I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has two basic objectives: (1) to broaden the student’s knowledge of the relationship between the European and global political economy and (2) to examine basic institutions and processes at the cross-roads of international economic activity, observing how multilateral trade bodies, central banks and financial regulatory authorities work and influence the global economy. Specifically, the course will discuss the structure and rules of international trade and investment, the management of monetary and fiscal policy, international financial regulation, the political economy of economic crises, and political and market solutions to collective problems, especially within the EU. Students will visit and observe the inner-workings of the EU in Brussels, the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva, the European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt, and the Bank of England and CitiBank in London.

The majority of the literature in the course assumes an introductory level knowledge of IPE, International Relations (IR) theory and/or macroeconomics. Students with a limited background in IPE, IR and/or Economics may need to supplement the required readings with outside material. Please speak with me if you would like recommendations about supplementary reading material.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Participation (15%)  
Classroom discussions and participation during group tours of institutions will be a key component of the overall grade in this course. Students will benefit more from these discussions if they have completed the assigned readings prior to class. In addition, participation grades will be based on the student’s ability to make contributions that advance class discussions.

B. Paper (35%)  
Students will have the opportunity to travel and learn about the inner-workings of important international economic institutions located in London, Brussels, Geneva and Frankfurt. Students are expected to write a short paper (8-10 pages) describing the role that one of these institutions plays to overall economic
The paper topics can focus on any aspect of the institution that the student chooses to write about as long as it is related to political economy.

C. Final Exam (50%)

Students will take a Final Exam (50%) on the last day of the Maymester course. The exam will consist of identifications, short answer and essay questions that cover the readings, lectures and visits to international economic institutions.

D. Honor Code

Vanderbilt’s Honor Code governs all work in this course. For each assignment, I will explain how the honor code applies. If you have any questions, please ask me.

III. REQUIRED READINGS

Leila Simona Talani, European Political Economy: Political Science Perspectives (2004)

John Ravenhill, Global Political Economy (2008)

Selected Readings from the European Journal of Political Economy

Additional readings to be supplemented on OAK

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND TRIPS

I. Week 1

Day 2: The International Monetary and Financial Structure
Day 3: Financial Regulation and Institutions
Day 4: The European Economic Crisis
   - Class visit to the Bank of England

II. Week 2 - Class visits to EU Headquarters, WTO, and ECB

Day 1: The Global Production and Trade Structure
Day 2: Global Trade Relations and the WTO
Day 3: The European Union and Regional Trade Blocs
Day 4-5: The European Financial Architecture
III. Week 3

Day 1: Globalization, Development and Economic Institutions
Day 2: The 2008 Financial Crisis and State-Market Relations
Day 3: Reform and the Global Economic Security Structure
   - Final Exam Review
Day 4: Class visit to CitiBank
Day 5: Final Exam