.

Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor:</th>
<th>Xiaoye She</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Number:</td>
<td>RPOS 395</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester:</td>
<td>Winter 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:xshe@albany.edu">xshe@albany.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Private Communications: For private communication with me, please use the Email (external: xshe@albany.edu) ONLY.

Anything other than a private communications should be posted in the appropriate course areas. As a student you can post any general question on Blackboard (under “Discussion Board” --“Ask a Question”). If you see posts from other students that you know the answer, you are encouraged to directly reply on the discussion board.

Phone: 413-835-5912

Logon Schedule: As the instructor I will logon to Blackboard and reply to emails regularly during the four-week period of this course.

- **Weekday schedule:** Twice a day (9-10 am and 3-4 pm)
- **Weekend schedule:** Once a day (9-10 am)

Emails will be replied within 24 hours unless notified by automatic reply.

Overview

“The contemporary international political economy is characterized by unprecedented levels of multinational production, cross-border financial flows, and international trade. It is also plagued by increasing political conflict as individuals, groups, classes and countries clash over the meaning and implications of these economic transactions. The contradiction between increasing economic integration and the wealth it produces, on the one hand, and the desire for political control and national autonomy, on the other defines much of what happens in the global economy.”

-- Jeffery A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and J. Lawrence Broz (2010)

This course provides an overview of major theoretical perspectives and empirical issues in the field of international political economy (IPE), an interdisciplinary field that incorporate perspectives of political science and economics. To understand issues of interdependence, cooperation, and contention in the contemporary world economy, this course is designed to equip you with both theoretical tools and empirical knowledge, using a body of work drawn from international relations, comparative politics, and international economics. Issues we will explore include trade liberalization, financial integration, global
production and regulation, instabilities and structural adjustments, as well as controversies around globalization.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand economics and political science jargons and major concepts related to IPE
- Compare and assess the relevance and validity of major classical and contemporary theories
- Evaluate current IPE events and debates critically from historical and theoretical stances
- Produce political and economic arguments with clear supporting evidence
- Organize and present your arguments and findings in written formats

Readings
Required Textbook:

All other readings will be posted on blackboard under learning modules. You should contact the instructor immediately if you cannot get access to any specific course material.

Online Resources:
During this course, students are expected to stay abreast of current IPE such as global trade talks, issues of central banking, trends of global capital market, and efforts to recover international and domestic economy and to prevent future financial crises. The best way of informing yourself about current events is by reading (in print or on-line) a newspaper or magazine with good international coverage and a political economy focus, for example:

- The Economist: http://www.economist.com/
- The Wall Street Journal: http://online.wsj.com/
- Financial Times: http://www.ft.com/

You may also choose read the world/economy section in the following news sources or a comparable international newspaper such as CNN, Reuters, The New York Times, The Washington Post, The BBC, and/or The Guardian.

Course Learning Activities
General Guidelines
This course is delivered entirely online with asynchronous learning activities. The primary method of access to this course is the University Blackboard Learning System (BLS). Students are expected to complete EVERY learning activity on time as (all deadlines are indicated in the course schedule). If you have question regarding any of the steps, please email the instructor immediately.

Module Activities and Assignments
- Study Folder
Each module contains a study folder that includes all the required readings and a study guide. All the required readings will be made available two weeks before the class starts on blackboard. You are strongly encouraged to skim through the readings BEFORE the class starts on December 21.
Once a learning module is made available, you should complete all the required readings of a learning module **no later than two days** after a learning module is made available and leave enough time to complete all the module activities. Since each module will be made available on Friday before the module week, this means you should complete all readings **before Tuesday** of that module week. You should read thoroughly and use the study guide provided by the instructor as guiding documents.

- **Module Quizzes (20%)**
- **Discussion Forums (20%)**
- **Research Journals (30%)**
- **Final Exam (30%)**

**How You Will Be Evaluated**

**Module Quizzes (20%)**

There will be four module quizzes. The module quizzes will cover key topics in the required readings that week. Each module quiz will be made available as soon as the module starts and will be due by **11:30 pm every Tuesday** during the four-week period.

Each quiz will be graded on a numerical scale of 1-5. Students who fail to take the quiz on time will receive an automatic zero on the module quiz task. The instructor will also post an optional quiz by the end of Module 3. If you take this optional quiz and receive a better grade, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped and result in a better overall grade.

**Discussion Forums (20%)**

Each week after complete the readings, you are also required to participate in the module discussion forum. The instructor will post one discussion question each module. You should respond to the discussion question no later than **11:30 pm every Wednesday** during the four-week period.

The instructor will grade your response on a numerical scale of 1-5 based on the quality and timing of their posts. Students who fail to post responses before the deadline will receive an automatic zero on the module discussion task. Students are encouraged to respond to other students’ posts and will receive bonus points (0-1 per module) based on quality of their responses.

**Research Journals (30%)**

Students are expected to complete an independent research task on a specific IPE issue during this course. The instructor will provide a list of IPE topics students can choose from and post the research guidelines at the beginning of Module 1.

For the first three weeks, you are responsible to post three weekly research journals by **11:30 pm every Friday** (Saturday if Friday is a holiday). The instructor will provide you feedback no later than 11:30 pm next Tuesday. During the fourth week, you should compile your revised journals and submit a final research report by **11:30 pm on Friday, January 15, 2016**.

The instructor will grade your first three weekly research journals on a numerical scale of 1-5. Any late submission will result in automatic grade penalty of 2.5 points (out of 5) per day. The final research report will be graded on a numerical scale of 1-15. Late submission of the final report will result in automatic grade penalty of 5 points (out of 15) per day.

**Final Exam (30%)**

The final exam will be made available on Blackboard between 8am January 16 and 11:30pm January 19. Students should complete the final exam independently and submit their answers to Blackboard no later than **11:30pm on Tuesday, January 19**.
The final exam will be graded on a numerical scale of 1-30. Students who fail to take the final exam on time will receive an automatic zero on the final exam.

The final grades of this course will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Grade Scale</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Grade &lt; 60</td>
<td>D</td>
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My Expectations

Students are expected to work diligently and complete all activities on time during this course. It is students’ responsibility to make sure they have the textbook at hand throughout the four-week period. Students should get themselves familiar with the blackboard environment and the course structure BEFORE the four-week period starts.

On average, students are expected to spend approximately three hours every day, five days a week during the four-week period (time allocation may vary according to your reading ability and study strategy).

If you have any question regarding any of the activities, you should either post your question on blackboard under “Ask a Question” or email the instructor as soon as possible.

Late or Missed Activities and Assignments

Late submission will not be accepted unless you email the instructor at least one day BEFORE the task is due and provide legitimate reasons. Missed assignments will be counted as a zero which will result in significant reduction of your overall course grade.

Plagiarism and/or Academic Dishonesty

Any student found to be in violation of the University’s policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty will receive an automatic F in this course and will be reported to the appropriate authorities. You are expected to go through the library tutorial “Plagiarism 101” before the class begin, and cite every source appropriately in your final policy brief. Please consult the university handbook and the following resources if you have any questions:

Regulations: [http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html](http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html)

Citation instructions: [http://library.albany.edu/usered/cite/citing.html](http://library.albany.edu/usered/cite/citing.html)

Plagiarism 101: [http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html](http://library.albany.edu/usered/plagiarism/index.html)

Accommodations

If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation in this class, please notify the Director of Disabled student Services (campus Center 137, 442-5490). If you wish to discuss academic
accommodations for this course, please contact the instructor as early as possible. The instructor will make every effort to accommodate difficulties arising from religious observance.

Course Schedule

COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics/Activities</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice-Breaker Module</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>Dec 21</td>
<td>Sample Module Quiz, Dec 21 end of day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Meet Your Classmates, Dec 21 end of day</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Why Study IPE, Dec 21 end of day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 1: Nuts and Bolts of IPE</td>
<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>Dec 26</td>
<td>Module 1 Quiz, Dec 22 11:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Module 1 Discussion, Dec 23 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Research Journal 1, Dec 26 11:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2: PE of Global Trade</td>
<td>Dec 26</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Module 2 Quiz, Dec 29 11:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Module 2 Discussion, Dec 30 11:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Research Journal 2, Jan 2 11:30 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3: PE of Global Finance</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Module 3 Quiz, Jan 5 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Module 3 Discussion, Jan 6 11:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Research Journal 3, Jan 8 11:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 4: PE of Global Production</td>
<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Module 4 Quiz, Jan 12 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Module 4 Discussion, Jan 13 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Final Research Report, Jan 15 11:30 pm</td>
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<td>Final Exam Module</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Final Exam, Jan 19 11:30 pm</td>
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Netiquette

You are expected to be respectful to your fellow students. Think before you type just like you are interacting with each other face-to-face. Please refrain from profanity, inappropriate language, slander, and discrimination. You should respect the diverse opinions and views of your classmates, even if you disagree with them.

The instructor reserve the right to remove any posts that are offensive or inappropriate and will contact the student whose post was removed. For more information about netiquette, please see The Core Rules for Netiquette (http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html) by Virginia Shea.

Getting Technical Help

This course will go live to students two weeks before the first day of class. Students should use that time to check browser and make any recommended adjustments to your browser so that you pass the check.

If you require assistance, you should contact the ITS Service Desk by submitting a request at http://www.albany.edu/its/help.
YOUR NEXT STEPS

The Bulletin Board is a discussion area for our class outside the context of a particular course module. Just as you have the opportunity to talk or chat with each other or with the instructor when taking a conventional classroom course, you should also have the opportunity to do the same in a web course. The Bulletin Board is available only to students enrolled in this class to post and/or read messages and respond. These can include questions or comments to other students and me about course material, assignments, readings, etc. It is also a place where you can go to socialize and have open discussion on subjects of your interests.

As your next steps, click on the Discussions link (on tool bar on the left) and complete the following task:

Click on Bulletin Board. Post an item to start a discussion or read other students' responses, if there are any, and respond.

When you have completed this task, you are ready to begin the ice breaker module of the course under the Course Content link (tool bar on the left). You should complete the required readings and three tasks ("Sample Module Quiz", "Meet your classmates" and "Why Studying IPE") in the module before December 20 12:00 pm (end of day).