

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – AFRICA
SEMESTER
IRL 4030: POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS
INSTRUCTOR:**

COURSE OUTLINE

Study of international economic relations includes economic nationalism versus free trade versus protectionism and activities of Multinational Corporations.

Pre-requisite: IRL 2000

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To enable students to understand global politics
- To expose students to the relationship between economics and politics, including the various aspects of economic interaction in the international system; i.e. the changing global economic order, international trade and financial regimes, regional dynamics and responses by states to the challenges of international economic forces.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK ONE

Introduction

Organization of work

Why study Politics of International Economics?

- What is Politics of International Economics?
- How decisions are made in international – economic/trade negotiations
 - Who are the key players?
 - Position of Africa in such decisions
- The link between economics and politics

WEEK TWO

- Techniques of international economics – negotiations – overview
 - Bilateral economic negotiations
- Multilateral economic negotiations

WEEK THREE

- Overview of the evolution of the International – economic relations since World War II
- Bretton Woods institutions
 - IBRID – The World Bank
 - Other institutions of the World Bank:
 - International Development Association (IDA)
 - International Finance Cooperation (IFC)
 - Multilateral Investment Guarantee – Agency
 - Development Committee (DC)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)

WEEK FOUR

- Politics of International Trade
- International Trade from GATT (1947) to WTO (1994)
- Historical Overview
- Future Challenges and opportunities

Politics of International Trade (continuation and conclusions)

WEEK FIVE

Foreign Aid:

- Economic Dominance
- Dependency Syndrome

Energy Crisis of Early 70's

- Implications to the developing countries
- Agitation for a New International Economic Order (NIEO)

WEEK SIX

Regional Economic Groupings

The European Economic Communities/European Union

- The African Caribbean – Pacific (ACP) Group of Countries;
- The Lome Conventions – to date

European Union and Lome Conventions (continued)

WEEK SEVEN

European Union and Lome Conventions (continued)

European Union and Lome Conventions (continued)

WEEK EIGHT

Exam Week

WEEK NINE

Tuesday

Group Presentations

Group One

- a) Assessment of increased aid and implications to development in Africa in terms of:
 - a. Poverty and Aid in Africa
 - b. Global Contributions to Africa
- b) ECOWAS: achievements, challenges and shortcomings – if any

WEEK TEN

Group Presentations

Group Two

An assessment of the WTO negotiations to date highlighting the different roles of the EU, the USA, and identifying the African position

WEEK ELEVEN

Group Presentations

Group Three

The lingering problem of developing countries debt problem: how did the developing countries get into international debt?

Discuss international and domestic solutions.

WEEK TWELVE

Group Presentations

Group Four

- a. Oil politics and implications of increase in prices to the developing countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America
- b. The Maghreb Group in the North
- c. SADC: Is it relevant?

WEEK THIRTEEN

Group Presentations

Group Five

- a. COMESA: Historical perspective from preferential trade area and developing to date. Achievements and challenges
- b. East African Community (EAC): 1967 to date, challenges and benefits of expansion

Simulation Exercise

WEEK FOURTEEN

Group Presentations

Group Six

- a. Economic Diplomacy: A case study of the African Negotiator: Challenges, achievements and short comings
- b. IGAD: Challenges, achievements and short comings if any

WEEK FIFTEEN

Final Exam Week

Simulation Exercise in a selected Are of International Economic Negotiations

Teaching Methodologies

Class attendance is mandatory. During the first half of the semester the instructor will give lectures followed by class discussions. During the second half of the semester there will be group presentations and class discussions. All students are expected to participate in class/tutorial discussions.

All students will be engaged in the group presentations with each student playing a role. There will be two exams namely the mid-term exam and the final exam. There will be a simulation exercise on a selected area of international economic negotiation to be agreed on the beginning of the semester.

COURSE TEXTS

- *International Political Economy*, Robert Cox and others
- *International Political Economy*, by Watson Alison

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

- Barbour, I.G., *Technology, environment and human values*. Praeger Press, New York, 1980
- Blij H. j. AND Miller P.O. *Stuman: Geography, Culture, Society and Space*. John Wiley and Sons, New York

- Morris, P. and Somersar: African Businessmen: a study of entrepreneurship and development in Kenya, East African Publishing house, Nairobi 1987
- Dickenson. J. P. et al: a geography of the third world, Nelthuen, London 1983
- King A. D: Urbanization, Colonization and the third world economy: Culture and spatial foundation of the world system, Routledge Publishers, London, 1991
- Kennedy P.T. Africa Capitation. the struggle for ascendancy, Cambridge University press, Cambridge
- Sparo, Joan: Politics of International Relations

CLASS EVALUATION

Class participation/ group presentation 10% + 20%	30%
Mid – Semester Exam	30%
Final Exam	20%
Simulation Exercise	20%
Total	100%

GRADING

A	90 – 100
A-	87 – 89
B+	84 – 86
B	80 – 83
B-	77 – 79
C+	74 – 76
C	70 – 73
C-	67 – 69
D+	64 – 66
D	62 – 63
D-	60 – 61
F	0 – 59