
Course plan

B2.514 - International Political Economy

Credits: 4.0

Subject coordinator

Daniel Rajmil Bonet

Course instructors

Clare O'Mahony and Lucia Morales Morales Aparicio

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Description

This module seeks to develop a critical understanding on International Economics by examining the importance of economic and financial interlinkages and their impact on countries in a global context. The course is supported by Hendrik Van Den Berg book - "International Economics - A Heterodox Approach". In his book, the author questions the role of traditional or orthodox approaches to economics, and how they have failed to understand and explain the complexity of the world's economic and financial system. This module considers the main themes outlined by Van Den Berg and as such the module is structured around four main learning sections as follows:

LEARNING SECTIONS

1. Section 1 - Orthodox vs Heterodox Economics: this unit explores controversies in the field of international economics to offer insights on the need of bringing a more holistic approach to the field.
2. Section 2 - International Trade Theory: this unit analysis international trade policy from an economic model perspective.
3. Section 3 - International Trade Policy: this unit examines international trade policies and the importance of the financial system to the real economy.
4. Section 4 - Globalisation and Inequality: this unit explores the history of the financial system and draw connections to immigration policy and general insights about growing levels of inequality around the world.

The learning sections start with the presentation of discussions that explain the main differences between orthodox and heterodox economies by examining the Heckscher-Ohlin (HO) model that is considered as the most popular model of international trade. Your core textbook main discussions revolve around neoclassical economics to help you understanding how the field of international economics has been affected and why changes are needed. Through the different learning sections, you will have the opportunity to engage on critical assessments and reflections that allow you to develop a critical overview of the importance of International Economics and Finance for the World economies. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to develop your own views and to consider those presented by your peers, by completing the Assessment activities that support this module.

The course as part of the programme as a whole

The course offers a basic knowledge on International Political Economy, one of the pillars of knowledge and core of the thematic of the MA in International Affairs and Diplomacy

Professional fields it is linked to

- International diplomacy
- International political economy
- International Trade

Prior knowledge

Despite no previous knowledge is required, theoretical economy background will be an asset for students

Prior information before enrolling

No prior knowledge is required but basic Economics and Maths will be an asset to follow this class

Objectives and competencies

- To offer evidence of your ability to integrate research sources while developing economic thinking and analytical skills
- To examine economic problems and their limitations in the context of the current economic theories and modelling
- To examine and assess controversies in the economic field
- To become familiar with dominant theories in the field of International Political Economy and their basic fundamentals
- To analyse the implications of international trade on economic development and how it has been modeled
- Examine how human happiness and inequality are factors considered when examining international trade relationship
- To introduce basic tools that can be used by countries to impose trade restrictions
- To learn on the history of trade policy and connect it to current developments in the global context
- To be able to offer a holistic perspective on international trade and connections to the field of finance
- To understand the Global economy and the challenges that it brings to International Trade and Global Development
- Examine Immigration Policies and their role when trying to develop the pillars to economic integration
- Discuss the main areas of concern associated with the global economy and countries shift towards protectionist type of policies

Content

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Resources

Support tools and learning resources

1. Study guides
2. Articles included in the different CATS (Continuous Assessment Tasks)
3. Forum debates

Bibliography and information sources

Course handbook:

International Economics A Heterodox Approach By Hendrik Van den Berg

UOC library resources
