International Economic Relations
Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Instructors
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This syllabus is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Affairs.

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Director MGIMO Library__________________________M.V. Reshetnikova
PART 1:
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION
AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information

- Full course title: The International Economic Relations
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course [B.A.]
- Year of study: [3rd]
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:

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1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The aims of the course are to provide students with knowledge and profound understanding of key theoretical concepts in international economic relations, key approaches in elaboration of national and regional foreign economic policy, improvement of country’s international competitiveness with regard to changes in global economy.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- analyze the main development trends in international economic relations taking into consideration key challenges in global economy;
• prepare the analysis of international competitiveness of the countries and regional groups;
• understand the role of international organizations in international economic governance;
• make estimations of participation of countries and groups of countries in international economic relations

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements

Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is compulsory.

Grading plan

• Class participation - 20%

Students are expected to attend all lectures, seminars and participate in class discussions; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day’s class.

• In-class tests – 20%

Students will write three tests during the semester. Dates of test classes are defined by the instructor and communicated to the students at the first class of the respective course.

• In-class issue presentations – 20%

Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed by each student in the term. The presentation will be based on the week’s additional readings. The presenter should supply a brief summary of the argument but offer a critical interpretation of the reading by drawing out the key ideas of the text, linking them with others already covered, and registering agreements and disagreements. The presenter should also attempt to consider how the given argument could be framed differently. A few critical questions should further be offered for the class to discuss collectively. The presenter will be given a short written feedback after the presentation, including the grade, which can be followed up by consultation during office hours.

• Oral exam – 40% (in class, 20 minutes).
PART 2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for lectures, seminars</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation and Essay</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course works</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course assessment</strong></td>
<td>Class participation, in-class tests, in-class class presentations, oral exam</td>
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</tbody>
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2.2. Course contents and readings by topic

**Topic 1. Economic globalization: key issues and challenges.**

**Seminar 1. Economic globalization: key issues and challenges.**


**Discussion questions:**

1. Key dimensions of globalization in global economy.
2. Globalization’s impact on key forms of international economic relations and emergence of new ones.

**Compulsory readings:**

Further readings

Topic 2. Transnationalisation of global economy.
Seminar 2. Transnationalisation of global economy.
Summary: Scale of transnationalisation in global economy and role of TNCs in the process. TNCs operations in key sectors of global economy, geographical distribution and role of developed and emerging economies. New trends in TNCs development. Challenges for emerging economies.

Discussion questions
1. TNCs influence on key forms of international economic relations.
2. TNCs operations in production and services sectors.
3. Influence of TNCs on hosting economies.
5. State-owned TNCs in global economy.

Compulsory readings:
Further readings


Seminar 3. Key trends in international trade developments.

Summary: Key concepts of international trade theories. Interdependence of international trade and other key forms of international economic relations. The main factors of trade development. Structural and geographical changes in development of international trade and trade in services.

Discussion questions:

1. Main theories of trade developments.
2. Essential factors of international trade developments. Role of economic crisis. Influence of GVCs on international trade.
3. Technology-induced reshaping of trade.
4. Dynamics in international trade development, changing role of services.
5. BRICS position in international trade

Compulsory readings:

Further readings


Topic 4. Trade policy instruments and the Role of WTO in trade regulation.

Seminar 4. Trade policy instruments (2 hours).

Summary: Role of the trade policy in global economy developments.

Tariff barriers in international trade regulation. Role of non-tariff measures in regulatin. Role of World Trade Organization in the global trade governance.

Discussion questions

1. Key instruments of the trade policy.
2. Export promotion policy instruments.
3. Key stages in evolution of global trade system.
4. GATT rounds of trade negotiations and evolution of trade policy discussions.
5. Creation of the WTO and its role in global trade governance

**Compulsory readings:**


**Further readings**

Internet resources
www.wto.org
http://wtocentre.iift.ac.in/FA/Brics.pdf

Topic 5. Key trends in the FDI developments.

Seminar 5. Key trends in the FDI developments.

Summary: FDI dynamics in the global economy. Financial crisis influence on the FDI, current developments in this sphere. Changes in geographical distribution of the FDI, enlargement of participation in the FDI from developing countries.

Discussion questions:
1. Global investment trends. Dynamics in outward and inward FDI.
2. Trends by geography.
3. Trends by sector and mode of entry.
4. State policy approaches in regulating FDI. Multilateral regulation of FDI.
5. Changing role of BRICS in FDI.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings


Topic 6. Global technology and information transfer in the international economic relations.

Seminar 6. Global technology and information transfer in the international economic relations.

Summary: Key forms and trends in international technology transfer. Analysis of key factors influencing international technology transfer. Developed and developing countries' positions in international technology transfer. Role of the WTO in fostering technology transfer.

Discussion questions:

1. Role of the internet in the transformation of forms of technology transfer.
2. Role of international organizations in global technology transfer.
3. Official development assistance influence on developing countries' participation in international technology transfer.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings


Summary: Key ideas of M. Porter's competitiveness theory. Essential factors for the country’s international competitiveness analysis. Country rankings of international competitiveness.

Discussion questions:

1. Key factors of the country’s competitiveness in global economy. Porter’s diamond approach.
2. Developed country international competitiveness (case study based on students choice).
3. BRICS international competitiveness: challenges and opportunities.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings

Topic 8. The role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the international economic relations development.

Seminar 8. The role of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the international economic relations development.
Summary: Dynamics in the ODA development during the past decades. Changing role of the new donors, their influence on the South-South cooperation. Aid for trade influence on the country’s competitiveness and involvement in the international trade.

Discussion questions

1. Sectoral distribution of the ODA.
2. Geographical distribution of the ODA.

Compulsory readings:


Further reading


Internet resources

www.oecd.org
www.worldbank.org
www.odi.org


Discussion questions:

1. Globalization vs integration in international economic relations: challenges and opportunities.
2. Effects of integration on participating countries. Possible implications for key forms of international economic relations.
3. Mega-regional agreements influence on international economic relations. Challenges for further development of international economic relations.

Compulsory readings:


Further readings

1.2. Exam Questions

1. New forms of the international economic relations. Role of the globalization
2. Science and Technology influence on the international economic relations
3. Role of TNCs in the international economic relations
4. Key TNCs strategies in the international economic relations
5. Key trends in the international trade development.
6. Changing role of developing countries in the international trade
7. International trade in services: key factors of development, dynamics and structure.
8. BRICS in the international trade.
9. International country’s competitiveness: key approaches for the analysis.
10. Approaches for country’s international competitiveness ranking.
11. Trade policy instruments.
12. Export promotion instruments in trade policy.
13. WTO role in the international trade regulation.
14. USA in the international trade
15. EU in the international trade.
16. EU trade policy key dimensions.
17. USA trade policy.
19. FDI influence on economic development: advantages and disadvantages.
20. Role of investment climate in FDI attraction. Role of state policy.
21. BRICS in FDI.
22. Global value chains concept. GVCs influence on trade policy and investment regulation.
23. Regional integration in the global economy. Stages of economic integration. Key characteristics.
24. Integration in Western Europe.
25. EU expansion challenges.
26. NAFTA developments. NAFTA influence on the participating countries
27. Mega-regional initiatives. Key challenges and opportunities for the global economy.
29. Role of the ILO in the international migration regulation.
30. International technology transfer: key influencing factors and trends.
31. Role of the Internet in the international technology transfer developments.
32. Changes in geographical distribution of technology transfer in the global economy.
2.3. Exam timing

- Fall semester tests – last week of December;

PART 3. FINAL REMARKS

- Plagiarism is considered as a severe violation and as an indication of incompetence in the course. Plagiarism is understood as making of one’s text using compilation method for other people’s publications, even connected with own phrases and sentences. Collective performance of individual tasks is also unacceptable. Proved plagiarism an F-mark is given regardless of the fulfillment of all other requirements.

- Assignments are to be handed in on the due date. Late submissions will translate into the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a grade for each day of delay.

- Students are asked to keep a copy of all work submitted for evaluation.