

Political Science 117: Introduction to World Politics

Summer Session 2017 Binghamton University Instructor: Jeremy Berkowitz

Office: LNG 77 E-mail Address: jberkow5@binghamton.edu

Course Description

Politics does not stop at the water's edge, and understanding the issues surrounding international political events is vital to fully comprehending how these events shape our daily lives. This online course is intended to provide students with an introduction to both the history and concepts of world politics, as well as how political scientists think about and explain problems relating to international relations. Over the course of the next five weeks, we will examine key issues relating to world politics, such as foreign policy making, war, international economic relations, and violence by non-state actors. By the end of the class, students are expected to be able to demonstrate an introductory level of knowledge on terminology and theoretical concepts relating to these topics, which will prepare you for advanced courses in more specialized topics within this field.

Assignments

The principal book for this course is available at the University bookstore in both physical and electronic forms. I encourage students to consider the digital version, as it will be substantially less expensive than the paper copy.

Frieden, Jeffery, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz. 2015. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions*, Third Edition. New York, NY: W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-93809-8

Additional readings will be posted by Noon (EDT) on Monday the week before we will be discussing them. You will also be able to find these readings through the [library.binghamton.edu](http://library.binghamton.edu/journals) journals tab. You are required to complete all readings, and a thorough understanding of these readings will be required for participation credit, crafting appropriate response papers, and earning acceptable grades on quizzes and tests.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class, you will be expected to be able to:

1. Discuss events and theories connected to World Politics with fellow students.
2. Demonstrate your understanding of World Politics through formal assessments.
3. Critically respond to specific works through writing and discussion.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be evaluated based on the quality of your participation in daily class discussion via the Mycourses website, as well as your ability to write both response papers and to perform in formal assessments such as short quizzes and a longer final exam.

If you have not utilized Mycourses (previously referred to as Blackboard) in a previous class, please complete the BONLINE online orientation, found in the Mycourses organizations section. You are encouraged to have a reasonable familiarity with current events, as they may be relevant in discussion forums and will assist you in formal assignments, but it is not required. You will be required to have access to the internet and mycourses.binghamton.edu on a daily basis, as well as the ability to write

digital papers and upload them to Blackboard in Microsoft Word or PDF format. You are strongly encouraged to review Binghamton University's academic standards if you are not familiar with them. You are encouraged to communicate with me through e-mail if you have questions regarding course material and requirements. If it is of paramount importance to meet face-to-face, you can schedule through e-mail an in-person meeting with me at Binghamton University or a Skype conversation.

Grading

The percentage breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Final Grade Breakdown (out of 100 percent):

- 1) Mycourses Discussion: 20 percent of final grade.
- 2) 3-4 page Response Papers (2): 15 percent of final grade each, for 30 percent of final grade total.
- 3) Weekly Quizzes (4): 5 percent of final grade each, for 20 percent of final grade total.
- 4) Final Exam: 30 percent of final grade

Percentage Total: $20\%+30\%+20\%+30\% = 100$ percent

Note: All elements of this class must be completed in order to receive a final grade higher than an F in this course.

Letter Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 93 and above	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	F = 59.9 and below
A- = 90-92.9	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	
B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77 – 79.9	D = 60-69.9	

Course Components

1) Mycourses Discussion

You will be required to participate in class discussions via Mycourses on a Monday through Thursday basis. These discussions will be in separate discussion threads for each day of class, and will respond to a prompt consisting of questions and comments I have written on the day's readings. You will be required to participate in **Three out of Four days** each week to receive full participation credit for that week. To qualify as a participant, you must contribute to discussion by **either posting one comment and responding to one comment OR responding to three comments**. Comments and responses are expected to demonstrate you have read and substantively contribute to the class, or full credit will not be given. Your posts are also expected to be professional in language/content and utilize correct grammar/spelling. At the beginning of each week, I will write you a private e-mail commenting upon your performance in discussion during the previous week, and offer comments/advice on your status in the class.

Please Note: Due to the often-times sensitive content of a class on international politics, I strongly encourage students to be aware of each other's personal experiences and opinions on the subject, and either inform the discussion or send me a private message if at any time you feel uncomfortable with the direction of the discussion. Any statements or actions that occur in discussion that violate the Student Conduct Code will result in the appropriate response from myself and the University.

2) Response Papers

You will be required to turn in a total of two (2) three to four page papers (at least 11 point font, double-spaced) over the course of the class in response to the readings assigned that week. I recommend that you focus on responding to the readings assigned for a specific day, but I expect your responses to show awareness of the various topics covered throughout the week and earlier in the class.

As you will see in the Assignments section, there are four possible response papers you are able to complete, due at Midnight each Friday for the second through fifth weeks of class. **You are required to turn these papers in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** These papers *are not* exclusively summaries of the articles or descriptions of the arguments, but should instead provide at least some analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments. I will return comments on these papers via private e-mail Monday of the next week.

Please Note: You are expected to adhere to Binghamton University's academic standards when writing your response papers. This includes Academic Honesty (see below) as well as proper citation and bibliography. I do not require students to conform to a specific citation style, but I expect your style to be consistent and comprehensive.

3) Weekly Quizzes

You will be required to complete four (4) quizzes on Mycourses over the course of the class. Each quiz will be posted Thursday evening during first four weeks of classes, and you will be required to complete the quiz before Midnight the following Friday. These quizzes will include both multiple choice and short answer questions, and will require you to demonstrate your knowledge and comprehension of the readings of the previous week. The time allotted for each quiz is one (1) hour, and they can be completed with the aid of notes and readings you have taken over the course of the previous week.

Please Note: Although these assignments are open book, due to the inherent logistical difficulties of monitoring online test-takers for supplementary materials, there will be efforts taken to prevent collusion between students. Any students directly assisting each other in completing these assignments will be in violation of Binghamton University's Rules of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy (see below).

4) Final Exam

You will be required to complete one (1) Final Exam during the last week of class. The Final Exam will be posted Midnight Wednesday during the fifth week of class, and you will be required to complete the exam before Midnight the following Friday. The exam will include multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as a longer essay question. The exam will require you to demonstrate your knowledge and comprehension of the readings over the last five weeks, as well as your analytical abilities. The time allotted for the Final Exam is three (3) hours, and it can be completed with the aid of notes and readings you have taken over the course of the class.

Please Note: Although this exam is open book, due to the inherent logistical difficulties of monitoring online test-takers for supplementary materials, there will be efforts taken to prevent collusion between students. Any students directly assisting each other in completing this assignment will be in violation of Binghamton University's Rules of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy (see below).

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity and will be held to the code of conduct established in the Binghamton University Rules of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy. Ignorance of the relevant rules pertaining to academic honesty is not a justifiable excuse. If you have not, please review these rules through Binghamton.edu if you have any questions, and complete the library's tutorial on Academic Honesty that is available through the Library tab on your Blackboard home page.

Disability Related Equal Access Accommodation Statement

Students wishing to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 to schedule an appointment with the Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in UU – 119.

Assignments

Week 1: The State and War

Day 1 (July 5th): FLS Introduction and Chapter 1 (What Shaped our World? Historical Introduction)

Day 2 (July 6th): FLS Chapter 2 (Understanding Interests, Interactions, Institutions) and Special Topic (A Primer on Game Theory)

Day 3 (July 7th): FLS Chapter 3 (Why are there Wars?) and **Quiz**

Week 2: Foreign Policy and Terrorism

Day 1 (July 10th): FLS Chapter 4 (Domestic Policies and War) **Add/Drop Deadline**

Day 2 (July 11th): FLS Chapter 5 (International Institutions and War)

Day 3 (July 12th): FLS Chapter 6 (Civil War and Terrorism)

Day 4 (July 13th): Byman, Daniel and Sarah Kreps. 2010. "Agents of Destruction? Applying Principal-Agent Analysis to State-Sponsored Terrorism." *International Studies Perspectives* Vol. 11: 1-18.

Day 5 (July 14th): **Quiz and Response Paper Option #1 Due Midnight**

Week 3: Globalization and Economics

Day 1 (July 17th): FLS Chapter 7 (International Trade) and Special Topic (Comparative Advantage and the Political Economy of Trade)

Day 2 (July 18th): FLS Chapter 8 (International Financial Relations)

Day 3 (July 19th): FLS Chapter 9 (International Monetary Relations)

Day 4 (July 20th): Krasner, Stephen. 1976. State Power and the Structure of International Trade. *World Politics* 28(3):317-347. **Withdrawal Deadline**

Day 5 (July 21st): **Quiz and Response Paper Option #2 Due Midnight**

Week 4: Law and Institutions

Day 1 (July 24th): FLS Chapter 10 (Development)

Day 2 (July 25th): Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-76.

Day 3 (July 26th): FLS Chapter 11 (International Laws and Norms)

Day 4 (July 27th): Fariss, C. 2010. "The Strategic Substitution of United States Foreign Aid." *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Vol. 6 (2):107-131.

Day 5 (July 28th): **Quiz and Response Paper Option #3 Due Midnight**

Week 5: World Politics in the 21st Century

Day 1 (July 31st): FLS Chapter 12 (Human Rights)

Day 2 (August 1st): FLS Chapters 13 (The Global Environment); Special Topic (The Science of Ozone Depletion)

Day 3 (August 2nd): Deibert, Ronald, Rafal Rohozinski, and Masashi Crete-Nishihata. 2012. "Cyclones in Cyberspace: Information Shaping and Denial in the 2008 Russia-Georgia War." *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 43 (1): 3-24.

Day 4 (August 3rd): FLS Chapter 14 (The Future of International Politics)

Day 5: (August 4th): **Quiz and Response Paper Option #4 Due Midnight**

August 5th: **Final Exam Posted**

August 8th: **Final Exam Due Midnight**