

Simon Fraser University
School for International Studies
International Studies 803
The Economics of International Organizations and Development
Course Outline and Reading List

Mr. Easton
Spring 2010

This is a course about international organizations and economic development. Since there are a multitude of international institutions that promote development, this course focuses initially on a few of the major players: the World Trade Organization (WTO); the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and the World Bank (IBRD and IDA). We will discuss what it is these institutions were designed to do, what they do, how they do it and whether they are successful in promoting economic development, growth and well being.

There will be one three hour seminar and a one hour tutorial. Assignments will allow students to become familiar with some international organizations of their choice.

There will be up to three quizzes, each worth 20% and assignments worth at least 30%. Up to 10% will be awarded for participation. Aspects of The Sushi Economy will be discussed in the first six weeks. Students will write a book report on Daniel Yergin's, The Prize that will be due at the end of classes.

Students should consult my web site: <http://www.sfu.ca/~easton/> for information about assignments, practice quizzes and other announcements relevant to the course.

Textbooks: William Easterly, The Elusive Quest for Growth, 2002; and Morten Boas and Desmond McNeill, Multilateral Institutions, A Critical Introduction, 2003.

There will also be a packet of readings. An * indicates that the readings are in your packet.

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

Boas and McNeill, p. ix-50.

During the first six weeks, read The Sushi Economy in its entirety.

Readings for week 2:

*Massie, R.K. Dreadnought: Britain, Germany and the Coming of the Great War: p.xx-xxv; 180-185; 468-486; 782-785.

*Keynes, J. M. The Economic Consequences of the Peace, "Introduction" by R. Heilbroner: xx-xxxv

*MacMillan, M. Paris 1919: 6 Months that Changed the World: p.xxvi-xxxxi; 11-14.

Week 2: Background to the Emergence of Twentieth Century International Institutions

Readings for Week 3:

*Gerber, J. "The Theory of Tariffs and Quotas" International Economics: p. 110-129; 134 and 135.

Week 3-4: International Trade in Historical Perspective and the Gains from Trade

The gains from trade

Comparative advantage and other theories of international trade

Impediments to trade

Readings for Week 4:

Williamson, J. "The Tariff Response to World Market Integration in the Periphery Before the Modern Era"

<http://www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/williamson/files/Fiesole04-text.pdf>

*Husted and Melvin, International Economics: p. 172 and p. 173.

Week 5: The Role of The WTO

What is the WTO:

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/whatis_e.htm

What has it done and what are the controversies?

Readings for Week 6:

*Krugman and Obstfeld, International Economics: Theory and Policy: 537-551; 640-654
"The International Monetary System from 1870-1973"

Mundell, R. A. "The European Monetary System 50 Years after Bretton Woods:

A Comparison Between Two Systems" <http://www.columbia.edu/~ram15/ABrettwds.htm>

Week 6 and 7: The Historical and Theoretical Background to the International Monetary Fund

Readings for Week 7:

Krueger, Anne. "Whither the World Bank and the IMF?" in the Journal of Economic Literature, December 1998, v. 36, iss. 4, pp. 1983-2020.

Boas and McNeill, 51-159.

*Mosley, P., Harrigan, J. and Toye, J. Aid and Power: The World Bank and Policy-based Lending: 65-67; 90-124.

Week 8: What has been the Impact of the IMF?

A special assessment of market turmoil in 2008.

Readings for Week 9-12

Easterly, W. The Elusive Quest for Growth: all

*Mosley, P., Harrigan, J. and Toye, J. Aid and Power: The World Bank and Policy-based Lending: 181-189.

Week 9 and 10:

Understanding the simple macro economy and economic growth

The evidence and history of economic growth

Theories of economic growth

Week 11 and 12: What has been the role of the World Bank?

Cost benefit analysis

Governments and growth

Agencies and growth

Week 13:

No class: prepare book reports and final assignment.