

# INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

## GOVERNMENT 5

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 11:15 to 12:20 PM (*X* hour Tuesday 12:00 to 12:50 PM),  
Thornton 105  
Spring term, 2014

Instructor: Jason Sorens

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30 PM, Thursdays, 9:00-11:00 AM, and by appointment, 209  
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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to international politics, the study of relations between governments and of 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

### Attendance and Excused Absences

I do not take attendance, but attendance is required. Frequent, unexcused absences may affect your grade adversely. Moreover, the lectures cover material different from that covered in the readings, and you are responsible for both.

Excused absences from in-class assignments must be discussed with the instructor. In the case of a scheduled, College-sponsored or College-recognized, extracurricular event, you must inform me at least a week in advance to make alternative arrangements. For family and medical emergencies, you must obtain documentation and contact me as soon as practicable

after returning to campus. For take-home or online assignments, I do not offer extensions except in extraordinary cases of long-lasting family and medical emergencies, but you may obtain permission to submit an assignment electronically.

Work that is late without an excuse will be deducted half a letter grade up to a week, a letter grade at a week, and another letter grade at each week thereafter.

## 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, Jeffrey 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

### Homework Assignments

The class will be divided into teams of three or four students. Homework questions will be assigned on a once-weekly basis to all teams for seven weeks of the course, beginning on Monday March 31 and ending on Monday May 12. Each team will prepare answers to the homework questions on the team's discussion forum on Blackboard. They should bring their answers to class for discussion every Friday (except Monday in the case of the two Friday classes that are canceled). You should contribute three substantive posts to each week's homework discussion, by midnight of the Friday on which they are due (to give your team members time to read them). Each post is graded on an "all or nothing" basis. The homework discussions altogether make up 7.5% of your final course grade.

In essence, the homeworks provide an opportunity for students to participate in small "study groups" that review the material and apply it to new questions and topics.

### Quizzes

There will be six in-class quizzes to test your knowledge of the readings and lecture materials. Each is non-cumulative, covering the material since the previous quiz, including the reading for the day of quiz. For the quizzes I have adopted a special curve, such that the new score on your quiz ( $Y$ ) depends on the raw score on your quiz ( $X$ ) in the following way:

- If  $X < 20$ , then  $Y = 3X$ . For instance, if you get a 10/100 on your quiz, that will be converted to a 30. As usual, anything 60 and below is an F.
- If  $X \geq 20$ , then  $Y = 60 + \frac{X-20}{2}$ . For instance, if you get a 50/100 on your quiz, that will be converted to a 75 (C). I use the full grading scale with pluses and minuses.

Altogether, the quizzes are worth 35% of your final course grade.

### Team Debates

At the end of the term, there will be in-class team debates on assigned topics. Students should also turn in a 1000-word (roughly two pages) summary of what they intend to say in the debate. Team participants will be graded individually. The basis of your grade is your level of preparation for your presentation as revealed in your essay. Your debate grade accounts for 17.5% of your final course grade.

### Final Exam

There will be a take-home final essay exam, due **Tuesday June 3** 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 term. The final exam will be cumulative. It will consist of three short essays, each of which should be around four pages in length. The final exam accounts for the remaining 40% of your grade.

## Academic Integrity

Dartmouth operates on an academic honor principle. Quizzes are unproctored, although I will be available to answer questions. Students who observe academic dishonesty should take some action, such as reporting the dishonesty or encouraging the student(s) responsible to turn themselves in.

Academic dishonesty includes:

1. **Examinations.** Any student giving or receiving assistance during an examination or quiz violates the Academic Honor Principle.
2. **Plagiarism.** Any form of plagiarism violates the Academic Honor Principle. Plagiarism is defined as the submission or presentation of work, in any form, that is not a student's own, without acknowledgment of the source. With specific regard to papers, a simple rule dictates when it is necessary to acknowledge sources. If a student obtains information or ideas from an outside source, that source must be acknowledged. Another rule to follow is that any direct quotation must be placed in quotation marks, and the source immediately cited. Students are responsible for the information concerning plagiarism found in Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment, available in the Deans' Offices or at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources/>.
3. **Use of the same work in more than one course.** Submission of the same work in more than one course without the prior approval of all professors responsible for the courses violates the Academic Honor Principle. The intent of this rule is that a student should not receive academic credit more than once for the same work product without permission. The rule is not intended to regulate repeated use of an idea or a body of learning developed by the student, but rather the identical formulation and presentation of that idea. Thus the same paper, computer program, research project or results, or other academic work product should not be submitted in more than one course (whether in identical or rewritten form) without first obtaining the permission of

all professors responsible for the courses involved. Students with questions about the application of this rule in a specific case should seek faculty advice.

4. **Unauthorized Collaboration.** Whether or not collaboration in course work (labs, reports, papers, homework assignments, take-home tests, or other academic work for credit) is permitted depends on expectations established in individual courses. Students are sometimes encouraged to collaborate on laboratory work, for example, but told to write their laboratory reports independently. Students should presume that collaboration on academic work is not permitted, and that submission of collaborative work would constitute a violation of the academic honor principle, unless an instructor specifically authorizes collaboration. Students should not presume that authorization in one class applies to any other class, even classes in the same subject area. Students should discuss with instructors in advance any questions or uncertainty regarding permitted collaboration.

With regard to the take-home final essay exam, you are permitted and indeed encouraged to work together with other students. However, the thesis you defend and arguments you make should ultimately be your own. The final exam remains subject to standard academic integrity requirements with respect to plagiarism. When I hand out the final exam assignment, I will also specify a format for citations.

## Schedule of Topics and Readings

1. Explaining International Politics
  - Monday March 24: Frieden et al., Introduction.
  - Wednesday March 26: No reading.
2. Theoretical Tools
  - Friday March 28: Frieden et al., pages 38-61.
  - Monday March 31: Frieden et al., pages 62-79.
  - Wednesday April 2: 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.**
  - Quiz #1*
3. Bargaining and War
  - Friday April 4: Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414. **Only pages 379-380, 386-389, 401, 405-408.**
  - Monday April 7: Frieden et al., pages 80-104.
  - Wednesday April 9: Frieden et al., pages 105-123.

*Class canceled Friday April 11.*

4. Civil War and Terrorism

Monday April 14: Frieden et al., pages 214-241.

*Quiz #2*

Tuesday April 15 (*X* period): Donald L. Horowitz (1985), *Ethnic Groups in Conflict* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press), pp. 185-228.

Wednesday April 16: Frieden et al., pages 242-263.

5. Domestic Politics of War and Peace

Friday April 18: Frieden et al., pages 124-142.

Monday April 21: Frieden et al., pages 154-167.

*Quiz #3*

6. Alliances and Peacekeeping

Wednesday April 23: Frieden et al., pages 168-187.

*Class canceled Friday April 25*

Monday April 28: Frieden et al., pages 188-213.

7. International Trade Politics

Tuesday April 29 (*X* period): Frieden et al., pages 306-311.

Wednesday April 30: Frieden et al., pages 264-275.

*Quiz #4*

Friday May 2: Frieden et al., pages 276-305.

8. International Financial Relations

Monday May 5: Frieden et al., pages 312-336.

Wednesday May 7: Frieden et al., pages 337-349.

9. International Monetary Relations

Friday May 9: Frieden et al., pages 350-363.

*Quiz #5*

Monday May 12: Frieden et al., pages 364-385.

10. The Role of International Relations in Development

Wednesday May 14: Frieden et al., pages 400-417.

11. International Human Rights Politics

Friday May 16: Frieden et al., pages 452-463.

Monday May 19: Frieden et al., pages 468-482.

12. International Environmental Politics

Wednesday May 21: Frieden et al., pages 492-499, 505-508, 522-525.

*Quiz #6*

Final exams handed out.

13. Student Debates

May 23, 26, & 28