

PLIR 1010: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Introduction

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AGENDA

- Introductions
- Seminar Policies
- Daily Seminar Agenda
- Questions?

ABOUT ME

- **Third Year PhD Politics Student (Quant Methods, Political Economy)**
- **Former tax lawyer from Canada!**
- **Researching Optimization, Computational Statistics, Taxation, Public Finance, Migration**
- **Experience TAing Statistics, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Finance**
- **I try to meet students where they are and help them progress from there**

INTRODUCTIONS

- **Name**
- **Major (or intended major)**
- **Interest in the Course (if any!)**

CLASS POLICIES

- **Attendance (and participation) is mandatory, let me know if you cannot attend and why.**
 - **You must sign in every day you attend.**
 - **Your first two misses won't impact your participation grade.**
- **Lab attendance is even more important. Excusing this absence requires me to organize a makeup over that weekend.**
- **If you email me, I will respond within 24 hours, and potentially on weekends (but not guaranteed).**
- **Office Hours: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Fridays in S195 Gibson**
- **Zoom appointment on request only if Fridays are infeasible**

CLASS POLICIES

- Please be kind to one another! University is made for testing thoughts and ideas, and being receptive to other points of view.
- John Stuart Mill: Multiple opinions, even false ones, must be aired so the partial truths within them can be better understood or preserved.
- I will be respectful and responsive to your opinions.
- Political Science is based on positive, not normative, statements.
 - Normative = Putin is a bad person and violent dictator.
 - Positive = Putin represses dissent, influences elections, etc.

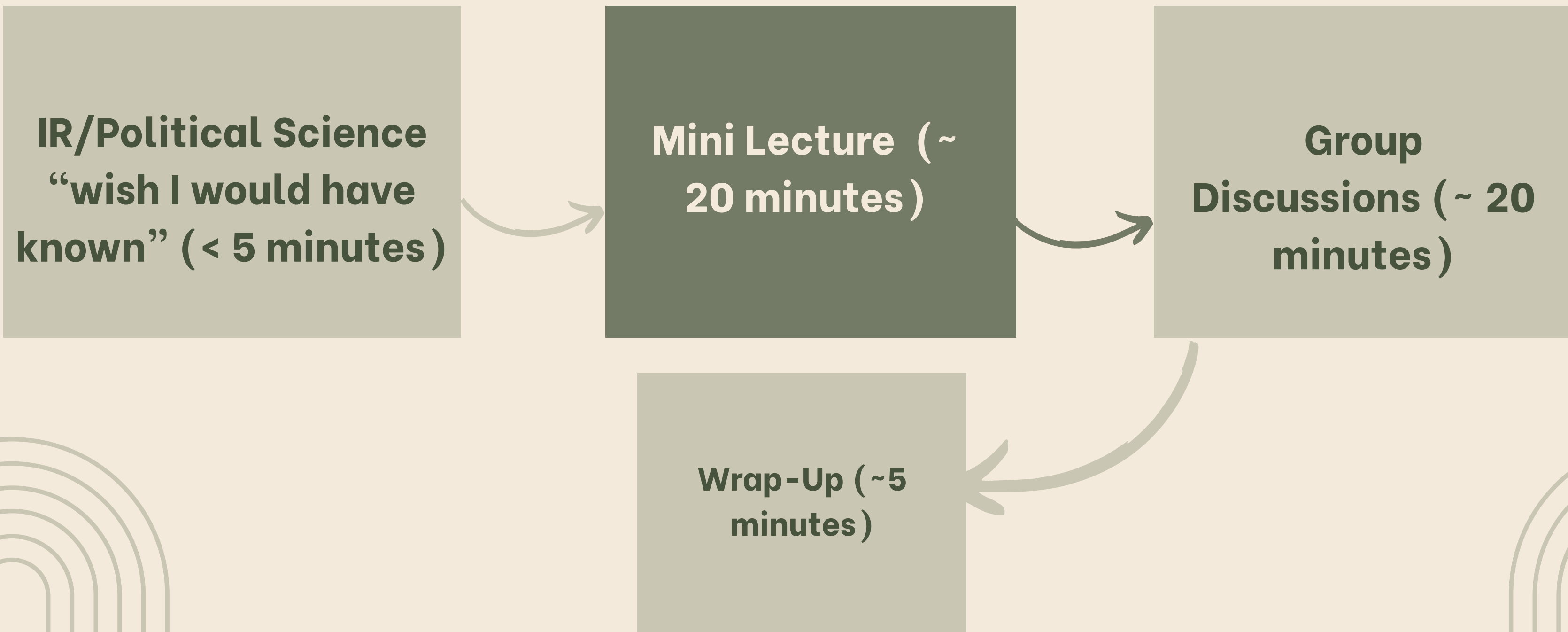
A NOTE ON PARTICIPATION

- **Some people are more comfortable contributing to full class group discussions, others are not. This is fine!**
- **There are other ways to participate:**
 - **Sometimes the most important insights come from short questions rather than longer debates or hot takes.**
 - **But the most important alternative is contributing in small groups. You can still receive strong participation with this approach.**
 - **Attending office hours to ask questions about the readings is also an option but insufficient on its own.**



CLASS STRUCTURE (NO LAB DAYS)

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MY TWO CENTS (Q&A)

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1. **Should I go to M/W lecture?**
 - a. **Yes, you should prioritize it. Having a Professor distill these IR concepts for you is a gift.**
2. **How much time should I allocate for this course?**
 - a. **General rule: About 10 hours per week that includes lecture, seminar, reading, and assignments. This may vary based on your familiarity with political science, your other course load, and how quickly you read.**
3. **Should I go to office hours?**
 - a. **That depends. Office hours are valuable if you do the readings and want to build on that knowledge. If you have any questions that need more back-and-forth discussion than email allows, office hours are good for that too. Office hours are also important if you find the course is overwhelming you and you need direction on what concepts/readings to focus on.**
4. **What if I haven't done the reading for a particular day?**
 - a. **Still come to seminar. You'll learn from discussion and can contribute questions. Just don't let it become a habit.**
5. **How should I approach the readings?**
 - a. **Focus on main arguments rather than every detail. Take notes on key concepts and questions that arise.**
6. **What makes for good seminar participation?**
 - a. **Thoughtful questions, building on others' comments, and bringing readings into discussion. Quality over quantity.**
7. **I don't like your seminar. Should I tell you?**
 - a. **YES. Absolutely tell me if I could be doing better. It's my job to make sure you learn to love (or tolerate) IR. I'll set up an anonymous discussion board and then show you how to use it properly next class. You should weigh the pros and cons of conversing at office hours, over email, or on the anonymous discussion board.**

WAYS TO GET ACADEMIC HELP

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1. **Ask me during the seminar, office hours, or over email.**
2. **Attend Professor Furia's office hours**
3. **Start a study group**
4. **Look for book reviews online or academic reviews on Google Scholar (take advantage of your UVA access)**

Tip: Do not wait until your work becomes overwhelming, your instructors are here to help you.

QUESTIONS?

