

**INR 3034: Politics of the World Economy**  
**Spring 2026, Tuesdays 1:55 pm-2:45 pm & Thursdays 1:55 pm-3:50 pm**  
**@ Anderson Hall (AND) 0034**

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Office hours: Tuesdays 3-4 pm, and by appointment

**Course Description and Required Texts**

This course explores the dynamic relationships between political and economic factors in the global arena. Throughout the term, we will examine contending theoretical perspectives on the global economy, the role of global economic institutions, monetary relations, trade regimes, and the impact of development, financial crises, and climate change on the current global economic order. In addition to these structural elements, we will analyze the politics of global economic inequalities. This course is designed to help you navigate complex questions, such as:

- What defines the global political economy? What defines global inequality?
- What are the different theoretical perspectives of global economic relations among states and non-state actors?
- How do the interests of those living in poverty—in both rich and poor nations—factor into economic relationships and dynamics among states and peoples?
- What actions can the international community take to address development and inequality?

**Key Objectives:**

Students are expected to engage with “big picture” questions regarding the roles of state and non-state actors in addressing issues of the global political economy. We will also reflect on how global events personally affect your life and your home country. Together, we will address these topics head-on, utilizing critical thinking, discussion, and academic writing to demonstrate your grasp of core issues and theoretical perspectives.

The following books are required for this course:

- Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition (Routledge, 2025)
- V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies* (Taylor & Francis, 2004)
- Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation*, (Autonomedia, 2014).

Please let me know if you need any assistance accessing this book. A copy of the book may be available in Library West if not already checked out.

### Course Requirements

Grades will be based on three criteria: (a) 2 thought pieces, (b) 2 reaction papers, and (c) class attendance.

**Thought Pieces:** 750-1,000 words (double-spaced), take-home essay assignment (2 total). For both thought piece assignments, you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of the theoretical perspectives covered in class as they apply to a current issue in the Global Political Economy. I will provide a news article on a current issue in the global economy, which you will analyze using a specified theoretical perspective covered in class and the readings. The first thought piece assignment will be posted on Canvas on February 17 at 12 pm and will be due on March 5 at 5 pm. The second assignment will be posted on Tuesday, April 21, at 12 pm, and will be due on May 1 at 5 pm. These dates are indicated in red font on the class weekly schedule below. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3 points (that is, 3 percent of the maximum total score for the class) per 24 hours late.

**Short Reaction Pieces:** Two times during the semester, you will be required to respond briefly to a prompt related to the reading materials assigned that week. The reaction pieces should be 500 words each (double-spaced). The prompts and additional resources needed will typically be posted on Canvas before class at 12 pm, and the assignment will be due one week later at 12 pm. The relevant dates are indicated in red font on the course schedule. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 0.5 points per 24 hours.

**Class attendance:** Class attendance is of utmost importance. I expect you to attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in a timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Ten percent (ten points) of the total grade for the class will be based on attendance.

### Paper Grading Criteria

Letter grades on papers will be based on three major, closely related criteria:

- Evidence – How solid is your command and deployment of the relevant course material, and are you employing the best evidence available to make your points?

- Interpretation—Have you developed an argument or point of view that is pertinent to the issue at hand, and that has breadth, coherence, and insight; and
- Expression (style)—Is the prose (writing) clear, concise, and engaging? I want to hear **your own voice and perspective**. I will review each submission using AI detection and AI humanization detection tools. If your submission comes back with more than 10% AI writing, 25 points will automatically be taken from your submission grade for that piece.

These criteria will be evaluated equally, and they will translate into letter grades as follows:

- A—Excellent: Your work is outstanding in all three areas. It offers an integrated, insightful argument based on ample, sound evidence and is written in clear and engaging prose.
- B—Good: Your work is strong in all three areas, or is outstanding in one area while having significant weaknesses in another.
- C—Average: Your performance is adequate in one or more areas, but also has significant weaknesses in others, leaving the presentation fragmented, murky, or narrow.
- D—Poor: Your work demonstrates notable weaknesses in all three areas. Remedial work may be needed to improve substantive understanding or basic communication skills.
- E—Unacceptable: Your work has serious flaws in all areas, or demonstrates limited engagement in the assignment.

**Attendance** in lectures will be monitored after the drop/add period ends. Ten times during the semester, I will randomly take attendance, each worth one percentage point toward your final grade. Students who miss more than 5 classes will have 10 points deducted from the total grade. Students who miss more than 10 classes will not be able to pass the class and will be assigned an E for the course. Additional accommodations will be made ONLY for students who need to miss classes for health reasons (with documentation), family emergencies, religious holidays, University of Florida official functions, or important academic conferences.

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other coursework in this course are consistent with university policies, as outlined in the [University Catalog](#) ([Links to an external site](#)).

Students who believe that they will not be able to complete all the requirements for the course in due time have to discuss an "I" (Incomplete) grade with the instructor **before the assignment is due and/or before the final exam**. Students will have to sign an "[Incomplete Contract](#)." and complete all their requirements by a set date. Students should

be aware that "I" grades become punitive after one term and that they are granted only in exceptional circumstances.

## COURSE PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to attend every class; to come to class prepared, having already completed - **in advance** - all the readings; and to participate in class discussions in a thoughtful, disciplined, and deliberate manner. Readings are **required** and might be referred to in class lectures, questions, and conversations. Additional articles will be emailed to students or posted on Canvas.

## GRADING SCALE

The grading scale for this course is 94-100 A; 90-93 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; 60-63 D-.

For current regulations on grades and grade point averages for undergraduate students at the University of Florida, please consult the [related pages in the University Catalog](#).

## Other Matters/Policies

Individual extra-credit work is not allowed.

Deadline extensions may be granted under special circumstances; if you anticipate such circumstances, please do not hesitate to ask for an extension. But you must do so prior to the deadline; retroactive extensions will not be granted.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies posted at  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. More information about in-class recording is available at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation

period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

## Class/Reading Schedule

### **Week 1: Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE)**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 13 | -Introduction to the Course and Overview of Syllabus   |
| January 15 | -Preface & Chapter 1 (pp. xix—18), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), <i>Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice</i> |

### **Week 2: Historical Contexts and Contestations of GPE**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 20 | -Chapter 2 (pp. 24-51), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), <i>Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice</i>  |
| January 22 | -Preface & Chapter 1 (xi-xv; 1-21), V. Spike Peterson, <i>A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies</i> |

### **Week 3: Contending Theoretical Perspectives**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 27 | -Chapter 3: Realism and Neomercantilism (pp. 58-81), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), <i>Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice</i>   |
| January 29 | -Chapters 4 & 5: Liberalism and Critical Perspectives (pp. 86-137), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), <i>Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice</i><br>- First Reaction Piece released on Canvas |

### **Week 4: Contending Theoretical Perspectives Continued**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| February 3 | -Chapter 2: Theory Matters (pp. 21-44), V. Spike Peterson, <i>A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies</i> |
| February 5 | -Preface & Introduction (pp. 7-21), Silvia Federici, <i>Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation</i><br>- First Reaction Piece due on Canvas at 5 pm |

### **Week 5: Issue Area I – Monetary Politics and Financial Crises**

February 10 -Chapter 6: International Monetary Relations (pp. 144-182), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

February 12 - Chapter 7: Financial Crises (pp. 187-222), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

### **Week 6: Issue Area II – The Global Trade Regime**

February 24 -Chapter 8: Global Trade Relations (pp. 230-269), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

February 26 -Chapter 9: Preferential Trade Agreements and the Global Trade Regime (pp. 277-315), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

### **Week 7: Issue Area III – Production, Poverty, and Labor Politics**

February 17 -Chapter 3: The Productive Economy (pp. 44-78), V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies*  
**-Thought Piece 1 released on Canvas at 12 pm**

February 19 - Chapter 26: Poverty, hunger, and development, by Tony Evans, in John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (Eds.), *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (AVAILABLE ON CANVAS)

### **Week 8: Issue Area IV – Multinational Corporations and International Development**

March 3 -Chapter 10: Multinational Corporations and Global Production (pp. 324-359), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

March 5 -Chapter 11: International Development (pp. 367-407), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*  
**-Thought Piece 1 Due on Canvas by 5 pm**

### **Week 9: Issue Area V – The Reproductive Economy**

March 10 -Chapter 4 (pp. 78-113), V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies*

March 12 - The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women:

Constructing "Difference" in the "Transition to Capitalism" (pp. 61-133), Silvia Federici, *Caliban and the Witch: Women, the Body, and Primitive Accumulation*

-Reaction Piece 2 released on Canvas

### **Week 10: Spring Break Wooooow!**

March 17 -NO CLASS

March 19 -NO CLASS

### **Week 11: Steph's Presenting at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2026**

March 24 -NO CLASS – ISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

March 26 -NO CLASS – ISA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026  
-Reaction Piece 2 Due on Canvas at 5 pm

### **Week 12: The Virtual Economy**

March 31 -Chapter 5: The Virtual Economy (pp. 113-147), V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies*

April 2 - "Digital transition, data-and-tasks crowd-based economy, and the shared social progress: Unveiling a new political economy from a European perspective", by Joan Torrent-Sellens (2024)  
(AVAILABLE ON CANVAS)

### **Week 13: Global Inequality and Development**

April 7 - Lockwood, Erin. 2021. "The International Political Economy of Global Inequality." (AVAILABLE ON CANVAS)

April 9 - Alami, Ilias, and Vincent Guermond. 2022. "The Color of Money at the Financial Frontier." (AVAILABLE ON CANVAS)

### **Week 14: Conclusions on the Global Political Economy**

April 14 - Chapter 12: Reconsidering GPE and Its Ability to Meet Emerging Challenges (pp. 415-427), Theodore H. Cohn, Anil Hir (Eds.), *Global Political Economy: Theory and Practice*

April 16 -Chapter 6: The Power of Value (pp. 147-174), V. Spike Peterson, *A Critical Rewriting of Global Political Economy: Integrating Reproductive, Productive and Virtual Economies*

**Week 15: Concluding Remarks Continued**

April 21 -**FINAL THOUGHT PIECE RELEASED ON CANVAS**  
-Class discussion and answering any remaining questions; reviewing for the final thought piece  
(Last Class!! ☺)

**MAY 1 -FINAL THOUGHT PIECE DUE ON CANVAS AT 5 PM**