

Introduction to World Politics

PSC 10400 • Spring 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays

2:00 – 3:15 PM

Location: NAC 5/101

Professor: Diana Greenwald

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 PM (or by appointment)

Office Location: NAC 4/138C

Email: dgreenwald@ccny.cuny.edu

Grading assistant: Benjamin McClelland

I. *Course Description*

This course will introduce you to core frameworks in political science for understanding a range of critical issues that face states and their societies as they engage in global politics. These include subjects such as war and peace, international trade and migration, climate change, and human rights. Our conceptual approach will draw largely from a “rational choice” framework. This means we will focus on *actors*, their *interests*, and the *institutions* that structure their behavior. However, we will also attend to some criticisms of this approach over the course of the semester. By the end of this course, you will have a robust theoretical and conceptual toolbox for understanding and addressing contemporary challenges in world politics.

II. *Assignments and Deadlines*

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Reading response #1	February 21	5%
Reading response #2	March 14	5%
Midterm exam	March 26	20%
Reading response #3	April 18	5%
Short paper	May 2	30%
Final exam	May 16	30%
Class participation		5%
		100%

III. *Class Attendance and Participation*

If you do not attend class, you are unlikely to do well in this course. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester. If you are not present on a day when attendance is taken, you will receive a deduction from the class participation portion of your grade.

Participation in class is defined broadly. It includes: speaking in class, active participation in classroom exercises, and listening attentively and respectfully to me and to your peers. Asking questions in class certainly counts as a form of participation! Ask lots of questions.

Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Laptops and other devices must be used exclusively for class purposes. If I observe excessive laptop use for e-mail, social media, or other non-class-related purposes, laptops will be prohibited for the rest of the semester.¹ If you find it hard to ignore internet distractions, I highly recommend downloading an app such as [Freedom](#) that will temporarily block or limit your access to certain websites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). This app helped me a lot in graduate school.

IV. *Readings*

The main textbook for this course is:

Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2019. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. New York: W.W. Norton. 4th Edition.*

*Referred to as *FLS* below.

The textbook is available in paperback, e-book, or loose leaf version (not bound) via the CCNY Bookstore, Amazon, and other online retailers. Please ensure you have access to the 4th edition of the book. All other readings will be posted on the course website on Blackboard. You are unlikely to do well in this course if you do not do the readings.

You will find a number of intersections between the material we cover in this class and current events. As a CUNY student, you can take advantage of free access to the *New York Times* [here](#) and the *Wall Street Journal* [here](#). Other reputable sources of news and analysis include [The Washington Post](#), [The Economist](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), and [Vox](#).

V. *Reading Responses*

You are asked to submit three (3) reading responses this semester, due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm on [February 21](#), [March 14](#), and [April 18](#). In each one, you will provide a brief (500 words maximum) response to a prompt based on the most recent week's readings. Prompts will be posted on Blackboard one week before they are due. Reading responses should contain a clearly written, complete, and thoughtful answer to the prompt. They do not require outside research. Each reading response is worth a maximum of 5 points. Late responses will be deducted 1 full point immediately, and 0.5 points each 24 hours thereafter.

¹ The only exceptions will be those students whose laptop usage is approved by the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services.

VI. *Midterm and Final Exams*

- The midterm exam will be held on March 26 at 2:00 PM in our classroom.
- The final exam will be held on May 16 at 1:00 PM in our classroom.

The final exam will be cumulative, but it will be weighted toward the second half of the course. The format of both exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answers, and essays. More details will be provided as the date approaches.

VII. *Short Paper*

Your short paper is due on May 2, to be submitted on Blackboard by 11:59 pm. The paper should be 4-5 pages (12-point font, double-spaced, 1" margins). The purpose of the short paper is to apply the theories and concepts from the course to a "case" of your choosing. The case might be a particular war, event, institution, or country policy. You will be required to cite at least two (2) outside sources in your paper. More instructions for the assignment will be provided in class well in advance of the due date. No extensions will be granted.

VIII. *Office Hours and E-Mail*

My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. I encourage you to come early and often. I will make every effort to respond to e-mail within 24 hours (or, if over the weekend, the next business day). There are two exceptions:

- Emails sent less than 48 hours prior to an exam or assignment due date are not guaranteed a response.
- Questions whose answer is clearly stated on this syllabus are not guaranteed a response.

IX. *Grade Grievances*

If you believe a grade you have received is unfair or in error, you will need to do the following:

- Wait 24 hours after receiving the grade before approaching the professor.
- Within one week (7 days) of receiving the grade, provide an explanation in writing for why you believe the grade you received was unfair or in error and submit it with the original assignment. The entire assignment will be re-graded, and note that this may raise or lower your grade.
- For more information on appealing grades, please consult the Office of Academic Standards' website [here](#).

X. *Academic Integrity*

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words *or ideas* as your own. Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism is very easy to avoid by giving recognition to the original author or website from which the material came. Academic misconduct will result in a zero grade for that assignment and possibly trigger disciplinary action. The CUNY Academic Integrity Policy is available [here](#). If you have made it this far through the syllabus, please [email](#) me a picture of a cute animal.

XI. Disability Accommodations

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS) ensures equal access and full participation to all of City College's programs, services, and activities by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations and services, please visit the office in NAC 1/218, or contact AAC/SDS via email (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu), or phone (212-650-5913 or TTY/TTD 212-650-8441).

XII. Student Mental Health and Well-Being

Your health and well-being are of prime importance to me, your other professors, your colleagues and friends, and the City College community. Please do not hesitate to visit Health and Wellness Services, where you can be linked to relevant services on campus, including the Counseling Resources Center (Phone: 212-650-8222 | Email: wccenter@ccny.cuny.edu); Gender Resources (Phone: 212-650-8222 | Email: genderresources@ccny.cuny.edu or jsalcedo@ccny.cuny.edu); and other services. Please also consult [this link](#) for mental health resources in the community.

XIII. Reading and Assignment Schedule

Part 1: Introduction to World Politics

January 29: Introduction

January 31: Analytical Framework

- William R. Clark, Matt Golder and Sona N. Golder. "What is Science?" in *Principles of Comparative Politics*.
- FLS, Introduction, (pp. xxiv-xxxix)

Part 2: History and the Formation of States

February 5: Historical Overview

- FLS, Chapter 1, (pp. 2-39)

February 7: Sovereignty

- Stephen D. Krasner, "Sovereignty" in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2007
- Robert H. Bates, *Prosperity and Violence*, Chapter 3.

February 12 – No class (college closed)

February 14: Colonialism and Colonial Legacies

- Margaret Kohn and Keally McBride. 2011. "Colonialism and the State of Exception." In *Political Theories of Decolonization: Postcolonialism and the Problem of Foundations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Part 3: Actors, Interests, Interactions and Institutions

February 19: Actors and Interests

- FLS, 1st and 2nd parts of Chapter 2 (pp. 42-68)

February 21: READING RESPONSE #1 DUE

Institutions

- FLS, 3rd part of Chapter 2 (pp. 69-79)
- Play "[The Evolution of Trust](#)" online

February 26 – Class cancelled

Part 4: War and Conflict

February 28: Wars of Incomplete Information

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 3 (pp. 88-117)

March 5: Commitment Problems and Indivisibility

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 3 (118-135)
- Roseanne McManus. [Rhetorical 'fire and fury' can help the U.S. globally – if the president has enough backing at home.](#) *The Washington Post*. August 9, 2017.

March 7: Alliances

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 5 (pp. 186-205)
- Norman Eisen and James Kirchick. [“Yes, Russia is a threat to NATO. So are the alliance’s anti-democratic members.”](#) *The Washington Post*. July 11, 2018.

March 12: Collective Security

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 5 (pp. 206-233)
- Dominic Tierney. [“The Hidden Danger of Safe Zones in Syria.”](#) *The Atlantic*. November 10, 2015.

March 14: READING RESPONSE #2 DUE

Civil Conflict (I)

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 6 (pp. 236-268)

March 19: Civil Conflict (II)

- Robert H. Bates. “State failure”. *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 1-12.

March 21: Civil Conflict (III)

- Elisabeth Wood. 2003. “The Puzzle of Insurgent Collective Action.” In *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

March 26: MIDTERM EXAM

Part 5: Trade, Globalization, and Immigration

March 28: The Politics of International Trade (I)

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 7 (pp. 294-318)
- Read and watch: Jen Kirby. "[USMCA, Trump's new NAFTA deal, explained in 500 words.](#)" Vox. November 30, 2018.

April 2: The Politics of International Trade (II)

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 7 (pp. 319-337)
- Alex Hunt and Brian Wheeler. "[Brexit: All you need to know about the UK leaving the EU.](#)" BBC News. January 31, 2019.
- Stephen Castle and Benjamin Mueller. "[Brexit Goes Back to Square One as Parliament Rejects May's Plan a Third Time.](#)" New York Times. March 29, 2019.

April 4: Globalization and Technology

- Adam Segal. "[Year in Review: Huawei and the Technology Cold War.](#)" Council on Foreign Relations. December 26, 2018.
- Katie Benner, Mark Mazzetti, Ben Hubbard and Mike Isaac. "[Saudis' Image Makers: A Troll Army and a Twitter Insider.](#)" New York Times. October 20, 2018.

April 9: The Politics of Immigration (I)

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 8 (pp. 378-382)
- Matthew Longo. 2017. "The Wall and Its Shadow: Security in the Borderlands" In *The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen after 9/11*.

April 11: The Politics of Immigration (II)

- Reece Jones. "Borders and Walls: Do Barriers Deter Unauthorized Migration?" *Migration Policy Institute*. October 5, 2016.
- Elisabeth Zerofsky. "Viktor Orbán's Far-Right Vision for Europe." *The New Yorker*. January 14, 2019.

April 16: The Politics of International Development (I)

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 10 (pp. 424-445)

Part 6: The Global Environment and International Development

April 18: READING RESPONSE #3 DUE

Climate Change and the Environment (I)

- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 13 (pp. 540-555)

April 19-28: Spring recess (college closed)

April 30: Climate Change and the Environment (II)

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 13 (pp. 556-581)
- READ/SKIM: Michaël Aklin and Matto Mildemberger. 2018. "[Prisoners of the wrong dilemma: Why distributive conflict, not collective action, characterizes the politics of climate change.](#)"

May 2: SHORT PAPERS DUE

May 7: Human Rights

- FLS, Chapter 12 (pp. 498-537)

May 9: Final review session

May 14: TBD

May 16: FINAL EXAM