Topics in International Political Economy
Political Economy of Regional Integration (IPEC 4396.003) Course Syllabus
The University of Texas at Dallas – Fall 2013
Mon & Wed 2:30-3:45 pm SLC 1.202

Professor Contact Information
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Office Hours Monday 4-5pm

Teaching Assistant:

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
Students in this course should be familiar with the concepts of Global Politics or International Relations. Students should also know (or quickly learn) how to find articles via the library databases.

Course Description
This course will present an overview of academic work that examines political, economic, cultural, social, historical dynamics at play in ongoing regional integration efforts in the various regions of the world. This body of work draws from scholarship on varied aspects of international relations, economics, and regionalism. Our focus on the regional politics, however, will not discount the possibility that important regional phenomena have their roots in the domestic politics of individual countries. We will frequently discuss the domestic politics of countries to search for explanations of integration pursuits, particularly in the identification of hegemonic influences.

There will also be a special negotiations assignment that highlights the challenges countries face when attempting to garner national buy-in and build political consensus on the pursuit of varying degrees of regional integration.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes
At the end of the course, students will have knowledge of the major regional integration efforts ongoing in the international community. They will have greater insight into intra-regional and extra-regional relationships, and how these relationships make or break a process of integration. Students will be better able to evaluate ongoing behaviors by regional actors and others’ arguments critically by using political, economic and historicist modes of analysis. Additionally, via writing assignments and in-class discussion, students will produce better political, economic and technical arguments, complete with supporting evidence.

Required Textbooks and Materials
All readings will come from scholarly journals and other electronic sources. These materials will either require you to search for them via JStor or be made available to you via Electronic Course Reserves.
Assignments & Academic Calendar – Readings from Electronic Sources. Course Reserves Items have an asterisk.

Section I – Historical Framework, Economic Integration, Trade, and International Cooperation

Aug 26 Introductions, Understanding the Impetus for Regional Integration


Sep 2 Labor Day – No Class

Sep 4 “The New Regionalism” – Ethier
  “Returns to regionalism: an analysis of nontraditional gains from regional trade agreements.” - Fernandez & Portes

Sep 9 “The theory of preferential trade agreements: historical evolution and current trends.” – Bhagwati & Panagariya
  “Why do countries seek regional trade agreements?” - Whalley
  “Trade policies in developing countries.” - Balassa

Sep 11 “The political economy of regionalism in Asia and the Americas.” - Haggard
  “Bargaining, enforcement, and international cooperation.” – Fearon

Sept 12 Last Day to Drop Without a “W”

Section II – Regional Integration Projects

Sep 16 “Explaining Latin American economic integration: the case of Mercosur.” – Kaltenhaler & Mora
  “Organizational responses to regional integration among MNEs in Latin America.” – José et al.

Sep 18 "COMESA-Africa's first free trade area." – Shacinda
  “The enigma of African economic integration.” – El-Agraa

Sep 23 “ASEAN plus three: emerging East Asian regionalism?” – Stubbs
  “Asian economic cooperation and integration: Sequencing of financial, trade and monetary regionalism.” - Rajan

(Writing Assignment #1 Due – Regional Integration Assessment Report 3-4pgs)

Sep 25 “Too Young to Marry”: economic convergence and the case against the integration of Pacific states. “ – Powell
  “China-ASEAN free trade agreement: shaping future economic relations. “ – Wong & Chan

Sep 30 “Economic interests and regional trading arrangements: The case of NAFTA.” – Chase
  “The Future of North America: Replacing a bad neighbor policy.” - Pastor

Oct 2 “NAFTA: Lessons from an uneven integration.” - Durán
  “Migration and Imperialism The Mexican Workforce in the Context of NAFTA.” - Wise

Oct 7 “Regionalism in Central Asia: new geopolitics, old regional order. - Bohr

Oct 9 “Russian Foreign Policy in the Fragmented Post-soviet Space” – Nikitin
(Midterm Examination Online, Due Monday Oct 14)

Oct 14 “What determines EU decision making? Needs, power or both?” – Kauppi & Widgrén
“Financial market integration and economic growth in the EU.” – Guiso et al.

Oct 16 “Economic benefits and support for membership in the EU: A cross-national analysis” – Anderson & Reichert
“ECONOMIC INTEGRATION: NAFTA AND MERCOSUR, A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS” - Lecuona

Segment III – Barriers to Regional Integration, Monetary Unions, Customs Unions

(Writing Assignment #2 Due- Memo Project, 2pgs)
Oct 23 “Currency unions and international integration.” – Rose & Engel
“The Impact of Currency Unions on Trade: Lessons from CFA Franc Zone and Implications for proposed African Monetary Unions.” – Bangake & Eggoh

Oct 25 Last Day to Withdraw WP/WF

Oct 28 “Capital market integration in the Middle East and North Africa” – Lagoarde-Segot & Lucey

Oct 30 “Two funerals and a wedding? The ups and downs of regionalism in East Asia and Asia-Pacific after the Asian crisis.” – Webber
“Preparing for Enlargement in the European Union: The tensions between economic and political integration.” - Nello

“Caribbean Community: The Elusive Quest for Economic Integration.” - Girvan
“Regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.” – Bulmer-Thomas

Nov 6 “The Association of Caribbean States and Sustainable Development: An Assessment.” – Nicol
“Economic Integration and Caribbean Identity: Convergences and Divergences.” - Garcia

Segment IV- Analyzing the trajectories of integration efforts

Nov 11 “THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL INTEGRATION: LESSONS FOR CSME FROM OTHER INTEGRATION SCHEMES.” – Simms & Simms
“Can Cultural Integration Succeed Where Politics and Economics Have Failed?” – Girvan

Nov 13 “Regional income inequality and international trade.” – Sliva & Leichenko
“Does Trade Cause Growth?” – Frankel & Romer

Nov 18 “The breakup of the euro area.” – Eichengreen (Online Course Reserves)
Nov 20 “The United States as a Monetary Union and the Euro: A Historical Perspective.” - Bordo

Nov 25-30 Fall Break/Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 2 “Structural conditions and the propensity for regional integration.” – Efird & Genna

Dec 4 Negotiations Simulation

Dec 9 Negotiations Simulation

Dec 11 Review Session

Dec 15 Final Exam (Available Online from 8am-8pm)

Full Citations of Reading – those marked with asterisk (*) are available via electronic course reserves. The link will be available via e-learning and the password will be given in class and via e-learning.


Eichengreen, B. 2010. The breakup of the euro area. In Europe and the Euro(pp. 11-51). University of Chicago Press.


Girvan, N. 2010. Caribbean Community: The Elusive Quest for Economic Integration.


Grading Policy
Students who participate in class discussions will show their effort in the course and will receive higher participation grades (on average – after all, you can’t speak up too much). Each student will be responsible for presenting at least 4 one-page reading summaries, as part of class participation. This structure makes the reading more manageable, and all summaries will be posted to e-learning, and be accessible to everyone by class time. Additionally, students will complete two short writing assignments (2-4 pages, double-spaced 10-12 point font, 1 inch margins). Finally, a midterm exam will cover course material up until Oct 9th, while a final exam will cover the remainder of the semester up until Dec 2.

Grades will be tabulated as follows:
- Class Attendance & Participation 20%
- Midterm Exam 25%
- Writing Assignments 30%
- Final Exam 25%

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures
The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.