GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

INTL 450 MGMT 455

FALL 2015

Associate Professor Caner Bakir
Lecture dates: Monday/Wednesday: 10-11.15
Lecture venue: CASE Z48
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Course Description

States and Multinational corporations (MNCs) play a critical role in the national and
global economy. As globalization process reduces barriers to production, finance and
trade, international business is gaining ground. States are increasingly interacting
with MNCs in this environment. This course focuses on how the global political
economy has emerged, how States and MNCs interact with special reference to the
recent debates and evidences in International Political Economy and International
Business fields. This course adopts an institutional perspective to deliver its three
main objectives: 1. To examine the evolution of the global political economy and its
effect on state and business actors; 2. To examine the responses of immobile states
and mobile MNCs to the challenges and opportunities posed by economic and
financial globalization process; and 3. To understand State and International
Business relations with special reference to interactions among structures,
institutions and agents.

At the end of the course, students will be able to
• understand globalisation process and its impact on states and firms
• structural, institutional and agency-level factors that inform state and firm behaviour,
• understand and evaluate the relationships among states and firms, and corporate
  political behaviour
• analyse and distinguish various forms of corporate power with special reference to
  some of the theoretical models
• apply written and oral communication skills
Course Requirements

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<th>The grading scheme is as follows:</th>
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<tr>
<td>(1) Class participation</td>
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<td>(2) Midterm exam</td>
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<td>(3) Final project</td>
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1) Class Participation. (20%)

Student participation is of utmost importance to success of this course. Reading material has been assigned for each week and must be completed before class. Students should bring relevant issues taken from current newspapers. This will serve as a basis for discussion. Thus, students will be graded by class participation (20%). There will be guest speakers where students have participation opportunity.

2) Midterm exam (20%)

There will be essay type midterm exam.

3) Final Project (60%).

As main assignment in this course, you will conduct a project to apply the analytical concepts and theoretical frameworks we learned in class. “A wide variety of firms are involved in political activities, in industries as varied as oil and gas, air transport, information technology, tobacco and pharmaceuticals. These firms have been influencing governments through campaign contributions, direct lobbying, government membership on company boards, voluntary agreements, political action committees (PACs) and, at times, even bribery” (Lawton, McGuire and Rajwani, 2013: 86). These firms bargain with nation states, translate their economic power potential into exercise of political power to influence public policy outcomes that they favour. You will have to choose a recent such political activities of a corporation for theoretically informed analytical discussion.

The final project will include multiple components (more detailed instructions on final outcome will be handed out during the semester):

a) Final paper outline (5% of the total grade): 2-3 pages (double spaced), describing the firm and issue you want to examine. The outline will be submitted to me so that I can let you know whether you can proceed with your proposal or implement suggested changes. Due 23 November.

b) Presentation (15% of the total grade): At the end of the course, every group (or student) will present their analysis of firm political behaviour. The presentations will be based on ppt, should be around 15-20 minutes, and done in class.
c) Final Paper (40%): After all the presentations have concluded, you will have to submit your final project of approx. 20 pages (double spaced including references). The paper should contain a detailed description of an issue, sufficient theoretical background information, application of theoretical perspectives on an issue and its analytical discussion.

You are required to meet with Dr Bakir on an individual basis to discuss topics for the final project paper. **Topic proposals for the final project paper must be approved and submitted on or before November 23.** You are strongly encouraged to meet with him earlier to discuss possible topics. **Papers are due in the second week of January 2016.**

**Plagiarism and Collusion**

Plagiarism is the presentation of work which has been copied in whole or in part from another person’s work, or from any other source such as the internet, published books or periodicals without due acknowledgement given in the text.

Collusion is the presentation of work, which is the result in whole or in part of unauthorized collaboration with another person or persons.

Both Plagiarism and Collusion are methods of cheating. Students must observe academic honesty and integrity in order not to face disciplinary actions.

**Suggested Reading Material**

The below sources are the key readings. There might be additional reading material and documentaries throughout the semester.

Students may also visit corporate watch website for some relevant news about corporate political behaviour at [http://www.corpwatch.org/](http://www.corpwatch.org/)

**Week 1: An Introduction: Interactions among Structures, Institutions and Agents**


**Week 2-3: Economic and Financial Globalisation and International Business Environment**


**Week 4-5: Multinational Corporations**


**Week 6: Globalisation and Multinational Corporation as a Political Actor**


**Week 7: Economic power potential of corporations and its translation into exercise of political power**


**Week 8: Interest Organisations**
Coleman, chp. 3.

**Week 9: State Capacity and Bureaucratic Power**
Coleman, chp.4.

**Week 10: MNC-State Relations I: Theories of Bargaining Between States and MNCs**


**Week 11-12: MNC-State Relations II: State Capacity and MNC Investments**


Week 13-14: Final Project Presentations and Guest Speakers

Week 15 Overview