Course Description
This course is an introduction to international relations, with a focus on explanations of state policy. The theoretical approaches we will explore are essential to the study of international politics more broadly, but our applications will be in the area of foreign economic policy. Explanations are drawn from a variety of sources; students will learn about numerous theories, how useful they are for answering different sorts of questions, as well as ways to organize, analyze, test, and synthesize theories.

Course Requirements
All assigned readings are available on JSTOR, MyCourses, or online links. There is no required textbook. A recommended textbook will be on reserve at the library — as indicated on MyCourses.

The mark for the course is based on participation in conferences led by the T.A.s (10%), two midterms (25% each for a total of 50%), and a formal final exam (40%). Conferences begin the week of January 21st. The midterms are scheduled for February and March.

Academic Integrity
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (See http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Note: In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
Course Schedule

Part I: Paradigms in IPE
Lecture 1 (Jan. 7): Introduction / Theories and Ways to Group Them Together

Lecture 2 (Jan. 9): Idealism versus Realism

Lecture 3 (Jan. 11): Liberalism

Lecture 4 (Jan. 14): Marxism
  Rudolf Hilferding, Finance Capital, 1910, Chapter 25

Lecture 5 (Jan. 16): Institutionalism and Constructivism

Lecture 6 (Jan. 18): Gender and the Everyday Economy Perspective

CONFERENCES BEGIN WEEK OF JAN. 21

Part II: The Levels of Analysis
Lecture 7 (Jan. 21): The System Level

Lecture 8 (Jan. 23): The Domestic or National Level
Lecture 9 (Jan. 28): Bureaucratic Politics  

Lecture 10 (Jan. 30): Idiosyncratic Approaches  

Part III: Understanding International Economic Issues for Political Science

Lecture 11 (Feb. 4): The Politics of Trade  

Lecture 12 (Feb. 6): The Politics of Trade  

Lecture 13 (Feb. 11): The Politics of International Monetary Relations  

Lecture 14 (Feb. 13): The Politics of International Monetary Relations  

Part IV: Cases

Lecture 15 (Feb. 18): Britain’s Repeal of the Corn Laws 1846  

Lecture 16 (Feb. 20): Britain’s Repeal of the Corn Laws 1846  

1st MIDTERM: FEB. 25
Lecture 17 (Feb. 27): Canada’s National Policy
Edward Porritt, “Canada’s National Policy,” Political Science Quarterly 32 (2), June 1917, 177-208

Lecture 18 (March 11): The Reciprocity Election of 1911

Lecture 19 (March 13): The Reciprocity Election of 1911
Mark R. Brawley and Stuart Soroka, “Canada 1911: how intra-industry cleavages determined trade policy,” unpublished manuscript, 2017

Lecture 20 (March 18): American Trade Policy, 1908-1912
Mark R. Brawley, “And we would have the field”: U.S. Steel and American Trade Policy, 1908-1912,” Business and Politics 19 (3) September 2017, 424-453

Lecture 21 (March 20): Britain’s Return to Gold 1925

2nd MIDTERM: MARCH 25

Lecture 22 (March 27): Japan’s Monetary Cooperation in the 1980s

Lecture 23 (April 1): Brazil’s Unorthodox Response to the 1980s Debt Crisis

Lecture 24 (April 3): Canada-U.S. Free Trade in the 1980s
CBC Archives (online); Earl Fry, “The Long Road to Free Trade,” Policy Options (October 2007)

Lecture 25 (April 8): Greece’s Recent Debt Crisis

Part V: Conclusions
Lecture 26 (April 10): Where to Go From Here