POLI 349 Issues in International Politics: The Politics of Trade

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Valerie D’Erman

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This course looks at the key concepts and basic theories underlying trade policies with an eye to understanding the contours of contemporary international trade politics. We will examine the historical evolution of trade policies, from the removal of tariffs on goods to recent preferential “second generation” initiatives which include provisions for services, investment, and intellectual property into the trading system. Over the course of the semester, we will also consider efforts to harmonize domestic regulatory practices to facilitate trade, and the various impacts on employment levels, environmental issues, and partisan politics. The goal is to equip students to intervene in debates about an important, yet sometimes technical, area of government policy.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Demonstrate detailed knowledge of core institutions and processes, as well as core ideas, theories, and concepts related to the international trading system
• Summarize and evaluate arguments and debates from a variety of sources
• Develop a perspective on the relationship between trade policy and other areas of public policy
• Develop critical thinking skills associated with the evaluation and development of arguments

Topics may include:
Foreign trade in world history
Trade and international relations
Economic and political approaches to trade
Relationships between trade, employment, and environmental issues
WTO, CETA, USMCA

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.