Course Objectives

Globalization and worldwide privatization of industries and a semblance of economic and political democratization through various parts of the world are all manifestations of a brave new world – a world characterized by global economic integration and cross-border linkages. The arrival of “BRICS, BRICA, BRICET” countries and economies, particularly “rise” of China, the “awakening” of India, and the economic revival of Brazil, strongly suggest that a period of global economic promise as well as upheaval and uncertainty is upon us. The position of the Euro as a medium of payment rivaling the dollar, as well as other economic challenges in various parts of the world, will result in the realignment of winners and losers in a global market place, creating a higher level of synthesis between economics and politics. Presently economics and business have emerged as major factors in dictating global outcomes, and while the relationship between politics and commerce is not new, the increasing power of international business to influence social and political decisions in industrial democracies and emerging economies certainly is. As evidenced by all the above, the challenges to policymakers, global technocrats and multinational corporate managers are immense.

Technological progress has made globalization possible while resulting in a worldwide market for goods, capital and commercial and technological services. Globalization is creating both costs and benefits in the United States and in many other regions of the world. Low- and high-skill occupations and professions, workers, entrepreneurs and small-, medium- and large-sized enterprises are being impacted by the advance of Globalization and Information Technologies throughout the world.

Student responsibilities

1. The student is expected to attend all class sessions and complete assignments on schedule. Unexcused absences could result in the lowering of the grade a student would otherwise receive.

2. Participation based upon informed synthesis of reading material (assigned as well as other retrieved information by the students from relevant publications [i.e. *Foreign Policy, Foreign Affairs, The Economist*, etc.]) is expected.

3. Each student is required to do research and write a paper (10 –15 pages double-spaced) on one of the topics assigned by Professor Ajami. The paper must be properly
foot-noted with references and citations. The paper can be done either individually or as a member of a group of no more than three.


RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

1. Mergers and acquisitions in global industries (oil, airlines, hospitality, consulting, advertising, healthcare etc.): Impact, prospects for the success and viability of the industry.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS

Mergers and acquisitions in global industries (oil, airlines, hospitality, consulting, advertising, healthcare etc.): impact, prospects for the success and viability of the industry.

Worldwide corporate giants or multinational companies are again joining together in a new wave of global mergers and acquisitions. If this global trend continues, we may see further consolidation in global markets. These mergers and acquisitions are often about grabbing new markets or supposedly undervalued businesses, and many are related to corporate viability and industry critical mass. Frightened by contracting markets; by commodity prices (oil); by excess capacity in key markets (automobiles); by the uncertainties of technological change (banks and telecoms); or by the soaring cost of research (pharmaceuticals-healthcare), companies are opting for either the formation of strategic alliances or mergers and acquisitions. Companies in many industries are convinced that they are more likely to prosper if they are huge than if they are merely large.

Dimensions

♦ Mergers and acquisitions in the chosen global industry: size and scope
♦ Contrast that with mergers and acquisitions in other industries
♦ Advantages and disadvantages of global mergers for the chosen industry
♦ Impact on global producers and consumers
Reference Materials and Suggested Reading (Among Others):


Leading Oil and Gas Companies Around the World. Online. URL: http://maguireenergy.cox.smu.edu/resources/energywebsites/forlinks.html


Oil Prices and Revenues: An Economic Analysis. URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/oprevecn.html

OPEC Revenues: Country Details. URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/orevcoun.html


Worldwide Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids Production. URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/finance/mergers/fig2.html

Worldwide Production of Oil and Natural Gas by 35 Largest Producers, URL: http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/finance/mergers/tab1.html

All papers should include the following sections:
a) Introduction: List the objective of the paper and scope of your analysis.
b) Body: This includes the main sections of your paper. Make sure that your paper is analytical rather than just descriptive.
c) Conclusion: Discuss your conclusions as well as suggestions for future research.
d) References: List all the references you used in your paper.
e) Appendix sections: Tables, annual reports, statistics, and other information that may be relevant.