

Carleton University
Fall 2026
Political Science

PSCI 4603: *Analyzing International Political Economy*

Prerequisites: Fourth-year Honours standing or permission of the Department,
and one of PSCI 2602, PSCI 3600, or PSCI 3703

Preclusions: None

Scheduled Times: Wednesdays 2:35-5:25

Location: *Online/Zoom*

Format: Online synchronous

Instructor: Chris Mouré

Email: chrismoure@cunet.carleton.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Office: Zoom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

International Political Economy (IPE) is the study of social relations and institutions broadly characterized as political and/or economic. Sometimes considered a sub-field of the discipline of international relations, IPE is an interdisciplinary research program that engages with a wide range of theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches. In this course, students will build the skills to analyze IPE issues using different theoretical approaches to understanding capitalism as a social order and the dynamics of capital accumulation as the core structural process of today's international political economy. The course will encourage students to take a critical approach to the study of IPE, insofar as critical means not taking the common or dominant understanding of the world for granted and instead attempting to 'look under the hood' – not just of our shared social reality but also of the theories and methods researchers use to investigate and understand that reality. In doing so, students will be challenged to develop their intellectual autonomy as researchers and more broadly as thinking political subjects.

COURSE MODALITY

This an online synchronous course, comprised of weekly seminar sessions. In each seminar students will be expected to discuss weekly readings as well as occasionally participate in small group activities, including data gathering and analysis and one peer-review exercise. Students will need access to high-speed internet and a working mic and camera to participate fully in the course. In addition, students will need to be able to access Microsoft Excel.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, successful students will have demonstrated their ability to:

- LO1: Compare key theoretical approaches to understanding capital and capital accumulation
- LO2: Describe conceptual, methodological and empirical issues in the theory and measurement of economic phenomena, with an emphasis on the measurement of capital
- LO3: Integrate quantitative research methods into academic research at a basic level. This includes the ability to name and locate specific databases, visualize data and conduct descriptive statistical analysis.
- LO4: Apply one or more theoretical approaches in investigation of international political economic issues

- LO5: Demonstrate critical engagement with course readings, themes and issues through peer-led discussion

REQUIRED TEXTS

All texts are available through Ares, accessed through Brightspace, or publicly available online.

EVALUATION

Assignment	Type	Due Date	Percentage
Data analysis exercise	Work in-class and independently. Groups of 2-3	November 4 (eligible for grace days)	25%
Research paper outline	Individual, outside of class time	October 21 (eligible for grace days)	5%
Research paper preliminary draft	Individual, outside of class time	November 18 (not eligible for grace days)	10%
Peer-review exercise	In-class small group discussion	November 26	Included in participation mark
Peer-review report	individually completed feedback report	December 2 (not eligible for grace days)	5%
Research paper final draft	Individual, outside of class time	December 9 (eligible for grace days)	30%
In class participation	Individual, in class	Every week	25%

TEACHING APPROACH

I expect students to have a basic familiarity with some scholarly literature within the field of international political economy, but not with any specific set of theoretical approaches. In addition, given that this is a fourth year course, I do expect a good faith attempt to keep up with the required readings and a high level of active participation in class discussion. This includes demonstrating engagement with the weekly readings, asking questions, and responding to comments and questions from fellow students.

It is totally okay, even expected, that you might feel a bit lost during the course. One of the central goals of good social science research is to look *underneath* the surface phenomena of social reality in search of deeper connections and explanations. **This is not easy work!** In the context of international political economy, different theoretical approaches offer *conflicting* assumptions about the world, though they each provide plausible accounts of political economic dynamics. If it was obvious which one was ‘correct’ there wouldn’t be any point in learning to differentiate and evaluate their usefulness in understanding specific issues.

Ultimately, my hope for this course is that through open minded and respectful collaboration, you can achieve the learning outcomes for the course easier and in a more pleasant environment than by working on your own.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Communications: Students can email me anytime, for any reason, and I will also be available to meet by appointment. For emails, please allow a 24 hour response time during weekdays and a 48 hour response time during weekends before sending a follow-up email.

Late Assignments: Some assignments are eligible for grace days. Every student starts the course with 5, 24-hour grace periods, to be used at your discretion on eligible assignments. Instead of asking for an extension, this provides an equitable way for everyone to manage their workload effectively. If your grace days are used up, there will be a 3% per day late penalty, including weekends. Exceptions may be made, but only for students who can provide documentation, following the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, outlined on the Academic Accommodation website (students.carleton.ca/course-outline).

Generative AI: The broad term of “AI” encompasses a great variety of technologies, tools and systems. This policy refers more specifically to the use of generative AI tools in research and writing such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc. In this course, use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content, including written assignments as well as in oral discussion, is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Generally, assessment in this class does not lend itself well to the integration of generative AI. In part, this is because you will be assessed on *the progression of your learning*, not just on the level of achievement. Ultimately, I am interested in what *you* have to say about the course material and your individual research topic. I admire students who are willing to struggle with the things they find most difficult, challenge themselves and take creative risks.

By contrast, generative AI is most suited to reproducing the most common, prosaic ideas and analyses (which are often not just boring, but misleading or inaccurate). Generative AI can appear to offer plausible facsimiles to the product of your own mental efforts. However, using generative AI instead of doing the work yourself undermines the development of the very skills you are here (at university) to develop. Much as you would forgo the use of a mechanical aid to lift weights at the gym, I hope you will take the challenge of learning seriously.

ASSIGNMENTS

Data and chart analysis exercise: 25%, due November 4

The purpose of the exercises is to familiarize you with some of the data sources available for the study of political economy; to give you hands-on experience in obtaining, using and interpreting empirical information; to highlight issues in the construction of political economic facts; and ask you to engage critically with political economic theoretical approaches using empirical data. I will assign students into groups of 3. Doing this assignment as a group will allow you to support and learn from each other (as well as giving me fewer assignments to grade).

Research paper 45% (cumulative, due dates below)

Write an essay on one of the topics listed below. Your paper should provide a thoughtful theoretical examination of the issue, backed by empirical evidence. Your arguments should draw on the course material and readings as well as additional sources. The empirical quantitative evidence could draw on your own original analysis as well as secondary sources.

Research paper topics

1. Analyze a political economic event or dynamic (historical or contemporary) from one of the three theoretical perspectives. When choosing this topic, aim for specificity and appropriateness to the relatively short length of the assignment.
2. Investigate the role of power underpinning a major corporation, corporate group or international non-governmental organization. Make sure to define what you mean by power.
3. Critically examine the role of 'imaginary' factors in a self-described anti-capitalist social movement. Be sure to define what you see as a 'capitalist' imaginary and assess whether and how the movement breaks/or fails to break from said 'imaginary'.
4. Topic of your choice (but clear it with me first – should involve some treatment of course themes and objectives)

Outline and preliminary bibliography: 5% due October 21

(maximum 1 page, doubled-spaced body text; maximum one page bibliography)

Research paper preliminary draft: 10% due November 18

(maximum 5 pages, double-spaced body text (not including any charts, tables or figures); no bibliography maximum)

Research paper final draft: 30% due December 9

4000 words, double-spaced. Use the citation style you are most comfortable with.

Peer feedback report 5% due December 2

The peer review exercise has several components. It is crucial that you a) submit a preliminary draft the week prior and b) attend the peer review class session. **This assignment cannot be made up.**

1. The week before the review session, you will read paper drafts of group members (groups of 3-4).
2. In class, you will break into groups and take turns briefly presenting your argument and conducting a feedback discussion. Non-presenting group members should come prepared to offer *at least* two remarks: a) an aspect of the argument and analysis they thought was strong and b) an aspect they thought could be improved.
3. Outside of class, you will fill out a peer review report for one of the other group members' drafts, to be submitted on Brightspace before the following week's class.

Participation 25%

See Participation Rubric (on Brightspace, under Rubrics module) for a detailed explanation of course expectations.

Attendance: You are allowed to miss 2 online course meetings without reason (i.e., no need to email me). Every additional no-show reduces your attendance grade by 4% (for example, if you miss 4 meetings without reason, your participation grade will fall by 8%). **Please note that if you miss more than four full classes (i.e., ~33% of our class time), I will award you with an "F" for the course, as per Section 5.1 of the Academic**

Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar. Exceptions may be made, but only for students who can provide documentation and/or who have demonstrated commitment to the course.

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 – The capitalist imaginary – September 9

- Fisher, Mark. *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?* Zero Books, 2009, Chapter 1.
- Ingerid S. Straume, “The Political Imaginary of Global Capitalism,” in Straume, Ingerid S., and John Fredrick Humphrey, eds. 2011. *Depoliticization: The Political Imaginary of Global Capitalism*. NSU Press.

Week 2 – The invention of the economy – September 16

- Castoriadis, Cornelius. 1987. “The Institution and the Imaginary: A First Approach” in *The Imaginary Institution of Society*, MIT Press. **Sections i, ii, iii, vii and viii (skip iv,v, and vi).**
- Mitchell, Timothy. 1998. “Fixing The Economy.” *Cultural Studies* 12 (1).
- Mitchell, Timothy. 2005. “The Character of Calculability,” in *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. University of California Press.

Week 3 – Economic indicators (plus in-class introduction to data exercise) – September 23

- Fix, Blair, Shimshon Bichler, and Jonathan Nitzan. 2019. “Real GDP: The Flawed Metric at the Heart of Macroeconomics.” *Real-World Economic Review* (88, July): pp. 51-59. [[http://bnarchives.yorku.ca/609/; 9 pages](http://bnarchives.yorku.ca/609/;9pages)]
- Fix, Blair. 2019. “The Aggregation Problem: Implications for Ecological and Biophysical Economics.” *BioPhysical Economics and Resource Quality*. Vol. 4. No. 1: pp. 1-15.
- Block, Fred. 2022. “Technology and Productivity: A Critique of Aggregate Indicators.” *Journal of Post Keynesian Economics* 45 (1): 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01603477.2022.2029491>.

Week 4 – Neoclassical theory – September 30

- Caporaso, James A., and David P. Levine. 1992. *Theories of Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 4: ‘Neoclassical Political Economy’ : 77-99.
- Arnsperger, Christian, and Yanis Varoufakis. 2006. “What Is Neoclassical Economics? The Three Axioms Responsible for Its Theoretical Oeuvre, Practical Irrelevance and, Thus, Discursive Power.” *Panoeconomicus* 53 (1): pp. 5-18.
- Measuring Capital OECD MANUAL 2009 – pp. 11-19

Week 5 – Marxist political economy – October 7

- Caporaso, James A., and David P. Levine. 1992. *Theories of Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Ch. 3: ‘Marxian Political Economy’, pp. 55-78.
- Shaikh, Anwar. 1990. “Capital as a Social Relation.” In *The New Palgrave Marxian Economics*, edited by J. Eatwell, M. Milgate and P. Newman. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, pp. 72-78.
- Nitzan, Jonathan, and Shimshon Bichler. 2009. *Capital as Power. A Study of Order and Creorder*. RIPE Series in Global Political Economy. New York and London: Routledge, Ch. 6, ‘The Marxist

Entanglement I', pp. 84-109; Ch. 7, 'The Marxist Entanglement II', pp. 110-124; Ch. 8, Accumulation of What?', pp. 138-144.

Week 6 – Capital as power I – October 14

- Nitzan, Jonathan, and Shimshon Bichler. 2009. *Capital as Power. A Study of Order and Creorder*. RIPE Series in Global Political Economy. New York and London: Routledge, Chapters 1-4: 1-63.

Week 7 – Capital as power II (research outline due) – October 21

- Nitzan, Jonathan, and Shimshon Bichler. 2009. "Accumulation and Sabotage." In *Capital as Power. A Study of Order and Creorder*. RIPE Series in Global Political Economy. New York and London: Routledge: 217-248. (chapter 12)
- Caporaso, James A., and David P. Levine. 1992. "Power-Centered Approaches to Political Economy." In *Theories of Political Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 159-180.

Week 8 – October 26-30 Reading week

Week 9 – Globalization (data exercise due) – November 4

- Carr, Chris. 2020. "Global Concentration, Oligopolies, Profit Appropriations and Perspectives." In *Global Oligopoly*, 1st ed., by Chris Carr. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429316050-3>.
- Walia, Harsha. 2021. "Temporary Labor Migration and the New Braceros." In *Border and Rule: Global Migration, Capitalism, and the Rise of Racist Nationalism*. Haymarket.
- Sean Starrs. 2013. "American Economic Power hasn't Declined—It Globalized! Summoning the data and taking globalization seriously," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 57, no. 4: pp. 817–830.
- McMichael, Philip. [2000] 2013. "Globalization: a project in crisis." In *Global Political Economy: Contemporary theories*. Routledge.

Week 10 – Trade and trade wars – November 11

- Klein, Matthew C., and Michael Pettis. 2020. *Trade Wars Are Class Wars: How Rising Inequality Distorts the Global Economy and Threatens International Peace*. Yale University Press: Chapter 1.
- Brennan, Jordan. "NAFTA, investiture and distribution: the power underpinnings of trade and investment liberalization in Canada." In *The Capitalist Mode of Power: Critical Engagements with the Power Theory of Value*. RIPE Studies in Global Political Economy. London and New York: Routledge: pp. 49-80.
- Germann, Julian, Steve Rolf, Joseph Baines, and Sean Kenji Starrs. 2024. "A Chip War Made in Germany? US Techno-Dependencies, China Chokepoints, and the German Semiconductor Industry." *Politics and Governance* 12 (July): pp. 1-18.

Week 11 – War and imperialism (research paper preliminary draft due) – November 18

- Harvey, David. 2004. "The 'New' Imperialism: Accumulation by Dispossession." *Socialist Register* 2004 40: 213–37.
- Gandásegui, Marco A. 2006. "Latin America and Imperialism in the 21st Century." *Critical Sociology* 32 (1).
- Quadri, Zaynab. 2022. "War Is Still a Racket: Private Military Contracting, US Imperialism, and the Iraq War." *American Quarterly* 74 (3): 523–43. <https://doi.org/10.1353/aq.2022.0033>.

November 15, 2026 Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.

Week 12 – Peer-review exercise – November 26

Week 13 – TBD (peer-review report due) – December 2

Week 14 – Post-capitalism and anti-capitalist resistance (research paper final draft due) – December 9

- Skrimshire, Stefan. 2011. “Part III: Experiments in Hope.” In *Politics of Fear, Practices of Hope*. Bloomsbury.
- Gerling, Begoña. 2026. “The Time of the Snail: Castoriadis, Zapatista Autonomy and the Radical Imaginary Today.” *Theory, Culture & Society*, no. Special Issue: Castoriadis: Democracy and Radical Imagination: 1–17.
- Fisher, Mark. 2018. “Acid Communism (unfinished introduction)”. In *K-Punk: The Collected and Unpublished Writings of Mark Fisher from 2004-2016*. Edited by Darren Ambrose. Repeater Books.

APPENDIX: DEPARTMENT POLICIES

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/safety/resources/>

Carleton Resources:

Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)
For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640 Loeb
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library