International Economic Issues - Syllabus
Lecturer : Julien Brault

The lecturer

Julien Brault is a post-doctoral fellow at SciencesPo and the Governance and Regulation Chair of Dauphine. Holding a PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies of Geneva, graduated from SciencesPo Paris, he also worked in the Economics departments of the European Investment Bank and the European Central Bank. His researches deal with international economic relations, international political economy, economic history, international finance and trade, development issues, and energy. His PhD thesis dealt with the international transactions of France in the 20th century, notably trade protectionism and foreign exchange control.

Introduction

The goal of this class is to initiate students to the main international economic issues. The evolution of the international economic system in history, its main actors, institutions and crises, in emerging and developed countries, are first presented. The international financial, trade and monetary aspects of the "Great Recession" since 2008 are then analysed in order to give the students keys to understand the great contemporary issues. Finally, the future possible great international economic issues are analysed in a spirit of prospective, notably the international imbalances in terms of revenues, debt, energy and governance.

Some useful textbooks for the class :
Bourguignat, Henri, Teïletche, Jérôme et Dupuy, Michel, Finance internationale, Dalloz
Reich, Robert, L’économie mondialisée, Dunod, 1997


Class 1 : Presentation of the class – International economic systems in history
This class presents the general logic of the class and what is expected of students. The main periods of the international economic system since the 19th century are then presented.
Themes : The Gold Standard system - The Bretton Woods system - The evolution of international trade since 1789
Eichengreen, Barry, and Flandreau, Marc, “The Rise and Fall of the Dollar, or How and When it replaced the Sterling as the Leading International Currency”, NBER, 2008

Class 2 : The great crises and the construction of the international economic system (1789-2007)
The main past crises of the system are presented. We will analyse the way they structured the international economic system.
Themes : The international propagation of the Great Depression - The Oil Shocks, a new international economic balance ? - The international management of the Asian Crisis, success or failure ?
Aliber and Kindleberger, Manias, Panics and Crashes, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011
Haggard, Stephan, The Political Economy of the Asian Financial Crisis, 2000

Class 3 : International economic institutions and actors today
The contemporary institutional architecture of the international economic system is here presented. The role of the different institutions is presented in link with the great contemporary issues.
Themes : The international trade system today : globalization under fire ? - The international monetary system and the main central banks - The great international economic and financial institutions (IMF, WTO, OECD, Fed, ECB...)

Class 4 : The issue of international economic development today
This class replaces the issue of development in international economic relations. It examines the contemporary changes in terms of development systems and their stakes.
Themes : The great strategies of international development - The Washington consensus and its critiques - The international development institutions and their role (World Bank, UNDP...)
Williamson, John, « Did the Washington consensus fail ? Speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies », 2012
Part 2 : The Great Recession of 2008 and its International Stakes

Class 5 : From the American financial crisis of 2008 to the international trade crisis
Here, the subprimes crisis is analysed in its main moments and its international repercussions. We will put the stress on the international propagation channels of the crisis.
Themes : The American subprime crisis and the contemporary regulatory answers - The international expansion of the subprime crisis and its mechanisms - The evolution of international trade since 2008

Class 6 : From the international trade crisis to the public finance crisis
This class deals with the issue of the link between the fall in international trade since 2008 and the different debt crises of developed countries, especially in Europe and Greece.
Themes : The debt crisis in Europe - The evolution of public debt in the world in the long run - The international role of rating agencies
Reinhart, Carmen, and Rogoff, Kenneth, This Time is Different : Eight Centuries of Financial Folly, Princeton, 2009

Class 7 : From the public finance crisis to the international monetary crisis
The stress is here put on the euro crisis, its recent evolutions, and the evolutions of international monetary policies.
Themes : The ECB and the divergences of development levels in the eurozone - The reform projects of the eurozone - International cooperations between central banks, heritage and mutations
Doutriaux et Lequesne, Les institutions de l’UE après la crise de l’euro, La Documentation française, 2013
Quaglia, Lucy, The European Union and Global Financial Regulation, Oxford University Press, 2014
Beach, The dynamics of European Integration. Why and when Institutions Matter, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005
Class 8: The effects of the crisis of 2008 on emerging countries

The great contemporary economic issues of emerging countries are presented in the wake of the 2008 crisis.

Themes: The current Chinese crisis - India and the new paths of international development - International trade integration in Africa - Brazil, between continental dominance and instabilities


Class 9: Revenues and debt, the great international imbalances

The issue of rising international imbalances in terms of revenues and leverage is here presented.

Themes: The international issues of income inequalities - Household leverage and international instability - International financial imbalances: banks and companies


IMF, “Growth and the Importance of Sequencing Debt Reduction across Sectors”, 2014

Class 10: Inequalities and economic frailties in emerging countries

The great international imbalances in terms of growth, poverty and population flows are here presented.

Themes: Growth scenarios, horizon 2050 - Poverty in the world today - Migrations and international financial flows

Lin and Chang, “Should Industrial Policy in Developing Countries Conform to Comparative Advantage or Defy it ? A Debate between Justin Lin and Ha-Joon Chang”, Development Policy Review, 2009


Class 11: International energy systems and climate negociations

The great world energy issues and the international climate negociations are here presented.

Themes: The role of big energy companies in the world - Kyoto protocole or carbon market, which international model ? - Infrastructure, energy and growth in emerging countries today
Class 12: Towards a reform of international economic governance?

The different issues linked to the possible reforms of the international economic system are here presented.

Themes: The yuan, future great international currency? - Governance scenarios for Europe - The reform of the IMF and its stakes


Jamet, “L’Europe peut-elle se passer d’un gouvernement économique ?”, Réflexe Europe, La documentation française, Débat, 2001

Truman, A Strategy for IMF reform, Peterson Institute, 2006