

INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

GOVERNMENT 5

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 12:30 to 1:35 PM (*X* hour Tuesday 1:00 to 1:50 PM)

Fall term, 2013

Instructor: Jason Sorens

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Thursdays, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to international politics, the study of relations between governments and politics at the global level. This is the foundation course in international relations at Dartmouth, providing a survey introduction to foreign policy, security studies, international political economy, and international organization. In this course we will learn how scholars are developing scientific explanations of phenomena such as interstate war, civil war, alliances, economic globalization, regional economic, environmental, and human rights organizations, UN peacekeeping successes and failures, and transnational non-governmental organization (NGO) influence.

The central learning objectives in this course are as follows:

- To understand what does and does not constitute a scientific explanation in the field of international politics;
- To be familiar with the most important theories and debates in international politics;
- To be able to evaluate the logical coherence of theories and arguments in international politics;
- To understand why scholars use certain types of evidence to test hypotheses in international politics.

Course Requirements

Readings

All readings listed on the syllabus are required. You must do *all* the reading for a particular class meeting before that class.

Most of the reading comes from our textbook, but there will also be some supplemental readings posted to Blackboard. The textbook is available at the bookstore and at many fine online vendors:

- Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, & Kenneth A. Schultz. 2012. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (2nd ed.). New York: W. W. Norton.

Remember to bring to class all the readings assigned for a particular day. That means that you will need to print out Blackboard readings.

Assignments

Class will combine lectures and group-based discussion, and attendance is required. Your grade is based on your performance on the following assignments.

Homework Assignments

The class will be divided into an even number of teams, with the number of teams to be determined by enrollment. Homework questions will be assigned on a once-weekly basis to each team. Each team will prepare answers to the homework questions on the team's discussion forum on Blackboard, which I will monitor. Teams are encouraged to divide questions among team members. They should bring their answers to class for discussion but should *not* turn these answers in to me. For grading purposes, I will evaluate each team member's *individual* contribution to the online discussion. Your participation grade in your team's forum accounts for 25% of your final course grade.

Midterm Examination

There will be an in-class, essay midterm on **Wednesday October 16**. The purpose of the midterm is to allow you the opportunity to organize and present what you have learned on the material covered in class to that point. Your midterm grade accounts for 20% of your final course grade.

Team Debates

At the end of the semester, there will be in-class team debates on assigned topics. Again, team participants will be graded individually. The basis of your grade is your level of preparation for your presentation. Students should also turn in a 1000-word (roughly two pages) summary of what they intend to say in the debate. Your debate grade accounts for 15% of your final course grade.

Final Exam

There will be a take-home final essay exam, due **Tuesday November 26** at 4 PM (the final day of final exams). The take-home exam will allow you some scope for critical reflection on what you have learned throughout the semester. The final exam will be cumulative but weighted toward the post-midterm half of the course. It will consist of three short essays, each of which should be around three or four pages in length. The final exam accounts for the remaining 40% of your grade.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. Explaining International Politics

Monday September 16: Frieden et al., Introduction.

Wednesday September 18: No reading.

2. Theoretical Tools

Friday September 20: Frieden et al., pages 38-61.

Monday September 23: Frieden et al., pages 62-79.

Wednesday September 25: Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, & Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 55 (4): 761-799. **Only pages 761-763, 770-780.**

3. Bargaining and War

Friday September 27: Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414. **Only pages 379-380, 386-389, 401, 405-408.**

Monday September 30: Frieden et al., pages 80-104.

Wednesday October 2: Frieden et al., pages 105-123.

4. Civil War and Terrorism

Friday October 4: Frieden et al., pages 214-241.

Monday October 7: Frieden et al., pages 242-263.

5. Domestic Politics of War and Peace

Wednesday October 9: Frieden et al., pages 124-142.

Friday October 11: Frieden et al., pages 154-167.

6. Alliances and Peacekeeping

Monday October 14: Frieden et al., pages 168-187.

Wednesday October 16: midterm

Friday October 18: Frieden et al., pages 188-213.

7. International Trade Politics

Monday October 21: Frieden et al., pages 306-311.

Wednesday October 23: Frieden et al., pages 264-275.

Friday October 25: Frieden et al., pages 276-305.

8. International Financial Relations

Monday October 28: Frieden et al., pages 312-336.

Wednesday October 30: Frieden et al., pages 337-349.

9. International Monetary Relations

Friday November 1: Frieden et al., pages 350-363.

Monday November 4: Frieden et al., pages 364-385.

10. The Role of International Relations in Development

Wednesday November 6: Frieden et al., pages 400-417.

11. International Human Rights Politics

Friday November 8: Frieden et al., pages 452-463.

Monday November 11: Frieden et al., pages 468-482.

12. International Environmental Politics

Wednesday November 13: Frieden et al., pages 492-499, 505-508, 522-525.

13. Student Debates

November 15 & 18 (*final exams handed out*)