

## **PSC 5550-225: Problems in International Relations: Politics of the Global Financial Crisis**

### **Course Description:**

Though there has been gradual if uneven economic recovery, the global financial crisis of 2008-9 and its aftermath continues to have dramatic consequences across governments and international organizations worldwide. What were the causes of the financial crisis? What lessons can we extract from earlier episodes of global economic turmoil? Is there adequate global leadership to address the implications of the crisis? Where might such leadership come from at a time when the global distribution of power has shifted dramatically, marked by a retreat from US economic preeminence and the rise of China, India, Brazil, Russia and other developing countries?

**This is a compressed online course; students should be prepared for intensive engagement in the course materials and discussions throughout the class.**

### **Class Dates, Location and Hours:**

Dates: September 19 – 30, 2017

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 21, 2017

### **Site Director:**

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at [aponline@ou.edu](mailto:aponline@ou.edu)

### **Professor Contact Information:**

Course Professor: Mitchell P. Smith, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: Department of International & Area Studies  
University of Oklahoma  
Farzaneh Hall, room 306  
729 Elm Ave.  
Norman, OK 73019  
Telephone Number: (405) 325-6681  
Email Address: [mps@ou.edu](mailto:mps@ou.edu)  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before the start of the class and throughout the duration of the class.

### **Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:**

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email [0831mgr@fheg.follett.com](mailto:0831mgr@fheg.follett.com). Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Bruner, R. & Carr, S. (2009). *The panic of 1907: Lessons learned from the market's perfect storm*. New York: John Wiley & Sons. ISBN 9780470452585.
2. Blustein, P. (2006). *And the money kept rolling in (and out): Wall Street, the IMF and the bankrupting of Argentina*. New York: Public Affairs. ISBN 9781586483814.

3. Krugman, P. (2009). *The return of depression economics and the crisis of 2008*. New York: WW Norton. ISBN 9780393337808.
4. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu> , enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

### **Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

This is a 3 credit hour course. Requirements include two analytical essays of about 1250 words (5 double-spaced pages) and 1500 words (6 double-spaced pages) respectively and very active participation in intensive online class discussions.

The instructor will be available for consultation via e-mail in advance of the course. It is critical for students to check both their OU e-mail and the course site on Canvas regularly in the weeks prior to the start of the course and throughout the duration of the course.

### **Participation:**

The participation grade will be based on quality – not simply quantity – of contributions to the discussion. Students will be expected to contribute repeatedly throughout the course of each discussion AND to read all or most of the discussions posted by their peers and by the instructor.

### **Schedule of Assignments and Discussions: Note that all times are Central Standard Time**

#### **First Class Segment (September 19-21): The Great Depression, Japan's lost decade, and the 2008-9 Global Financial Crisis**

##### Readings:

- Bruner and Carr, pp. 1-187.
- Percy Wells Bidwell, "Trade, Tariffs, the Depression," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (April 1932): 391-401.
- William H. Overholt, "Japan's Economy, at War with Itself," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 1 (Jan.-Feb. 2002): 134-147.

**First essay assignment of 1250 words due to Canvas dropbox by noon on Tuesday, September 19, 2017:** What are the most crucial elements of an effective response to a financial crisis? Why is it such a challenge to produce an effective response? Why are crises resistant to swift resolution? In your answer: (i) focus on a small number of critical components of an effective response rather than necessarily trying to be exhaustive; (ii) consider political as well as economic dimensions of the response (keep in mind that our course is "The Politics of the Global Financial Crisis"); and (iii) draw on evidence from the 1907 crisis, the Great Depression, Japan's crisis, as well as the current financial crisis, to illustrate your argument (you do not have to draw examples from all of these episodes; bring in any examples or evidence relevant to your argument). Be certain to cite sources appropriately throughout your paper, even if you only use the assigned course readings.

**First Online Discussion:** noon, Tuesday, September 19 to noon Thursday, September 21

**Discussion prompt to be posted no later than Monday, September 18**

#### **Second Class Segment (September 22-25): The Impact on the Developing World and Less Developed Countries**

##### Readings:

- Blustein, pp. 1-235.
- Martin Ravallion, "Bailing Out the World's Poorest," *Challenge* 52, no. 2 (March-April 2009): 55-80

- Shalendra Sharma, “Dealing with the Contagion: China and India in the Aftermath of the Subprime Meltdown,” *China & World Economy*, Vol. 17, no. 2 (2009): 1-14.
- Uri Dadush, “Emerging Markets Will Not Sink the World Economy,” Op-Ed, *L’Espresso* (Italy), January 31, 2014.

**Second Online Discussion:** noon, Friday, September 22 to noon Sunday, September 24

**Discussion prompt to be posted by evening of Thursday, September 21**

**Third Discussion/Class debate:** noon, Monday, Sep 25 to noon, Wednesday, Sep 27:

Is the global financial system nurturing or hostile toward developing economies?

**Third Class Segment (September 28-30): Who Will Lead? Problems and Prospects for a New Global Financial Architecture**

Readings:

- Krugman, all.
- Yoichi Funabashi, “Forget Bretton Woods II: the Role for U. S. – China – Japan Trilateralism,” *The Washington Quarterly*, April 2009: 7-25.
- Barry Eichengreen, "The World Wisely Edges away from talk of a Currency War," *Financial Times*, April 28, 2013.
- Thomas A. Bernes, "Strengthening International Financial Institutions to Promote Effective International Cooperation," Center for International Governance Innovation Papers, No. 13, February 2013 (available on "Content" page).
- Letter to G20 Leaders from the Chair of the Financial Stability Board, 30 August 2016: <http://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/FSB-Chair's-letter-to-G20-Leaders-in-advance-of-their-meeting-in-Hangzhou-on-4-5-September..pdf>
- Jane Perlez, “China Creates a World Bank of its Own, and the U.S. Balks,” *The New York Times*, December 4, 2015 (available on "Content" page).

**Final course essay of 1500 words due to the Canvas dropbox by noon CST, Thursday, September 28**

We live in an era marked by the increasing global diffusion of economic power, along with the high level of uncertainty associated with the present financial crisis. Such a combination seems potentially troubling at a time when, as we have discussed in the course, the prospect for global economic stability and prosperity depends upon collective action and international cooperation. Do you believe we are likely to see the sort of global leadership and policy coordination necessary to restore global economic prosperity? If so, from where will this leadership come and how will governments forge collective action? If not, what are the likely consequences? Draw on relevant readings and examples where appropriate and fully cite all sources.

**Fourth Online Discussion:** noon, Thursday, September 28 to noon Saturday, September 30

**Discussion prompt to be posted by evening of Wednesday, September 27**

**Grading:**

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
First Essay	Due to Canvas dropbox by noon CST on Tuesday, <b>Sep 19</b>	25%
Debate/3 <sup>rd</sup> discussion	Online, <b>Sep 25 (noon CST) to Sep 27 (noon CST)</b>	15%
Final Essay	Due to the Canvas dropbox by noon CST, Thursday, <b>Sep 28</b>	30%
Participation	Throughout three online discussion (10% each)	30%

**Notice:** Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

## **POLICIES AND NOTICES**

### **Attendance/Grade Policy**

**Note:** Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

### **Academic Integrity and Student Conduct**

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at [http://integrity.ou.edu/students\\_guide.html](http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html)

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

### **Accommodation Statement**

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

### **Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues**

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

### **Title IX Resources**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu) or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

### **Course Policies**

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

## INSTRUCTOR VITA

**Mitchell P. Smith, Ph.D.**

### Education

- 1993 Ph.D., Politics, Princeton University
- 1986 MPA, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University
- 1982 BA, Economics, University of California, Berkeley

### Current Positions

- Professor and Chair, Department of International and Area Studies; Max and Heidi Berry Chair in International Studies
- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and International Area Studies (SIAS) University of Oklahoma 2004- 2012
- Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma 1999 to 2004
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2000

### Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- PSC 5663 Comparative Political Analysis
- PSC 5550 Problems in International Relations: Politics of the Global Financial Crisis
- PSC 5643 Politics in Western Europe
- PSC 5563 International Political Economy
- IAS 5213 Politics of the European Union

### Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Comparative Political Analysis
- Comparative Political Economy
- International Political Economy
- Political Economy of Industrial Democracies
- West European Politics
- The European Union
- The Politics of Power
- Political Economy of the Welfare State
- European Social Democracy

### Representative Publications and Presentations

- *Environmental and Health Regulation in the U.S. and the EU: Protecting Public and Planet* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).
- Editor, *Europe and National Economic Transformation: The EU After the Lisbon Decade* (Palgrave Macmillan series in European Union Politics, 2012).
- *States of Liberalization: Redefining the Public Sector in Integrated Europe* (State University of New York Press, 2005).
- Co-editor, *Legitimacy and the European Union: The Contested Polity* (London and New York: Routledge, 1999).
- "Europe and the German Model: Growing Tension or Symbiosis?" *German Politics* (December 2001).
- "In Pursuit of Selective Liberalization: Single Market Competition and its Limits," *Journal of European Public Policy*, (December 2001).
- "Autonomy by the Rules: the European Commission and the Development of State Aid Policy," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (March 1998): 55-78.
- "Facing the Market: Institutions, Strategies, and the Fate of Organized Labor in Germany and Britain," *Politics & Society* Vol. 26, Number 1 (March 1998): 35-67.

- “Democratic Legitimacy in European Union: Fulfilling the Institutional Logic,” *Journal of Legislative Studies* Volume 2, No. 4 (Winter 1996), pp. 283-301.

#### **Representative Honors and Awards Received**

- 2011 William W. Talley II Teaching Award, Dept. of International & Area Studies
- 2000-01 Jean Monnet Fellowship, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- 1997 Council for European Studies Research Planning Grant
- 1997 Fulbright Intercountry Lecture Award, University of Salamanca, Spain
- 1996-97 Fulbright Research Award in European Union Affairs, Brussels, Belgium
- 1989-90 Fulbright Fellowship, United Kingdom
- 1989 Friedrich Ebert Foundation Fellowship, Bonn, Germany