

INTRODUCTION TO WORLD POLITICS

PLSC 117

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 10:05-11:30

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday,
1-2:30 and by appointment.

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This course is an introduction to the study of world politics. In the sense it will be used in this course, "world politics" refers primarily to relations between states and non-state actors across international borders. We will examine key issues such as nationalism, war, foreign policy making, and the politics of international economic relations. We will also consider social-scientific methods through which these issues can be studied. This course can offer only an introduction to these questions rather than a comprehensive treatment. All 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 subsequent classes, as well as providing a general background on the subject for students who select other majors.

This course fills two general education requirements: social science (N) and global interdependencies (G). In compliance with university requirements, I am listing 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.

COURSE MATERIALS

The reading for this class will be drawn from four sources. First, the class will use *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, by Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, as our primary textbook. The chapter references below are for the second edition, but they are identical to the first edition except as noted. Second, we will be reading two other books during the semester. They are Mark Mazzetti's *The Way of the Knife* and Paul Collier's *The Bottom Billion*. They will be discussed in

sections during the weeks indicated in the schedule below. You may buy these books new or used, in electronic or paper format, and from the campus bookstore or a different source. From the standpoint of the course, it matters only that you find a way to read the assigned material.

Third, several articles will be available through the Blackboard page for this course. Full citations for these articles are as follows:

- Bull, Hedley. 1966. "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach." *World Politics* 18 (3): 361-77.
- Gerner, Deborah J., and Omur Yilmaz. "A Question of Sovereignty: Bahrain, Qatar, and the International Court of Justice." Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Case Study 275.
- Luttwak, Edward N. 1999. "Give War a Chance." *Foreign Affairs* 78(4): 36-44
- Malaby, Sebastian. 2002. "The Reluctant Imperialist." *Foreign Affairs* 81 (2): 2.
- Malaby, Sebastian. 2004. "Liberal Imperialism, R.I.P." www.foreignaffairs.org, June 30, 2004.
- Power, Samantha. 2002. *A Problem from Hell*. New York: HarperCollins. Chapter 10.
- Scheve, Kenneth F., and Matthew J. Slaughter. 2007. "A New Deal for Globalization." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007.
- Singer, J. David. 1969. "The Incomplete Theorist: Insight without Evidence" in James N. Rosenau and Klaus Knorr, eds. *Contending Approaches to International Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 62-86.
- Thucydides. ca. 411 BCE. "The Melian Dialogue" from *The Peloponnesian War*. Translated by Richard Crawley.
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-76.

Finally, in addition to the reading, class discussions will include a documentary from the PBS series "Frontline," and the movie "The Godfather." The "Frontline" episode can be viewed online for free at the PBS website. Links to them are available in the Blackboard page for this class. You will need to buy or rent "The Godfather." It is widely available, so this should not be difficult.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Section attendance and participation (10%). The section meetings are an important part of the course, and attendance is mandatory. You should complete the reading assignment before the section meeting, and arrive prepared to discuss it. If you miss more than two section meetings for any reason, you will receive a "0" for this part of your course grade. Note that there are no section meetings during the weeks of September 21-27 and November 23-29, when there are university holidays for most of the week.

2. Reaction papers for discussion section meeting (15% total). Before three of the discussion section meetings, you should write a short essay responding to the material assigned for that meeting. These essays should be 3-5 typewritten pages in length, and may comment on any aspect of the reading that you think is important. You may write about the reading for any three section meetings you like, but it is your responsibility to make sure you have completed three by the end of the semester. Because the purpose of this assignment is to help you prepare for the discussion, no late papers will be accepted, and you may not submit a paper unless you attend the section meeting. In addition to giving a printed copy of the reaction paper to your teaching assistant on the day of the class discussion, each paper must also be submitted in electronic form to turnitin.com.

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 is probably something few of you have done before, and it will be discussed in great detail during the semester. A long explanation is posted in the Blackboard page. 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 on the last day of classes, December 12th. This paper must also be submitted electronically to turnitin.com by 5:00 on that day. Papers submitted after the due date will be penalized one letter grade for each day it is late.

4. Geography quizzes (10% total). 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 the Blackboard site, 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. However, your lowest quiz grade, including the zero you might receive for missing one, will be dropped.

5. Mid-term examination (20%). This exam will be given in class on October 23rd. 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 that will be included on it.

6. Final Exam (25%). This exam will be given on December 17th. It is scheduled for 5:40-7:40 in LH001, our usual room. The exam will cover all reading and lectures for the entire semester, including material that was on the mid-term.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

1. Lectures will begin on time at 10:05. 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.

2. Note the rules governing the late submission of each writing assignment. Late reaction papers will not be accepted. Late hypothesis testing papers will be severely penalized. It is your responsibility to make sure that either your teaching assistant or I receive all these assignments on time. Excuses, including those involving computer problems, will not be accepted.

3. 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. You will receive a letter grade on the papers you submit. These correspond to numeric grades as follows: A = 100; A- = 93; B+ = 89; B = 85; B- = 82; C+ = 79; C = 75; C- = 72; D = 67; F = 50. You will receive a numeric grade on the exam and the quizzes.

4. Grade appeals must be made in writing. If you are unsatisfied with the grade you received on an assignment, you may write a memorandum explaining your concerns and requesting that your grade be changed. You should submit it to me or to your teaching assistant along with the graded assignment itself. 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.

5. 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 of these few people are their honest fellow 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 handed over to the administration for disciplinary action. I will urge that the harshest possible penalties be imposed, including suspension or expulsion from the university.

6. Turnitin.com. As is noted in the description of each assignment, all written assignments that you complete outside of class must be submitted to turnitin.com, the plagiarism detection service to which the university subscribes. The Blackboard page has links you can use for this purpose. Make sure you use the one associated with the assignment you are submitting. You will not receive credit for any written assignment you do not submit to this service in a timely manner. Your teaching assistants will be able to help you with your submission if you have trouble with the website.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	LECTURE/DISCUSSION SECTION TOPIC	READINGS
Week of August 30- September 6	No assigned reason for first week's section meetings	
September 2	Introduction and course overview	Frieden, Lake and Schultz (FLS), introduction
September 4	The evolution of the state	FLS, chapters 1-2
Week of September 7-13	Discussion sections: The origins of the state as an institution	Olson article
September 9	Nationalism, democracy, and state power	
September 11	State formation and state failure in the contemporary world	
Week of September 14- 20	Discussion sections: Failed states in the contemporary world	Fragile States Index from <i>Foreign Policy</i>
September 16	Explaining war	
September 18	War as a bargaining process	FLS, chapter 3
Week of September 21- 27	No discussion section meetings	
September 23	No class	
September 25	No class	
Week of September 28- October 4	Discussion sections: International crises and war: the case of Ukraine	5 newspaper articles on Ukraine crisis posted on Blackboard
September 30	The realist tradition	
October 2	The liberal tradition	
Week of October 5-11	Discussion sections: Realism, power, and morality	Thucydides, "Melian dialogue"; "The Godfather"
October 7	Explaining World War I	
October 9	State behavior and foreign policy I	FLS, chapter 4
Week of October 12-18	Discussion sections: Review for midterm exam	
October 14	State behavior and foreign policy II	
October 16	Terrorism	FLS, chapter 6 (in first edition, see Chapter 10, pp. 381-97).

Week of October 19-25	Discussion sections: Waging the "War on Terror"	Mazzetti, <i>The Way of the Knife</i> (entire book)
October 21	Evaluating historical evidence on foreign policy choice: the case of NSC 68	
October 23	Mid-term exam	
Week of October 26-November 1	Discussion sections: Testing generalizations about world politics	Bull article; Singer article
October 28	Social science and world politics	FLS, chapter 10
October 30	Globalization and Trade	FLS, chapter 7 (in first edition, chapter 6)
Week of November 2-8	Discussion sections: Globalization	Scheve and Slaughter article; Frontline, "Is Wal-Mart Good for America"
November 4	Globalization and Money	FLS, chapter 8-9 (in first edition, chapters 7-8)
November 6	Inequality and Development	FLS, chapter 10 (in first edition, chapter 9)
Week of November 9-15	Discussion sections: Aid and Development	Collier, <i>The Bottom Billion</i> (entire book)
November 11	Assessing the impact of globalization on development	
November 13	International law, institutions, and regimes I	FLS, chapter 11 (no counterpart in first edition)
Week of November 16-22	Discussion sections: Can international law be effective?	Gerner and Yilmaz article
November 18	International law, institutions, and regimes II	FLS, chapter 12-13 (in first edition, chapters 11-12)
November 20	Regulating international conflict	FLS, chapter 5
Week of November 23-29		
November 25	Power, influence, and world order	
November 27	No class	
Week of November 30-December 6	Discussion sections: The perils of peacekeeping	Luttwak article; 3 news articles on Blackboard, FLS, p. 209.
December 2	The "Old" Imperialism	
December 4	The "New" Imperialism	
Week of December 7-13	Discussion sections: The pros and cons of empire	Malaby articles; Power chapter
December 9	American Empire?	FLS, chapter 14 (in first edition, chapter 13)
December 11	Review session	