

INTRODUCTION

IR 379: International Political Economy

Wheaton College

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I. WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY?

- The study of economics *and* international relations
 - How does the global economy affect interstate relations?
 - How do interstate relations affect the global economy?
- Academic discipline within political science, but draws on several disciplines
 - e.g. political science, economics, history, political economy, geography

TOPICS IN IPE

- International trade policy
- Currency and exchange rates
- International migration
- Foreign aid
- Development



US – China trade “war”

WHY STUDY IPE?

- Explain how politics affects the global economy
 - Does encroachment from the West explain Russia's intervention in the Ukraine?
- Examine how the global economy affects domestic politics
 - Will Germany maintain commitments to open borders in the wake of the Syrian refugee crisis?
- Understand current events
 - What does Brexit mean for U.S. trade?
- Build social science reasoning skills

CONNECTING POLITICS TO ECONOMICS

- In groups of 2-3 students discuss the following question:
 - Presidential candidates talk about many issues during elections.
 - 1) Identify instances in which the international economy in some way came up during the current presidential election.
 - primary campaigns may be included
 - 2) How much does the international economy affect (a) the talking points and (b) outcomes of presidential campaigns?