17.424: International Political Economy of 
Advanced Industrial Societies  
Spring 2021  
Instructors: In Song Kim and David A. Singer  
Department of Political Science 
MIT 

1 Contact Information 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Song Kim</th>
<th>David Singer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office: E53-407</td>
<td>E53-473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:insong@mit.edu">insong@mit.edu</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dasinger@mit.edu">dasinger@mit.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 617–253–3138</td>
<td>617–258–9372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours: by appointment</td>
<td>by appointment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Logistics  

• Lectures: Mondays, 11:00am–1:00pm via Zoom

Note that the first class meets on February 22. No class will be held on March 8 (Student holiday: We will meet on March 9 instead), March 22 (Student holiday), April 19 (Patriots’ Day). Last day of class is May 17.

3 Course Description  

This graduate class is designed as a Ph.D.-level overview of international political economy (IPE), with an emphasis on the advanced industrial countries. It also serves as preparation for the IPE portion of the International Relations general exam. The syllabus is divided into three sections: international trade; international monetary and financial relations (including foreign direct investment); and “other topics.” An important goal of the course is to use economic theories to identify the welfare effects, distributional consequences, and security implications of foreign economic policy decisions, and to use the tools of political science to analyze how interest groups, voters, political parties, electoral institutions, ideas, and power politics interact to shape policy outcomes. It is our hope that this course will spark your own research ideas and ultimately lead to successful dissertations, publishable papers, and thoughtful pedagogy at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
4 Course Requirements

The final grades are based on the following items:

- **Class Participation** (20%): Students are expected to read each article or chapter on the syllabus closely, and to come to class prepared to discuss and critique the readings.

- **Reaction Papers** (20%): Four reaction papers (2-3 pages in length), each of which critiques a week’s readings. Reaction papers are due at the beginning of class, and retroactive papers (which discuss the prior week’s readings) are not permitted.

- **Research Proposal** (60%): A thoughtful, rigorous, tightly written 20-page research proposal on a topic related to international political economy. The proposal should identify a research puzzle, situate that puzzle in the relevant literature, and offer an argument with testable hypotheses to explain the puzzle. As a part of your proposal, you may also develop empirical strategies to test your hypotheses and include any preliminary findings.
  
  - A one-page prospectus is due any time before **April 5**
  - The proposal is due by **May 17**.
  - Each student will give a formal APSA-style presentation of the research proposal at the end of the semester.

*Note*: If you would prefer to write a full article-length research paper, you may do so with our permission; if you choose this option, then reaction papers are not required (research paper will count toward 80% of the final grade).

5 Notes on Academic Integrity

Please respect and follow the rules written in MIT’s handbook on academic integrity, which is available at: [http://integrity.mit.edu/](http://integrity.mit.edu/)

6 Course Website

You can find the Canvas website for this course at:

[https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/6743](https://canvas.mit.edu/courses/6743)

We will distribute course materials, including readings, and lecture slides on this website.

7 Readings

Readings are available through the library’s online journal holdings and by simple Google searches. For your convenience, they will also be posted on the Canvas site.

Students are encouraged to consult a good international economics textbook:

- Caves, Frankel, and Jones, *World Trade and Payments*
Accessible discussions of many of the economic theories discussed in the readings:


An excellent reference on the history of international monetary relations:


See Section 9 at the end of the syllabus for a list of excellent recent IPE books, most of which began as dissertations.

## 8 Course Outline

### Introduction

**Week 1 (February 22): Introduction**


### Section I: International Trade

**Week 2 (March 1): Industries, Voters, and Cleavages**

Week 3 (March 9, Tuesday): Institutional and Structural Perspectives


Week 4 (March 15): Firm-level Perspectives


Week 5 (March 22): Student Holiday (No class)

Week 6 (March 29): Foreign Direct Investment and Global Production Networks


**Recommended Reading:**


**Section II: International Monetary and Financial Relations**

**Week 7 (April 5): Theoretical Orientation and Background**


**Week 8 (April 12): Exchange Rate Politics**


Week 9 (April 19): Patriot’s Day (No Class)

Week 10 (April 26): The Politics of International Capital Mobility


Section III: Other Topics

Week 11 (May 3): Migration


Recommended Reading:


Week 12 (May 10): Research Design Presentations
Week 13 (May 17): Research Design Presentations
9 Recent IPE Books