Syllabus INR 3703 (U05): International Political Economy (Fall 2015)

Lukas K Danner, Florida International University

Available at: http://works.bepress.com/dannerlu/21/
Course Information:

Meetings: Mon., Wed. (11:00 AM—12:15 PM)  
Instructor: Lukas K. Danner  
Classroom: PG-5 Market Station 134  
Email: LDANNER@FIU.EDU  
Class no.: 92627  
Office hours: Wed. from 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM (GL150) with previous appointment

Course Introduction & Learning Objectives:

This course is designed to give students the tools and knowledge with which to evaluate the interactions between politics and the global economy. First, students will learn how international political economy (IPE) is defined and the general newer history of global market governance. Students will learn about the different theoretical perspectives explaining international political economy. With this background knowledge different questions about the global interactions between politics and the market will be analyzed and evaluated. Students will also familiarize themselves with the general historical trends in international political economy. Application of the learned theoretical perspectives will follow in different topical areas, i.e., the international financial architecture, global trade relations, international development, and topical transnational issues.

Learning Objectives:

1. Development of independent, abstract, and critical thinking about the interactions between politics and the economy on a global scale.
2. Internalization of the concepts and theoretical arguments about the international political economy.
3. Ability to apply international political economic theory to specific cases and evaluate given cases.

1 Last updated on August 21, 2015.
Course Description & General Organization:

To successfully accomplish the learning objectives listed above, the course is organized around six main sections. Part one, as a way of introduction, explores the definition of IPE and the recent history of the global market. Part two introduces students to the theoretical and philosophical fundamentals that inform the major schools of thought in international political economy and how these influence different approaches to the study of political economic interactions of different actors on the world stage. The following parts will be somewhat case studies of the theory that students familiarized themselves with in the first two parts. In Part three, we will focus on ways to explain the international financial markets and the financial crises that have occurred in the recent past. Part four will engage the global trade system and trends therein and how they may be explained through different theoretical lenses. Part five will survey the ways to building development within a state and make it internationally competitive, i.e. the different strategies and how they developed historically. Part six focuses on the analysis of a set of newer, transnational problems that international actors have faced in recent times.

Course Requirements:

**Class Preparation:** In order for students to take full advantage of the class and make it more enjoyable for all, the required readings must be completed before each class meeting. Students are also encouraged to come to class with a set of questions that they may have encountered while preparing for the meetings, and to share them with the rest of the students at the appropriate moment. Class preparation should go both ways: as the instructor prepares the lectures and discussion sessions, every student must also dedicate, at least, an hour of preparation prior to each class meeting. Otherwise, the instructor will sound like he is speaking an incomprehensible language. In short, prepare thoughtfully and thoroughly before each class meeting. As far as time spent reading, taking notes, revising notes, and the like, it is realistic to calculate with at least one hour preparatory work before class and at least one hour after class in order to be successful in this course.

**General Class Participation and Attendance (10%):** There is a difference between tactical dilatory “participation,” and quality participation. While normal, quality class participation is always welcome, blather and dilatory interventions are discouraged. For example, simply posing misinformed questions about the readings or the lecture—when clearly exhibiting an abject lack of proper class preparation or reading of the assigned texts—may actually end up working against, rather than in favor of, the student’s grade. In contrast, active, thoughtful, quality participation, demonstrating intimate and thoughtful familiarity with the assigned readings and class topics, is highly welcome, as it will certainly help students improve his/her overall final grade. For attendance requirements, see the course policies section of the syllabus below.

**Exams (70%):** There will be two (2) partial (midterm) exams during the semester, and one (1) comprehensive final exam during final’s week for a total of three (3) exams. Specific dates are listed
Exams will include any or a combination of the following types of questions: specific conceptual definitions, factual short-answer questions, multiple-choice questions, and analytical essay questions. Students must take all exams, the midterms and the final in order to be able to pass this class. Make-up exams can only be granted, if a student has a valid and documented reason for not making the pre-set exam date; if you do miss an exam, you must make arrangements to make it up within ONE WEEK from the date of the scheduled exam. If you do not make up the exam within that time, you will receive a zero as a grade. The partial (midterm) exams count twenty (20) percent each of the final grade, and the final comprehensive exam thirty (30) percent of the final grade. Together, these exams make up seventy (70) percent of your final grade. Relevant to the exams are anything learned during class lecture including students’ own lecture notes, all of the required assigned readings, and PowerPoint presentations. No blue book required; students will be provided all necessary paper at time of exam. Also, there will be no supporting materials allowed during exam (i.e. no open books, no scrap paper, etc.). All assigned grades will become available in your FIU Blackboard’s “My Grades” section.

**News Briefing (10%):** Every student will individually present one or two pieces of news at one occasion in the semester. A list of assignments of students names to dates (by alphabet) will be circulated after the add-and-drop period is over, on Wednesday, September 2nd. The first students (usually one to three per session) will present Monday, September 7th. It is the student’s responsibility to be present at the assigned date and time (i.e., at the beginning of class), or else they will forfeit that part of their overall grade. Should there be scheduling conflicts with the assigned date on the circulated list, please let the instructor know ahead of time, so that you could be rescheduled. Part of the assignment is for the student to look for an appropriate piece of news that relates to international political economy. Please stay on top of what is happening in the world of IPE by going through the news—political, economic, and social—on a regular, best be daily, basis—also when you are not about to present the news in class. This may be achieved by reading or visiting, especially the business/finance/economy sections of the freely on campus available The New York Times (http://nytimes.com), or other trusted media outlets like The Economist (http://economist.com), Financial Times (http://ft.com), Spiegel Online International (http://spiegel.de/international/business/), BBC News (http://bbc.com) or that of your personal choice. When choosing which news to present, please keep in mind that it should be recent, i.e. it should not be over one week old at the time of presentation. Also you should be able to relate it to our course, and you should make it clear during your presentation how exactly it is related to IPE. Please check with the instructor one to two days before your assigned presentation date, if the news you have in mind is fitting via email or in person. The duration of one student’s presentation should not exceed two to three minutes. Upon grading, your assigned grade will become available to you in FIU Blackboard’s “My Grades” section.

**Quizzes (10%):** Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions. Throughout the semester there will be several quizzes unannounced at the beginning of class; if not present at the beginning of class, no make-up can be granted later on. Basis for each quiz is the assigned reading on the day of the quiz. The frequency of quizzes will ultimately depend on whether students come prepared to class and comprehend the assigned readings well. Once graded, you will find your grade in FIU Blackboard’s “My
Grades” section. Graded quizzes will not be handed back to students but may be inspected upon request. All quizzes together will count for 10% of your final grade in this class.

**Final Grade Point Distribution and Schedule:**
News Briefing (assignment schedule will be available for download from Blackboard on Sept-2) ............. 10%
Quizzes ................................................................................................................................. 10%
Attendance & Participation ........................................................................................................ 10%
First Partial (Midterm) Exam, Monday, October 5th, 11:00am-12:15pm, PG-5/134 .......................... 20%
Second Partial (Midterm) Exam, Monday, November 2nd, 11:00am-12:15pm, PG-5/134 .............. 20%
Final Comprehensive Exam, December 9th, 9:45am-11:45am, PG-5/134 ........................................ 30%
Total ....................................................................................................................................... 100%

**Grading System:** The grading scale will follow FIU standards. Please note that less than a 60% average score is an automatic “F.”

No incomplete grade will be granted.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Readings:** Two textbooks are required for this class (see below). Textbook readings will not be provided to students; I will assume you have bought or rented them. Other required reading assignments, like journal articles or book chapters, will be provided to students through FIU Blackboard. Suggested readings will not be provided and would be the student’s responsibility, if interested in reading more on the subject. Students will not be expected to have read the suggested, i.e., optional, readings. Should they be discussed during class lecture, they will indirectly become relevant for examinations, though.

**Purchasing Textbooks:** Significant portions of the following two books are assigned as required readings and will be available for purchase or rental through the FIU bookstore [here](#), or online:


Keep in mind that readings complement lectures. Thus, readings will not be summarized in class and I will assume that you read them closely.

The list of topics and readings is a general guideline or schedule. This is not a strict plan to cover at all cost. I establish my class pace based on the progress I sense from the class. Some topics may need additional coverage while others may need less. This is something that I cannot anticipate at the time of selecting the topics and readings for this course. Ultimately, the coverage of the syllabus depends on the nature and evolution of the class itself, not on the instructor’s ability to rattle on material that is poorly
understood by the majority of the students. My first and foremost priority is to make sure that all students progress uniformly when a serious effort is devoted to the class.

*At any time during the semester, the instructor may input changes to the present syllabus, as he deems necessary. The instructor reserves the right to change material on the syllabus, based on his estimation of the class caliber, comprehension, and progress. In case of any such changes, the instructor will notify the modifications in class.*

**Course Policies:**

**Fair Warnings on Exams, Class Attendance, Preparation and Participation:** If you miss the midterm exams or the comprehensive final exam, without a well-certified and verifiable excuse, it will count as a zero. In this case, there will be no chance for a make-up exam. A written, verifiable, and valid excuse is required in order to request a make-up exam. If you have conflicting work schedule, adjust it ahead of time or drop the class to avoid future problems. I consider classes and exams more important than work at this time of your life. Examine closely the schedule included here. If you identify a schedule conflict, make your choice early on and decide whether to stay in the course or drop it to avoid future problems.

**Attendance:** In order for the classes to begin on time (and end on time, too), students should plan ahead and seriously consider coming to the classroom 5 to 10 minutes early. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken by sign-in sheet during selected occasions. Generally, it is preferred that students will let the instructor know much ahead of time, if they need to miss class. Students, who consistently miss classes, even if their performance in the exams and written assignments is satisfactory, will harm their overall class grade. Coming to class is an indispensable part of the student’s training and education. Traffic, parking, or car problem excuses are not accepted.

**Academic Integrity:** Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the educational mission of the University. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Handbook. It is also to be noted that academic dishonesty is a violation of FIU’s Student Code of Conduct Procedures. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of one’s work. These are academic offenses that will result in failing the course, as per the Student Code of Conduct Procedures.

**DRC-Registered Students:** The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.
**Electronic Devices:** The use of mobile electronic devices, such as cell-/smartphones, MP3 players, and other such electronic devices is **not allowed** inside the classroom during class time, and should be turned off and stored away before the beginning of each class. Don’t wait to be admonished in public for such prohibited use in class. If in need of making a phone call or texting, please quietly step outside of the classroom—it is your right. Laptop computers, eReaders, or tablets may be allowed for note taking or book reference, if using the eBook copy of the textbooks. Students are generally encouraged to take notes by hand, though. Under no circumstances will the instructor send out PowerPoints to lectures before class; PowerPoints, if used during class, would be available **after** class in the class’s Blackboard. Finally, the instructor permits no recording of the classes. Please adhere to these policies.

**Syllabus:** The syllabus is also available online in this course’s Blackboard ([http://fiu.blackboard.com/](http://fiu.blackboard.com/)). Please check the class’s Blackboard and your FIU email account for possible communication regarding changes to the syllabus.

**Course Communication:** I do not email students to personal email addresses, except when replying to students’ specific questions. Please check your FIU email ([http://panthermail.fiu.edu/](http://panthermail.fiu.edu/)) regularly, as well as the course’s blackboard ([http://fiu.blackboard.com/](http://fiu.blackboard.com/)) for announcements.

**Extra Credit Assignments:** All extra credit assignments are granted universally to the entire class; there are no individual extra credit assignments. Taking advantage of extra credit may help students improve their grade by one letter grade, e.g., from B+ to A-, however, not more than to the next letter grade (no matter how many EC opportunities are taken advantage of by one student).

**Course Schedule:**

**Important Dates:**

Please note the following holidays when FIU is closed and other important dates in the class:

1. Monday, August 24: Classes Begin.
2. Monday, August 31: Last Day to Add, Drop or Swap courses without incurring financial liability.
3. Monday, September 7: Labor Day Holiday (No class).
4. Wednesday, September 9 to Wednesday, December 2: News Reporting at beginning of most classes after quiz if applicable (*assignment schedule will be circulated to students on Wednesday, September 2nd*).
5. Monday, October 5: First Partial (Midterm) Examination (11:00am-12:15pm).
6. Monday, November 2: Last Day to drop a course with a DR grade.
7. Monday, November 2: Second Partial (Midterm) Examination (11:00am-12:15pm).
8. Wednesday, November 11: Veterans Day Holiday (No class).
9. Wednesday, November 25: (Pre-)Thanksgiving Holiday (No class).
10. Wednesday, December 9: Final Comprehensive Examination during Finals Week as per FIU exam schedule (9:45am-11:45am).
11. Thursday, December 17: Grades available on My.FIU.edu (starting 9:00am).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 24 (Mon)</td>
<td>Course presentation</td>
<td>Introduction, outline, administrative points</td>
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**Part One: Historical Background**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 26 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 1</td>
<td>1. What is IPE?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 2</td>
<td>2. History of the Global Economy</td>
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**Part Two: Theoretical Perspectives**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 3</td>
<td>3. Realist Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 7 (Mon)</td>
<td>---No Class ---</td>
<td>----Labor Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 9 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 4</td>
<td>4. Liberal Perspectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 14 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 5</td>
<td>5. Critical Perspectives</td>
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**Part Three: International Financial Architecture**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 16 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 6</td>
<td>6. International Monetary System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 21 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 7</td>
<td>7. Monetary Statecraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 8</td>
<td>8. The Asian Financial Crisis 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 28 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 9</td>
<td>9. Foreign Debt and Financial Crises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 10</td>
<td>10. The 2008 Global Financial Crisis: Watch and discuss <em>PBS Frontline: Inside the Meltdown</em> in class / Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 11</td>
<td>----First Midterm Exam</td>
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**Part Four: Global Trade System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 7 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 12</td>
<td>11. Global Trade Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 13</td>
<td>12. Regionalism and the Global Trade Regime</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 14</td>
<td>13. Multinational Corporations and Global Production</td>
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**Part Five: International Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CLASS ORDER</th>
<th>CLASS TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 19 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 15</td>
<td>14. International Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 16</td>
<td>15. Past and Present Development Strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 26 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 17</td>
<td>16. Foreign Aid to Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28 (Wed)</td>
<td>Class meeting 18</td>
<td>17. LDCs and MNCs Watch and discuss documentary <em>End of the Rainbow</em> in class / Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2 (Mon)</td>
<td>Class meeting 19</td>
<td>----Second Midterm Exam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
November 4 (Wed)  Class meeting 20  18. Rising Powers

Part Six: Transnational Problems

November 9 (Mon)  Class meeting 21  19. Illicit Global Economy
November 11 (Wed)  ---No Class  19. Illicit Global Economy
November 16 (Mon)  Class meeting 22  20. Migration and Tourism
November 18 (Wed)  Class meeting 23  21. Food Supply and Hunger
November 23 (Mon)  Class meeting 24  22. Food Supply and Hunger (2)

Watch and discuss documentary *The Market Maker* in class

November 25 (Wed)  ---No Class  23. Oil, and Energy, and Environment
November 30 (Mon)  Class meeting 25  24. Current Trends in the GPE

---In-class Final Comprehensive Exam, 9:45am-11:45am, PG-5 Market Station 134 (FIU Exam Schedule)

December 17 (Thur)  Grades available online starting 9:00AM (https://my.fiu.edu)

Readings:

Course Presentation (Aug-24)

No required readings.

Suggested Readings:


Part One: Historical Background

1. What is IPE? (Aug-26)

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:


2. Historical Survey of the Global Economy since WWII (Aug-31)

Required Readings:

**Part Two: Theoretical Perspectives**

3. **Realist Perspective** (Sept-2)

   **Required Readings:**
   

   **Suggested Readings:**
   

   ---------- Labor Day Holiday (September 7) -------------------------------

4. **Liberal Perspective** (Sept-9)

   **Required Readings:**
   

   **Suggested Readings:**
   

5. **Critical Perspectives** (Sept-14)

   **Required Readings:**
   

   **Suggested Readings:**
   


**Part Three: International Financial Architecture**

6. **International Monetary System** (Sept-16)

   **Required Readings:**
   

   **Suggested Readings:**
   

7. **Monetary Statecraft** (Sept-21)
Required Readings:

8. The Asian Financial Crisis 1997 (Sept-23)
*Required Readings:*

9. Foreign Debt and Financial Crises (Sept-28)
*Required Readings:*
*Suggested Readings:*

10. The 2008 Global Financial Crisis (Sept-30)
*No required readings. Watch and discuss documentary PBS Frontline: Inside the Meltdown.*
*Suggested Readings:*

---------First Partial Examination (October 5, PG-5/134)---------

**Part Four: Global Trade System**

11. Global Trade Relations (Oct-7)
*Required Readings:*
*Suggested Readings:*
12. Regionalism and the Global Trade Regime (Oct-12)

Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

13. Multinational Corporations and Global Production (Oct-14)

Required Readings:
1. Cohn, Global Political Economy, chapter 9, pp. 249-293.

Suggested Readings:

Part Five: International Development


Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

15. Past and Present Development Strategies (Oct-21)

Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

16. Foreign Aid to Developing Countries (Oct-26)
Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

17. LDCs and MNCs (Oct-28)
No required readings. Watch and discuss documentary End of the Rainbow.

Suggested Readings:
1. Cohn, Global Political Economy, chapter 5, 9, 10 (repeats).

--------------------------Second Midterm Examination (November 2, PG-5/134)--------------------------

18. Rising Powers (Nov-4)
Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:
Part Six: Transnational Problems

19. Illicit Global Economy (Nov-9)
   Required Readings:

---------Veterans Day Holiday (no class November 11)---------------------

20. Migration and Tourism (Nov-16)
   Required Readings:

21. Food Supply and Hunger (Nov-18)
   Required Readings:
   Suggested Readings:

22. Food Supply and Hunger (2) (Nov-23)
   No required readings. Watch and discuss documentary *The Market Maker*.
   Suggested Readings:

---------(Pre-)Thanksgiving Holiday (no class November 25)---------------------

23. Oil, Energy, and the Environment (Nov-30)
   Required Readings:
   Suggested Readings:

Required Readings:
1. Cohn, Global Political Economy, chapter 12, pp. 381-end.

Suggested Readings:

--------Final Exam (December 9, 9:45am-11:45am, PG-5/134)------------------------