

Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz
Department of Political Science
Centre for Political Economy
Winter term 2024-25

Basisseminar (BA) Economy and Society
Tuesdays 8-10am, room GFG 02-611
Lecturer: Dr Ruben Kremers

DESCRIPTION

Economy and society are not two distinct, separate entities. They are mutually intertwined. Economies necessarily operate within society. Societies inevitably depend on the economy. But can economic and societal values be reconciled? The research traditions of Comparative and International Political Economy (CPE and IPE) seek to answer this question. This course introduces students to the historical lineages, theoretical pluralism, and analytical concerns of CPE and IPE. Students will learn about liberal, realist, Marxist, feminist, and postcolonial research approaches and use them to analyse a range of ongoing political challenges at the intersection of economy and society. For example: Can multinational corporations curb the climate crisis? Can economic sanctions prevent war? Can ethical consumption prevent the exploitation of labour? Can the commodification of care work reduce gender inequality? Can social media influencers be a voice of resistance against the inequality, violence, and injustices of the world economy?

ASSESSMENT

The requirements for active participation are:

- ❖ Formal registration
- ❖ Reading two key texts per session
- ❖ Submitting a visual reflection to the Everyday Archive of the Global Political Economy
- ❖ Regular attendance

Everyday Archive of the Global Political Economy: This class introduces various perspectives on the global political economy. This assignment asks you to reflect on how these perspectives can shed light on the impact of the global economy on your everyday life. The last two sessions of the course are designed to create a 'visual reflection' of the global economy based on an activity, object, or situation from your everyday life. The visual reflection must include a picture taken by you and a short text (250-500 words) that explains how the picture illustrates or resonates with the ideas discussed in class. Send the visual reflection to my email (kremers@politik.uni-mainz.de) by 27 January 2024.

Term paper: The paper should be 25 000 characters (+/- 20%), including spaces, and broadly relate to the topic of the course. Please find the formal requirements and marking criteria in Moodle. Deadline for submission is 20 March 2025.

Chatbots: Chatbots based on large language models produce plausible-sounding texts based on statistical probabilities. However, these can be completely wrong in terms of content. Therefore, if you want to use such applications, you need to consider the following:

- ❖ Essays are there to examine your academic progress and skills. They must be authored by yourself. Chatbots are therefore not a permissible tool for generating the final draft of your essay.
- ❖ Chatbots can, however, be a useful tool for exploring the topic of your essay or even for producing bits of text. Please be alert to the fact that while the texts might sound authoritative, there is nothing on the backend of the technology (other than you) that fact checks the results.
- ❖ If you choose to use a chatbot for parts of the essay, add a footnote, explain how you used it, and provide the name of the chatbot and its source (e.g. URL).

OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Literature
22.10.2024	Introduction	
Classical Political Economy		
29.10.2024	Economic liberalism	Helleiner E (2023) The Rise of European Classical Economic Liberalism. In: The contested world economy: the deep and global roots of international political economy. Cambridge University Press, pp. 19-36. Free To Choose Network (2012) Milton Friedman – I, Pencil. Youtube, 31 July, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67tHtpac5ws .
5.11.2024	Neomercantilism	Helleiner (2023) Neomercantilist Reactions in Europe and the United States. In: The contested world economy: the deep and global roots of international political economy. Cambridge University Press, pp. 56-69.
12.11.2024	Marxism	Helleiner (2023) European Marxist Critiques of Global Capitalism. In: The contested world economy: the deep and global roots of international political economy. Cambridge University Press, pp. 87-104.
International Political Economy		
19.11.2024	Postcolonial IPE	Bhambra GK (2021) Colonial global economy: towards a theoretical reorientation of political economy. Review of International Political Economy, 28(2): 307-322. https://doi.org/10.1080/09692290.2020.1830831 .

		Greeley B (2024) The Nobel for Econsplaining. FT Alphaville, 21 October: https://www.ft.com/content/1e2584d6-65ef-46de-bfb2-28811be65600 .
26.11.2024	Feminist IPE	Arat-Koç S (no date) Housework, available at: http://i-peel.org/homepage/housework/ . Brassett J, Elias J, Rethel L & Richardson B (2023) I-PEEL: The International Political Economy of Everyday Life. Oxford University Press: Chapter 5 'Care'.
3.12.2024	Cultural Political Economy	Best J & Paterson M (2010) (eds.) Cultural Political Economy. New York: Routledge: 'Introduction'.
Comparative Political Economy		
10.12.2024	Open Economy Politics	Copelovitch M & Walter S (2024) European Open Economy Politics. In: Moschella M, Quaglia L & Spendzharova A (eds.) European Political Economy: Theoretical Approaches and Policy Issues. Oxford University Press, pp. 25-46.
17.12.2024	Varieties of Capitalism & Growth Models	Johnston A & Regan A (2024) Growth Models and European Political Economy. In: Moschella M, Quaglia L & Spendzharova A (eds.) European Political Economy: Theoretical Approaches and Policy Issues. Oxford University Press, pp. 47-70.
7.01.2025	European Political Economy	Hopkin J (2024) Economic Liberalism, Inequality, and Populist Backlash. In: Moschella M, Quaglia L & Spendzharova A (eds.) European Political Economy: Theoretical Approaches and Policy Issues. Oxford University Press, pp. 177-199.
Everyday Archive of the Global Political Economy		
14.01.2025	Everyday IPE	Brassett J, Elias J, Rethel L & Richardson B (2023) I-PEEL: The International Political Economy of Everyday Life. Oxford University Press: Introduction. I.L.A. Kollektiv (2019) At the Expense of Others? How the imperial mode of living prevents a good life for all. Oekom, available at: https://aufkostenanderer.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/01-kopp-et-al-2019-at-the-expense-of-others--introduction-1.pdf .
21.01.2025	Groupwork	

28.01.2025	Presentation	
4.02.2025	Feedback & Conclusion	

LITERATURE:

Brassett J, Elias J, Rethel L & Richardson B (2023) I-PEEL: The International Political Economy of Everyday Life. Oxford University Press.

Cantillon S, Mackett O & Steva S (2023) Feminist Political Economy: A Global Perspective. Columbia University Press.

Helleiner E (2023) The Contested World Economy: The Deep and Global Roots of International Political Economy. Cambridge University Press.

Jenkins D & Leroy J (eds.) (2021) Histories of racial capitalism. Columbia University Press.

Montgomerie J (2017) Critical Methods in Political and Cultural Economy. Routledge.

Moschella M, Quaglia L & Spendzharova A (2024) European Political Economy: Theoretical Approaches and Policy Issues. Oxford University Press.

Nölke A (2024) Second Image IPE: Bridging the Gap between Comparative and International Political Economy. Routledge.

Rai SM & Waylen G (2014) New Frontiers in Feminist Political Economy. Routledge.

Ravenhill J (2017) Global Political Economy. Oxford University Press.