

POL 101 WORLD POLITICS
SPRING 2010
Location: Humanities 1003
Time: Monday & Wednesday, 6:55-8:20pm

Instructor: Martijn Schoonvelde Email: martijn.schoonvelde@stonybrook.edu
Office: SBS S-737 Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm
Course website: <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu/>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of international politics. No prior background in international relations is assumed. Students will acquire the analytic tools necessary to understand and explain a variety of international phenomena including war, trade, foreign policy, globalization, human rights and environmental issues. Along with preparing students for upper-division coursework in political science, a key goal of this course is building analytic and critical thinking skills.

READINGS

- Frieden, J.A., Lake, D.A. & Schultz, K.A. (2009). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/World-Politics/>).
- For a number of topics, articles relevant to class discussion will be posted on Blackboard prior to the pertinent lecture. Their content will be fair game for exams.

WEB RESOURCES

- It is important that you follow the international news on a day-to-day basis. Examples of excellent resources are:
 - New York Times: *nytimes.com*
 - BBC News: *news.bbc.co.uk*
 - CNN: *cnn.com*
 - The Economist: *economist.com*

LECTURES

- Lecture slides will be made available before class on Blackboard. The lectures will add to what is discussed in the book. In addition, we will discuss important recent papers in international relations so it is important that you come to class prepared.
- Throughout the semester I will schedule a number of guest lectures from people who work in the field of international relations. These people may be present in person but it is also possible that we will talk to them online using Skype. I will announce these guest lectures in time and adjust our class schedule accordingly.

GRADING

- **Exams:** There will be **three** exams covering material from the lectures, discussions, and the textbook. All exams are **multiple choice** and **non-cumulative**. This means that no exam will contain material covered by the one before it. **Make-up exams** will be allowed only with a documented excuse (e.g., a Doctor's note explaining why you were too ill to take the exam). However, you **must** let me know if you will miss an exam **before** it is given. If you cannot reach me in my office before the test, leave me a message (martijn.schoonvelde@stonybrook.edu). To prevent you from lagging behind, I will schedule make-up exams within seven days after the missed exam.

- **Extra Credit I (Participation in Research):** depending on the needs of the political science department, extra credit opportunities may be offered. Each extra credit opportunity would be worth one additional point of the final grade.
- **Extra Credit II (Essay Assignments):** Throughout the semester, you will have **five** opportunities to reflect upon a topic we discussed in class and turn your thoughts into a short (e.g., one to two pages, double-spaced) essay that contains (support for) an argument. Individual essays that contain genuine thoughts and work are each awarded one additional point of the final grade. I encourage you to cooperate on these essays but make sure that the work you hand in is your own. **Essays have to be emailed to me, and are due before the start of the next class. Late essay will not be considered for extra credit.**

All tests will be graded on a 0-100 scale and **grades will not be curved:**

A	100-94	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67	F	60-0
A-	93-90	B	86-84	C	76-74	D	66-64		
		B-	83-80	C-	73-70	D-	63-60		

Grades will be based on the three exams:

First Exam:	30 %
Second Exam:	30 %
Final Exam:	40 %

CLASS SCHEDULE

Theoretical Foundations

Week 1	August 30:	Course introduction and overview
	September 1:	Historical background [FLS, chapter 1]
Week 2	September 6:	Labor Day: NO CLASS
	September 8:	Rosh Hashanah: NO CLASS
Week 3	September 13:	Thinking About International Politics: Interests, Interaction, and Institutions [FLS, chapter 2]
	September 15:	The Traditional Approach: Realism, Liberalism and Social Theories [no extra readings]
Week 4	September 20:	An Introduction to Game Theory [no extra readings]

International Security

	September 22:	Why War? [FLS, chapter 3]
Week 5	September 27:	Why War?, Continued [Reiter, D. (2003). Exploring the Bargaining Model of War. <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , 1, pp. 27-47]
	September 29:	Review Session
Week 6	October 4:	EXAM ONE
	October 6:	Domestic Politics and War [FLS, chapter 4]
Week 7	October 11:	International Institutions and War [FLS, chapter 5]
	October 13:	The UN Security Council [Voeten, E. (2001). Outside Options and the Logic of Security Council Action. <i>American Political Science Review</i> , 95, pp.

845-858]

International Political Economy

- Week 8 October 18: International Trade [FLS, chapter 6]
October 20: International Trade, Continued [Rogowski, R. (1987). Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade. *American Political Science Review*, 81, pp. 1121-1137; Williamson, J.G. (1997) Globalization and Inequality, Past and Present. *The World Bank Research Observer*, 12, pp. 117-135]
- Week 9 October 25: International Financial Relations [FLS, chapter 7]
October 27: International Financial Relations, Continued [no extra readings]
- Week 10 November 1: International Monetary Relations [FLS, chapter 8]
November 3: International Monetary Relations, Continued [no extra readings]
- Week 11 November 8: Review session
November 10: **EXAM TWO**
- Week 12 November 15: Development [FLS, chapter 9]

Global Civil Society

- November 17: Transnational Networks [FLS, chapter 10]
- Week 13 November 22: Transnational Networks, continued [Pape, R. (2003). The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 93, pp. 343-361]
November 24: Human Rights [FLS, chapter 11]

Environment and Information

- Week 14 November 29: The Environment [FLS, chapter 12; Hardin, G. (1968). The Tragedy of the Commons. *Science*, 162, pp. 1243-1248]
December 1: The Power of Information [Readings TBA]

The Future of International Politics

- Week 15 December 6: The Future of International Relations [FLS, chapter 13]
December 8: Review session.

Finals week: **FINAL EXAM*, MONDAY DECEMBER 20TH, 5:15 – 7:45 PM**

* It is the student's responsibility to plan a class schedule that avoids exam conflicts and too many exams in the same day.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your coursework, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room 128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary>.

Critical Incident Management:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.