INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS
PLSC 117
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 10:05-11:30

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00am and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND CURRICULAR PURPOSES

This course is an introduction to the study of world politics. For the purposes of this course, "world politics" refers to relations between states and non-state actors across international borders. We will examine key issues such as state formation, war, foreign policy, international order, and the politics of international economic relations. We will also consider the social-scientific methods that political scientists use to study these issues. This course can offer only an introduction to this area of study rather than a comprehensive treatment. All the issues we will examine are covered in greater detail in intermediate and upper-level classes offered in the Department of Political Science. This course should help prepare students for these classes, as well as providing a general background on the subject for students who select other majors.

This course is a 4-credit course, which means that students are expected to do at least 12.5 hours of course-related work or activity each week during the semester. This includes scheduled class lecture/discussion meeting times as well as time spent completing assigned readings, preparing written assignments, and other course-related tasks.

This course fills two general education requirements: social science (N) and global interdependencies (G). The university requires that I list the learning outcomes associated with these two requirements here. The goal of the global interdependencies requirement is that students "will demonstrate knowledge of how two or more distinctive world regions have influenced and interacted with one another and how such interactions have been informed by their respective cultures or civilizations." We will do this throughout the course, most extensively in the section on imperialism near the end of the semester.

The social science requirement has two outcomes associated with it:

> 1. Knowledge of major concepts, models, and issues (and their interrelationships) of at least one of the social sciences: anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, or sociology.
>
> 2. An understanding of the methods used by social scientists to explore social phenomena, including, when appropriate to the discipline, observation, hypothesis

development, measurement and data collection, experimentation, evaluation of evidence, and analysis by mathematics or other interpretive frameworks.

As with the global interdependencies objective, many parts of the course will serve these objectives. They are most directly involved in the hypothesis-testing paper, which is discussed below.

Within the political science major, this course (1) helps fulfill the requirement for 10 political science courses; and (2) fulfills the requirement of at least 1 course in international relations.

COURSE MATERIALS

The primary textbook for this class is *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, fifth edition, by Jeffry Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz. Most of the assigned reading will come from this book. It also provides access to some online materials you may find useful but that are not required for the course. I have also placed two copies of the textbook on reserve at the library.

Second, several supplemental readings will be available through the Brightspace page for this course. These will be discussed in section meetings. Full citations for these articles are as follows:

The China Trade Shock. https://chinashock.info/.

Chotiner, Isaac. 2013. "The Trial of Robert D. Kaplan." *The New Republic*, 25 April 2013. https://newrepublic.com/article/113029/robert-kaplans-terrible-incoherent-defense-henry-kissinger

Easterly, William, and Jeffrey Sachs. 2006. "Foreign Aid Faceoff." *Los Angeles Times*, May 8 2006.

Fragile States Index, powered by the Fund for Peace. https://fragilestatesindex.org/.

Kaplan, Robert D. 2013. "In Defense of Henry Kissinger." *The Atlantic*, May 2013.

Mallaby, Sebastian. 2002. "The Reluctant Imperialist." *Foreign Affairs* 81 (2): 2.

Mallaby, Sebastian. 2004. "Liberal Imperialism, R.I.P." www.foreignaffairs.org, June 30, 2004.

Mueller, John, and Mark G. Stewart. 2018. " Terrorism and Bathtubs: Comparing and Assessing the Risks." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 33(1): 138-63.

Saul, Ben. 2022. " The Unlawful U.S. Killing of Ayman al-Zawahri." Lawfare Blog, 17 August 2022.

Schake, Kori. 2018. "The Trump Doctrine is Winning and the World is Losing." *New York Times*, 15 June 2018.

Simpson, Emile. 2018. "There's Nothing Wrong With the Liberal Order That Can't Be Fixed by What's Right With It." *Foreign Policy* Blog, 7 August 2018.

Staniland, Paul. 2018. "Misreading the 'Liberal Order': Why We Need New Thinking in American Foreign Policy." Lawfare Blog, 29 July 2018.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Section attendance and participation (15%). The section meetings are an important part of the course. Attendance is mandatory. You may miss two discussion sections due to illness, other personal obligations, or any other reason. You will receive an attendance and participation grade of "0" for any other absences. You should complete the reading assignment before the section meeting and arrive prepared to discuss it. Note that there are no section meetings during the first week of classes (August 22-26), as well as during the weeks of Thanksgiving and Fall Break, when there are University holidays for much of the week.

2. Discussion posts prior to section meetings (10%). Before each discussion section meeting, your TA will post one or more discussion questions about the day's topic on Brightspace. You should post an answer to at least one of these questions. The TA for your discussion section will give you a deadline for posting your responses. Late posts will be penalized, and those submitted after your section meeting has begun will not be accepted. You may miss two discussion posts without penalty during the semester. If you submit all the required discussion posts, your two lowest grades will be dropped. Your average grade over the remaining posts will constitute 15% of you final grade for the semester.

3. Hypothesis-testing paper (20%). This paper will require students to formulate an empirically testable hypothesis and test it using data on a sample of states. This assignment will be discussed in great detail during the semester. A full explanation is also posted on Brightspace. The paper itself need be only 3-5 pages long. The bulk of the work will be in collecting the data. The paper is due no later than December 9th at 5:00pm. Papers submitted after this time will be penalized 10 points for each 24-hour period, or fraction thereof, that it is late. Those submitted after December 14th will receive no credit.

4. Geography quizzes (10%). Without a reasonable grasp of political geography, it is impossible to be an informed observer of world politics. During the semester there will be five short geography quizzes to test your knowledge. Each quiz will be focused on a different region of the world, and will require you to identify five major states in these regions. On Brightspace, you will find a list of the regions for each quiz, along with ten states whose locations you are required to know within each region. The quizzes will be given during discussion section meetings. The dates for the quizzes will not be announced in advance, but they will take place in the following order: (1) Europe, (2) the Americas, (3) East Asia and Oceania, (4) West and South Asia, (5) Africa. No make-up quizzes will be given, and those who are late to class will not receive any extra time to complete the quiz if it is given at the start of class. Instead, your lowest quiz grade, including the "0" you might receive for missing one, will be dropped.

5. Mid-term examination (20%). This exam will be given in class on October 18th. It will cover all of the readings and lectures through that date. Roughly a week before the exam, you will receive a sample exam providing more information about its format and the types of questions included on it.

6. Final Exam (25%). This exam will be given on the date set by the university during the exam period. The exam will cover all reading and lectures for the entire semester, including material that was on the mid-term. We do not yet know the date of the final. Please do not make unalterable travel plans that require you to leave the area before the end of the exam period, which is December 16th.

COURSE POLICIES

COVID-19. Unfortunately, COVID is still with us. If you develop symptoms (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019- ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html), your top priorities should be getting medical treatment and avoiding further spread of the virus. Do not come to class. If you are on campus, call the Student Health Service for instructions at 607-777-2221. Once you are able, let me know about your situation. There is no need to ask the Student Health Service or your doctor for a note confirming your illness. I will take steps to help you make up the work you miss. At present the University does not require masking in the classroom, though individuals may choose to wear one.

Lectures will begin on time at 10:05am. Arriving late for class is disruptive for both the instructor and the other students, particularly in a large class. I reserve the right to ask students who arrive late to leave the class.

Technology. We will use Brightspace, the university's learning management system, for some purposes, including the distribution of course materials and the submission discussion posts and other assignments. I may not be able to resolve the technical issues you encounter. I encourage you to turn to the technical support the system provides: https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport.

Office Hours. I will be available from 10:00-11:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays for meetings via Zoom. The link is posted on the Brightspace page. If you would prefer an in-person meeting, or another meeting time, let me know and we will set it up.

Grading Scale. Your semester grade will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows: 94-100 = A; 91-93 = A-; 88-90 = B+; 84-87 = B; 81-83 = B-; 78-80 = C+; 74-77 = C; 71-73 = C-; 65-70 = D; 0-64 = F. Numeric grades on specific assignments correspond to letter grades as follows: A = 100; A- = 93; B+ = 89; B = 85; B- = 82; C+=79; C = 75; C- = 72; D = 67; F = 50.

Grade appeals must be made in writing. If you are unsatisfied with the grade you received on an assignment, explain your concerns in writing. You should submit this explanation to me or to your teaching assistant. Once we have read and considered your request, I will respond to your concerns in writing. I will not discuss your grade with you in person.

Cheating and Plagiarism. While most students do not submit as their own work done by others, or attempt to cheat on quizzes and exams, there are unfortunately some who do. The real victims in these cases are the honest students whose hard-earned grades are devalued. If you are unsure what is permitted in a given assignment, please ask the instructor or the teaching assistants. Students caught submitting work that is not their own, or attempting to cheat on a quiz or exam

will receive an "F" in the course. They will also be reported to the Harpur College Academic Honesty Committee for disciplinary action. More information on academic integrity and dishonesty can be found in the University bulletin at this link: https://www.binghamton.edu/bulletin/2022-23/academics/all-students/

LECTURE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Related textbook chapters
23 August	Introduction and course overview	
25 August	The emergence of the state	Introduction, chapters 1-2
30 August	Nationalism, democracy, and state power	Chapter 2
1 September	State formation and state failure since 1945	
6 September	No class (Monday classes meet instead)	
8 September	Explaining war	Chapters 1, 3
13 September	War as a bargaining process	Chapter 3
15 September	No class (American Political Science Association annual meeting)	
20 September	The realist tradition	Chapter 1, 3
22 September	The liberal tradition	Chapters 1
27 September	No class (University holiday)	
29 September	Explaining World War I	Chapters 3, 4
4 October	State behavior and foreign policy I	Chapter 4
6 October	State behavior and foreign policy II	Chapter 4
11 October	Evaluating historical evidence on foreign policy choices	
13 October	Social science and world politics	
18 October	Midterm exam	
20 October	No class (University holiday)	
25 October	Terrorism	Chapter 6
27 October	Globalization and trade	Chapter 7
1 November	Globalization and money	Chapters 8-9
3 November	No class (Peace Science Society annual meeting)	
8 November	Inequality and development	Chapter 10
10 November	Globalization and development	Chapter 10
15 November	International law, institutions, and regimes I	Chapter 11
17 November	International law, institutions, and regimes II	Chapters 11-12
22 November	Regulating international conflict	Chapter 5
24 November	No class (University holiday)	
29 November	Empires and imperialism	
1 December	Empires and imperialism	
6 December	Power, influence, and world order	Chapter 14
8 December	U.S. hegemony and the future of world order	Chapter 14

DISCUSSION SECTION SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READING

Due to university holidays, not every section will meet every week. Note that sections for the weeks of September 26-30 and October 3-7 have been consolidated.

Week of August 22-25: No section meetings

Week of August 29-September 2: Introduction
Frieden, Lake, and Schultz textbook (FLS), chapter 1-2

Week of September 5-9: State failure in the modern world
Fragile States Index website

Week of September 12-16: The Bargaining model and the war in Ukraine
FLS, chapter 3
Find information on Russia's goals in the war in Ukraine; you can use any information source you like but be prepared to explain your choice

Week of September 19-23: Realism, power, and morality
Kaplan and Chotiner articles

Week of September 26-30: Should we prefer a friendly dictator or a hostile democracy?
Only Wednesday and Thursday sections meet
FLS, chapter 4, especially pp. 188-9 for discussion

Week of October 3-7: Should we prefer a friendly dictator or a hostile democracy?
Only Monday sections meet
FLS, chapter 4, especially pp. 188-9 for discussion

Week of October 10-14: Review for midterm exam

Week of October 17-21: No section meetings

Week of October 24-29: Terrorism
FLS, chapter 6
Mueller and Stewart article

Week of October 31-November 4: International trade
FLS, chapter 7, especially pp. 352-3.
China Shock website

Week of November 7-11: Development and Inequality
FLS, chapter 10
Sachs and Easterly debate

Week of November 14-18: International law and institutions
FLS chapter 11, especially pp. 502-3 for discussion
Saul blog post

Week of November 21-25: No section meetings

Week of November 28-December 2: Dilemmas of intervention
FLS, chapter 12, esp. pp. 532-3 on economic sanctions for human rights
Two Mallaby articles

Week of December 5-9: The Liberal International Order and American Foreign Policy
Staniland, Schake, and Simpson articles