This is a course on International Political Economy, with a focus on International Finance. Its main goal is to provide students with a theoretical and critical understanding on the ways international financial markets interact with governments and how this interaction changed since the post-war period. In order to do so, the readings explore the current debate about the politics of financial globalization as well as historical texts which contextualize this debate.

This class is divided in two parts. Part I (Weeks 1-3) provides background on the International Financial System, its development since the late 1800s and how those changes posed constraints and opportunities for domestic political actors. In Part II (Weeks 4-10), classes will display a series of current debates on the politics of financial globalization including subjects such as: global finance and less developed countries, international institutions, politics of foreign debt, multinational corporations and the convergence debate.

Course Requirements

- Take home essay (30%): Paper of 2500-3000 words (seven to ten pages), in which students will be asked to discuss issues raised by lectures and readings. The paper is due at the start of the first class of week 8.

- Final exam (50%): In class, cumulative exam. The exam will be separated in two parts, the first including short questions about course material and the other including a four pages comprehensive essay.

- Participation (20%): There will be four pop-quizzes along the quarter; only the top three grades will be counted. Quizzes are designed to check whether student carefully read the week’s material, and won’t take more than five to ten minutes. Their main goal is to make sure students come to classes prepared for discussion, which significantly contributes to a better understanding of the class material.
Course Policies

- The take home essay should be typed, double spaced and with regular margins. A hard copy should be turned in at the due date but an electronic version must also be sent by email to the instructor.

- Make sure work presented is your own! When using other people’s ideas, be sure to give due credit. Any style of citations is acceptable as long as sources and quotes are clearly indicted and you present as much information as possible at the end of your paper to fully identify sources and authors.

- All assignments will be marked down if turned in late. Papers turned in the same day after class will be multiplied by 0.95, the following day by 0.9, two days late by 0.85 and so on.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week 1 (April 3-7) - States and Markets: an Introduction


Week 2 (April 10-14) - International Financial System in Historical Perspective - from Gold Standard to Bretton Woods


Week 3 (April 17-19) - International Financial System in Historical Perspective - The Post-Bretton Woods System

* There will be no class on Friday, April 21st, due to the 2006 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

Week 4 (April 24-28) - Multilateral Finance: IMF, Worldbank and Aid

- Sen, Amartia. 2006 “A Man Without a Plan”. (6p.)

Week 5 (May 1-5) - Politics of International Debt


Week 6 (May 8-12) - Financial Liberalization and Domestic Politics in Developed Countries

Week 7 (May 15 - 19)- Financial Liberalization and Domestic Politics in Less Developed Countries


Week 8 (May 22 - 26) - Capital Flows and Financial Crises

* Take home essay due in the beginning of Monday’s meeting.


Week 9 (May 31 - June 2)- Multinational Corporations


- Stopford, John. 1999 “Multinational Corporations”. (12p.)


* There will be no class on Monday, May 29th, due to Memorial Day.
Week 10 (June 5-9) - Globalization and Democracy


• Garrett, Geoffrey. 1998. “Global Markets and National Politics: Collision Course or Virtuous Circle?”.(37p.)