

ECON 331E Global Economy

Semester: Fall 2021

Class timetable: Monday/Wednesday 17:30-18:50

Tutor: Dr. Jonathan Pass

E-mail: jonapass@upo.es

Office: Building 10, 4th Floor, Office 21

Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00

Course objectives:

The aim of this course is to introduce the students to the main debates surrounding the nature, effects and attempted management of the *Global Economy*, identifying its most important post-war structural developments (e.g. formation and collapse of Bretton Woods, on-going globalization, evolution of the WTO, increase in regional integration, emergence of China etc.) and examining contemporary challenges to its well-being (e.g. financial instability, trade tensions, global imbalances, underdevelopment, rising inequality, environment crises, geopolitical rivalries etc.).

Course description:

Global Economy is situated within the subfield of International Political Economy (IPE). As such, we begin the course by reviewing the different approaches to IPE, before entering into the various debates on globalization (what drives it, who are the winners and losers etc.). We then turn to the global trading regime in Topic 2, tracing its evolution from GATT to the WTO, identifying its principal structural changes, broadening agenda, contested nature, and uncertain future. Three connected issues are then tackled in Topic 3: US-China trade relations, TRIPS and development, and how COVID has impacted the global economy. Topic 4 focuses on regional trade agreements (RTAs), explaining what regionalism is and why countries do it, giving an overview of RTAs around the world. Special attention here is paid to the European Union (the most developed form of RTA, to date) and its trade relations with the US.

After the midterm exam we turn to the environment, reviewing contemporary challenges and concerns, tracing the evolution of the system of 'global governance' and evaluating the effectiveness of public/private sector initiatives to promote sustainable development and tackle climate change (e.g. sponsoring renewable energy, setting up emissions trading schemes etc.) in the context of a competitive global economy.

The following two modules tackle the international monetary and financial system. Topic 6 begins by studying the structure, functioning and demise of the Bretton Woods system, considered vital for any understanding of the contemporary 'unregulated' international monetary system and the connected debates international fora, most notably the in G20 meetings and BRIC summits. Special attention is paid to the eurozone, dollarization and US-Chinese financial and monetary relations. Topic 7, on the other hand, focuses on the causes and effects of the 'explosion' of global finance from the 1970s onwards, analyzing recent/on-going financial crises and the effectiveness of the regulations introduced, both at the national and international level to mitigate them.

Although China is referred to throughout the course, its meteoric rise merits special attention. After briefly establishing an historical context, the final topic explores the key stages of China's on-going economic transition, its integration into, and effects on, the global economy. Nonetheless, as is becoming obvious, China faces serious

economic, political, social and environmental challenges, resulting in Beijing announcing important reforms to try and resolve these problems. The exact nature of these reforms and how they will impact the global economy need to be examined, as does the much-debated US-China rivalry.

Class Schedule (*This is only a general guide and may be subject to change*)

WEEK 1: September 8th

Presentation of course

TOPIC 1: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Introduction: Approaches to IPE

WEEK 2: September 13th/15th/17th

Globalization: Key Debates

TOPIC 2: GLOBAL TRADE: REGIME

General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade (GATT)

WEEK 3: September 20th/22nd

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Critiquing the WTO; the Doha Round and Beyond

WEEK 4: September 27th/29th

QUIZ

Debate

TOPIC 3: GLOBAL TRADE: ISSUES

US-China Trade Relations

WEEK 5: October 4th/6th

TRIPS & Development

COVID & Global Economy

TOPIC 4: REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

Explaining Regionalism

WEEK 6: October 11th/13th

Regional Cooperation in a Global Context

European Integration

WEEK 7: October 18th/20th

US-EU Trade Relations

MIDTERM EXAM

WEEK 8: October 25th/27th

TOPIC 5: THE ENVIRONMENT

Challenges and Concerns

Evolving System of Global Governance

WEEK 9: November 1st/ 3rd

Climate Change

NO CLASS (November 1st)

WEEK 10: November 8th/10th

Emissions trading

Renewable energy

TOPIC 6: INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM

The Bretton Woods System

Collapse of Bretton Woods

WEEK 11: November 15th/17th

Post-Bretton Woods monetary system

The Eurozone

US-China monetary/financial relations

WEEK 12: November 22nd/24th

TOPIC 7: GLOBAL FINANCE & CRISES

Globalization of Financial Markets

Understanding financial crises

The 2008 financial crisis: causes, effects & regulation

Contemporary situation

WEEK 13: November 29th/December 1st

TOPIC 8: CHINA

Historical context; transition

Effect on global economy

Challenges facing Chinese society

WEEK 14: December 10th

Reforms under Xi Jinping

US-China rivalry

- Final Exams: December 13th-16th

Readings

This course has no textbook as such: relevant readings will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading

Assessment for the course consists of one short quiz and two exams (all written) and an oral presentation (in pairs/small groups) on an assigned relevant topic. With regards the oral presentation, *on the day of their presentation* each student has to hand in the following *printed* documents for their section: an outline, a bibliography and a half page summary (TMR 12, single space). Students will be graded individually. Finally, students will be required to complete assigned readings/summarize articles etc. outside class and to actively participate in class discussions, which will be reflected in their 'participation' grade. (N.B.: 'being there' does not = 'participation').

The distribution of the final grade is the following:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| Quiz | 15% | Midterm Exam | 25% |
| Presentation | 15% | Final Exam (TBA) | 25% |
| Participation | 20% | | |

- The dates for exams and presentation cannot be changed under any circumstances.
- Spanish grades run: 10-9.0 (A), 8.9-7.0 (B), 6.9-5.0 (C), 4.9-0 (F)

General Course Policies

Each student is expected to be familiar with the course syllabus. Students are expected to focus their full attention on the class, arrive on time, and stay until class ends.

Leaving the classroom on repeated occasions is disturbing to both your professor and your classmates and may adversely affect your participation grade. Please make use of the 10-minute breaks in between classes to fill up your water bottle, use the restroom, etc.

Students are expected to listen and respect other points of view. Phone calls, social media, email, or Internet browsing at any time during class are not acceptable during class except for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor. You are responsible for any and all course material covered in class, announcements, and/or handouts if you are not present for any reason. Students will be held responsible to be up to date by attending to class regularly and checking both email and the Blackboard site of the course frequently (monitor your email and Blackboard announcements at least once every 24 hours).

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way unless you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you must present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. It will still count as an absence but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

- On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade
- On your 7th absence, 5 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above). Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to classes. Talk to your professor immediately after your return.

COVID-19

If an absence is related to COVID-19 the procedure to follow will be in accordance to the current legislation in the region of Andalucía, Spain.

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the Internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. The International Center may also report this to your home university. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

Learning Accommodations

If you require special accommodations, or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén Díaz (rdialop@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is September 24. Rubén will explain the options available to you.

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

Calendar

- Quiz: September 27th
- Midterm Exam: October 20th
- Presentation: TBA
- Final Exam: December 13th- 16th

Holidays

- November 1st: All Saints' Day
- December 6th: Constitution Day
- December 8th: Immaculate Conception Day