

PoliSci 160: Introduction to World Politics

Syllabus, Spring 2013

Lecture:

TuesWedThursFri from 12pm-2pm
2306 MH

Instructor: Amy Pond
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Office: 7750 Haven Hall

Office Hours:
Wed from 11am-12pm
Thurs from 2pm-3pm
or by appointment

Introduction

This course provides an introduction to the study of world politics, focusing on the critical examination of theories and concepts used to explain international events and the behavior of international actors. Throughout the semester we will rely on many principles of game theory and other types of modeling to define assumptions and ensure logical consistency in our statements. The primary focus of the course will be on how international and domestic politics interact to produce political and economic outcomes. We will focus on: international and civil war, human rights, trade, finance, monetary relations, foreign aid, international institutions and many other topics.

This course will require that students devote a significant amount of time, not only to the reading, but also to reflect on the topics covered. During lecture, we will discuss the reading and applications, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have. The more prepared you are, the more beneficial it will be to attend. It is of utmost importance that everyone feels comfortable speaking in class and that we are always respectful of each other. Students with concerns, challenges or special circumstances of any sort should let me know as soon as possible.

Assignments

The following assignments must be completed during the term.

30% Country Profile (Blog)
20% Assignments
20% Midterm
30% Final
100% Total

Country profile: On the second day of class, you will select a country to focus your blog on for the remainder of the term. Each week, you will submit a blog post applying that week's topic(s) to your chosen country - 25% - and each week you will provide at least one comment on another student's post - 5%. During the course of the semester, you will present and analyze the country's history, economic and political fundamentals, and prospects for future

cooperation on human rights, trade, etc. Whenever useful, you should include pictures or diagrams and link to other sites. You will present the findings of two blog posts during the course of the semester.

Assignments: 20% of your grade will come from other assignments, including in-class and take-home quizzes, worksheets, debates, etc. I expect that you come to class having read the material and that you are prepared to ask questions and to engage in discussion of the week's readings. If you have a medical or personal emergency and need to miss class, please provide written documentation of the emergency upon your return, and you will need to complete missed assignments. If you need to miss class for religious holidays or for extracurricular activities, these absences are excused, but you must inform me of the dates of your absence and make up any missed work.

Midterm and Final: The course includes a midterm and final examination, which are worth 20% and 30% of the final grade respectively. The midterm will be taken in class and the final will be scheduled during the exam period. They will be composed of short answer and essay questions.

Text

There is one textbook required for the course. It is Understanding World Politics by Professor James D. Morrow. I prefer that you purchase the second edition, but if you have an earlier edition, come see me and we can figure it out. This is a custom textbook for the University of Michigan, and it is available for purchase at the local bookstores. There is also a copy on reserve in the library.

Other assigned readings will be posted on the course c-tools page.

Grading and Grade Appeals

When grading, I try to provide comments that will be helpful to you. I am also available during office hours to explain my grading and comments (and answer any other questions you may have!). However, if, despite my best efforts, you feel as though your grade should be changed, you should initiate an appeal. The following rules apply.

If you do not agree with the grade you received on an assignment, wait 24 hours before discussing it with me. After 24 hours, re-submit the original assignment and a brief explanation detailing your specific concerns with the grade as it relates to the content of the assignment. The grievance must be submitted within one week of receiving your graded assignment. After submission, I will re-evaluate the grade.

Note: Late assignments will lose four percent for each day they are late; this corresponds to a little more than one-third of a letter grade (e.g. from a B to a B-). The only exceptions will be for an excused absence, in which case you must make personal arrangements with me.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I will follow University of Michigan procedures when there is sufficient evidence of plagiarism. For

details see <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/academicintegrity/index.html>.

Technology

No cell phones in class please. Computers are fine for word-processing applications, but if they become too distracting a similar policy may be adopted. Any distractions due to technology use during class will be considered when calculating attendance/participation points.

Week I: Course Introduction and Key Concepts

Tuesday, 5/7/13: Course Introduction and History

- Chapter 1, “What is World Politics?”
- Chapter 25, “Sovereignty: Why a System of Sovereign States?”
- OPTIONAL: Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. “Institutional Selection in International Relations: State Anarchy as Order.” *International Organization*. 48(4 Autumn): 527-557.

Wednesday, 5/8/13: Game Theory

- Chapter 2, “Actors in World Politics”
- Chapter 3, “Preferences: Specifying What Actors Want”

Thursday, 5/9/13: Threats

- Chapter 4, “The Logic of Threats and the Problem of Credibility”
- OPTIONAL: Blake, Charles H. and Noah Klemmb. 2006. “Reconsidering the Effectiveness of International Economic Sanctions: An Examination of Selection Bias.” *International Politics*. 43: 133-149. (pp. 133-143 is sufficient for this course)

Friday, 5/10/13: Promises

- Chapter 5, “The Logic of Promises and the Problem of Commitment”
- *Blog presentations; Topic: State Formation and Actors*

Week II: Coercion and Conflict

Tuesday, 5/14/13: Military Power

- Chapter 6, “Military Power: Its Sources and Limits”
- Blog I due by noon

Wednesday, 5/15/13: Perceptions & Persuasion

- Chapter 7, “Perceptions and How They Matter in Decisions”
- Chapter 8, “Persuasion and How Perceptions Change”

Thursday, 5/16/13: War and Bargaining

- Chapter 9, “War and the Problem of Bargaining”
- OPTIONAL: Fearon, James. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization*. 49(3 Summer): 379-414.

Friday, 5/17/13: Commitment Problems

- Chapter 10, “Commitment Problems and War”
- OPTIONAL: Walter, Barbara F. 1997. “The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement.” *International Organization*. 51(3 Summer): 335-364.
- Blog II due by noon; Topic: Power and Perceptions
- *Blog presentations*

Week III: International Conflict

Tuesday, 5/21/13: Alliances

- Chapter 12, “Arms and Alliances: The Elements of Security Policy”
- Walkom, Thomas. April 5, 2008. “NATO’s unending crisis of purpose.” *Toronto Star*. <http://bit.ly/11bCxQp>

Wednesday, 5/22/13: Structural Theories

- Chapter 13, “Structural Theories of War: Balance of Power and Power Transition”
- OPTIONAL: Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics.” *International Organization*. 51(4 Autumn): 513-553.
- OPTIONAL: Organski, A. F. K.. 1958. *World politics*. [1st ed.] New York: Knopf.
- OPTIONAL: Ruggie, John Gerard. 1998. “What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge.” 52(4 Autumn): 855-885.
- OPTIONAL: Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co..
- OPTIONAL: Wendt, Alexander. 1992. “Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics.” *International Organization*. 46(2 Sprint): 391-425.

Thursday, 5/23/13: Domestic Consequences of Conflict

- Chapter 14, “The Fate of Leaders: The Domestic Consequences of International Conflict”

Friday, 5/24/13: Democratic Peace

- Chapter 16, “The Democratic Peace”
- Friedman, Thomas. December 8, 1996. “Foreign Affairs Big Mac I.” *New York Times*. <http://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/08/opinion/foreign-affairs-big-mac-i.html>
- Blog III due by noon; Topic: Conflict: Information and Commitment Problems
- *Blog presentations*

Week IV: Domestic Consequences of Conflict

Tuesday, 5/28/13: Terrorism

- Chapter 17, “Terrorism”

Wednesday, 5/29/13: Bureaucratic Politics

- Chapter 11, “Bureaucratic Politics”

Thursday, 5/30/13: Regime Change

- Chapter 15, “The Enemy Outside: External Changes in Leaders and Regimes”
- Review Session

Friday, 5/31/13: MIDTERM EXAM

Week V: Challenges to Cooperation

Tuesday, 6/4/13: Enforcement

- Chapter 18, “International Cooperation and the Problem of Enforcement”

Wednesday, 6/5/13: Distribution and Information

- Chapter 19, “The Problems of Cooperation: Distribution and Information”

Thursday, 6/6/13: Trade

- Chapter 20, “The Politics of Trade”
- Blustein, Paul. 2010. “R.I.P., WTO.” *Foreign Policy* 177 (Jan/Feb): pp. 65-66
<http://atfp.co/6HMGlC>.
- *BBC News*. 2012. “Profile: World Trade Organization.” <http://bbc.in/czHZiN>

Friday, 6/7/13: Finance

- Jensen, Nathan. 2003. “Democratic Governance and Multinational Corporations: The Political Economy of Foreign Direct Investment.” *International Organization*. 57 (3 Summer).
- Hiscox, Michael J. 2010. “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies.” In Global Political Economy, third edition, John Ravenhill (ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Blog IV due by noon; Topic: Cooperation Problem
- *Blog presentations*

Week VI: International Political Economy

Tuesday, 6/11/13: Monetary Policy

- Chapter 21: “The Politics of Monetary Affairs”

Wednesday, 6/12/13: Globalization

- Chapter 22: “Globalization: The Politics of Trade, Money, and Finance in the Global Economy”
- Simmons, Beth and Zachary Elkins. 2004 “The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy.” *American Political Science Review*. 98: pp. 171-90.

Thursday, 6/13/13: Crisis and IMF

- BBC News. 2012. “Profile: IMF and World Bank.”
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/3670465.stm.
- Stone, Randall. 2004. “The Political Economy of IMF Lending in Africa.” *American Political Science Review*. 98 (November): pp. 577-591.
- Vreeland, James R. 2003. “Why Do Governments and the IMF Enter into Agreements? Statistically Selected Cases.” *International Political Science Review*. 24(3): pp. 321-343.

Friday, 6/14/13: Development and Foreign Aid

- López Castellano, Fernando and Fernando Garcá-Quero. 2012. "Institutional Approaches to Economic Development: The Current Status of the Debate." *Journal of Economic Issues*. 46(4): pp. 921-940.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Smith, Alastair. 2007. "Foreign Aid and Policy Concessions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 51(2): pp. 251-284.
- Blog V due by noon; Topic: Political Economy
- *Blog presentations*

Week VII: International Challenges

Tuesday, 6/18/13: Environmental Issues

- Chapter 23: "Cooperation on International Environmental Issues"

Wednesday, 6/19/13: Human Rights

- Chapter 24: "International Law and Norms: Humanitarian Law and Human Rights"
- Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. 2008. "Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem," *International Organization*. 62: pp. 689-699 and 707-713.

Thursday, 6/20/13: Migration

- Mirilovic, Nikola. 2010. "The Politics of Immigration Dictatorship, Development, and Defense." *Comparative Politics*. April: pp. 273-292.
- Peters, Margaret E. 2013. "Trade, Foreign Direct Investment and Immigration Policy Making in the US." Working Paper.

Friday, 6/21/13: Wrapping Up & Review Session

- Chapter 25: "Conclusion"
- Blog VI due by noon; Topic: International Cooperation
- *Blog presentations*

Tuesday, 6/25/13: FINAL EXAM

- 8:00 am - 10:00 am
- 2306 Mason Hall (unless otherwise announced)

Additional Resources

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): <http://www.umich.edu/~caps/>
- English Language Institute: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/eli/>
- International Center: <http://www.internationalcenter.umich.edu>
- Religious Holidays and Academic Conflicts:
http://www.provost.umich.edu/calendar/religious_holidays.html
- Services for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.umich.edu/~sswd/>
- Sweetland Writing Center: <http://www.lsa.umich.edu/sweetland/>