

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, international order, 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). 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.

COURSE MATERIALS

The reading for this class will be drawn from four sources. First, the class will use *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, third edition, by Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz, as our primary textbook. Second, we will be reading two other books during the semester. They are John Lewis Gaddis' *The Cold War: A New History*, and Alexander Betts and Paul Collier's *Refuge*. 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:

- Autor, David H. 2018. "Trade and labor markets: Lessons from China's rise." *IZA World of Labor*, February 2018.
- Bull, Hedley. 1966. "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach." *World Politics* 18 (3): 361-77.
- Easterly, William, and Jeffrey Sachs. 2006. "Foreign Aid Faceoff." *Los Angeles Times*, May 8 2006.
- Hitchens, Christopher. 2004. "Kissinger Declassified." *Vanity Fair*, December 2004.
- 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.
- Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-76.
- Power, Samantha. 2002. *A Problem from Hell*. New York: HarperCollins. Chapter 10.
- Schake, Kori. 2018. "The Trump Doctrine is Winning and the World is Losing." *New York Times*, 15 June 2018.
- Scheve, Kenneth F., and Matthew J. Slaughter. 2007. "A New Deal for Globalization." *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2007.
- 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.
- 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.
- Staniland, Paul. 2018. "Misreading the 'Liberal Order': Why We Need New Thinking in American Foreign Policy." *Lawfare Blog*, 29 July 2018.
- Treisman, Daniel. 2016. "Why Putin Took Crimea." *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2016.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Section attendance and participation (10%). The section meetings are an important part of the course. After the first week of classes (August 19-25), 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 Thanksgiving and Fall Break, when there are University holidays for much of the week. Section meetings for the weeks of September 2-8 and September 9-15 have been consolidated such that you will only have one section during those two weeks. Note the indicated dates on the schedule below.

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 long 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 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 last possible date, which is December 14th.

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

Important note: Due to holidays and other changes in the University schedule during the weeks of September 2-8 and September 9-15, I have consolidated section meetings for these two weeks. Each section will meet only once during this period meet as follows:

Monday sections: Meet Wednesday, September 5

Tuesday sections: Meet Tuesday, September 4

Wednesday sections: Meet Wednesday, September 12

Thursday sections: Meet Thursday, September 13

DATE	LECTURE/DISCUSSION SECTION TOPIC	READINGS
Week of August 19-25	No assigned reason for first week's section meetings	
August 23	Introduction and course overview	Frieden, Lake and Schultz (FLS), introduction
Week of August 26-September 1	Discussion sections: The origins of the state as an institution	Olson article
August 28	The evolution of the state	FLS, chapters 1-2
August 30	No lecture	
Week of September 2-8	Discussion sections: Failed states in the contemporary world	Fragile States Index from Fund for Peace
September 4	Nationalism, democracy, and state power	
September 6	State formation and state failure in the contemporary world	
Week of September 9-15	Discussion sections: Failed states in the contemporary world	Fragile States Index from Fund for Peace
September 11	No classes	
September 13	Explaining War	FLS, chapter 3
Week of September 16-22	Discussion sections: International crises and war: the invasion of Crimea	Treisman article and one other media source of your choice
September 18	War as a bargaining process	FLS, chapter 4
September 20	The Realist Tradition	

Week of September 23-29 September 25 September 27	Discussion sections: Realism, power, and morality The Liberal Tradition Explaining World War I	Kaplan and Hitchens articles FLS, chapter 5
Week of September 30-October 6 October 2 October 4	Discussion sections: The Cold War State behavior and foreign policy I State behavior and foreign policy II	Gaddis, <i>The Cold War</i>
Week of October 7-13 October 9 October 11	No discussion section meetings Terrorism No classes	FLS, chapter 6
Week of October 14-20 October 16 October 18	Discussion sections: Review for mid-term exam Evaluating historical evidence on foreign policy choice: the case of NSC 68 Social science and world politics	
Week of October 21-27 October 23 October 25	Discussion sections: Social science and world politics Midterm Exam Globalization and Trade	Bull and Singer articles FLS, chapter 7
Week of October 28-November 3 October 30 November 1	Discussion sections: Trade Globalization and Money Inequality and Development	Article by Autor and information on his "China Trade Shock" website FLS, chapters 8-9
Week of November 4-10 November 6 November 8	Discussion sections: Aid and Development The Impact of Globalization on Development No lecture	Easterly and Sachs article/debate FLS, chapter 10
Week of November 11-17 November 13 November 15	Discussion sections: Migration and Refugees International law, institutions, and regimes I International law, institutions, and regimes II	Betts and Collier, <i>Refuge</i> FLS, chapter 11 FLS, chapters 12-13
Week of November 18-24 November 20 November 22	No discussion section meetings Regulating International Conflict No classes	
Week of November 25-December 1 November 27 November 29	Discussion sections: Empire and humanitarian intervention Power, influence, and world order No lecture	Mallaby articles; Power book chapter
Week of December 2-8 December 9 December 11	Discussion sections: The pros and cons of empire Empires and Imperialism American Empire?	Schake, Staniland, and Simpson articles FLS, chapter 14