INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS

prof. dr hab. Andrzej Lubbe

Lecture; 30 hrs
Fall semester

Course objectives:
The aim of this graduate course is to present research framework for analysis of international economic organisations in a globalizing world. It will be argued that continuous processes of institutionalisation play crucial role in determining economic outcomes of globalisation. Therefore, we will be trying to understand how institutions are intellectually shaped and constructed, whose interests they represent, how and why evolve over time, what side-effect generate, and finally how effectively serve its purposes. We will be trying to analyse rules of the international economic game (i.e. institutions) and then proceed to analyse some of the economic and social activities these rules apply to.

In the first part of the course, two main processes of institutionalisation with their interrelations will be discussed: institutionalisation of the once lawless and adversary transnational space (formalization, codification, standardization and depersonalization) and institutional change at the national level (induced by foreign versus domestic actors, incremental and consequential versus radical, formally structured versus decentralized, prompted by private, public or non-governmental sector, channels of dissemination).

The subject of the second part of the course is the analysis of the role of international financial institutions in the world economy. We begin with a discussion of the evolution since World War II of the roles of the IMF and the World Bank. We focus on the rationale for multilateral lending in promotion of international monetary cooperation, exchange stability (IMF) and in fighting poverty and improving the living standards of people in the developing world (WB). Next, we proceed to the assessment of the effectiveness of assistance provided by the World Bank and the IMF, respectively. Finally, we review theoretical models of the impact of foreign assistance on policy reforms in the recipient countries as well as their empirical verification.

Course outline:

Lecture 1-2 From Anarchy to Organization


Lecture 3-4 Institution and Globalization – Theoretical Building Blocks


**Lecture 5-6 Why and How Countries Cooperate?**

**Lecture 7-8 Power Relations in the World Economy**

**Lecture 9 Bretton Woods Institutions – Historical Perspective**

**Lecture 10 Why Should Multilateral Lending Exist?**

**Lecture 11-12 Can World Bank Assistance Spur Growth?**

Lecture 13 Can World Bank Assistance Be a Midwife of Good Policies?

Lecture 14 Stabilizing role of the IMF

Lecture 15 Conclusions and Final Discussion

Required readings:
Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*).

Assessment:
Students will be required to write final essay (~20-25 pages, 1800 characters per page) in the form of the (a) in-depth assessment of the empirical findings on the topic related to the course or (b) critical review of the literature on the topic or (c) own research paper.