

Introduction to World Politics

PSC 10400 • Spring 2020

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
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I. Course Description

This course will introduce you to core frameworks in political science for understanding critical issues that face states and their societies as they engage in global politics. These include subjects such as war and peace, trade and immigration, 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 engage with 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 11	15%
Reading response #2	March 10	15%
Midterm exam	March 31	20%
Reading response #3	April 28	15%
Final exam	May 21	25%
Attendance and participation		10%
		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 multiple days when attendance is taken, you will receive a deduction from your attendance and participation grade.

Participation is defined broadly. It includes: listening respectfully to me and to your peers, speaking in class, and active participation in classroom exercises. Asking questions certainly counts as a form of participation. Ask questions (but please raise your hand first).

We will also hold two, in-class debates at the end of the semester. Your full participation in these debates will be included as part of your attendance and participation grade. This includes an in-class meeting with your team on April 23, and attendance at both debate sessions on May 12 and May 14. More details will be provided about the debates later in the semester.

Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Laptops must be used exclusively for class purposes. If I observe laptops being used excessively for e-mail, social media, or other non-class-related purposes, they 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](#), which will temporarily block or limit your access to select websites.

IV. Readings

The main textbook for this course is:

Frieden, Jeffry 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 (unbound) 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](#). A few other reputable sources of world news include [The Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#), and [Vox](#). Other website recommendations will be made over the course of the semester. Wherever you get your news, I hope this class will encourage you to be critical and reflective toward the content you are consuming.

V. Reading Responses

You are asked to submit three (3) reading responses this semester. The reading responses are due on Blackboard by 11:59 pm EST on:

- [February 11](#)
- [March 10](#)
- [April 28](#)

In each reading response, you will provide a brief (500-750 words) response to a prompt. Prompts will be posted on Blackboard one week in advance. Reading

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

responses do not require outside research. They should contain a clearly written, complete, and thoughtful answer to the prompt.

Each reading response is worth a maximum of 15 points (15% of your course grade). There will be a five-minute grace period, after which late responses will be deducted 3 full points immediately, and 1.5 points each 24 hours thereafter.

VI. Midterm and Final Exams

- The midterm exam will be held on March 31 at 2:00 PM in our classroom. It is worth 20% of your course grade.
- The final exam will be held on May 21 at 1:00 PM in our classroom. It is worth 25% of your course grade.

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 in advance.

VII. Office Hours and E-Mail

Office hours are periods of time that professors specifically dedicate to you, the students. Please come to office hours early and often! My office hours are listed at the top of this syllabus. If you cannot attend my regular office hours due to a scheduling conflict, simply send me an email or approach me in-person and we can schedule an alternative time to meet.

I will make every effort to respond to e-mail within 48 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.

VIII. 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 me.
- Within one week (7 days) of receiving the grade, email me a written explanation for why you believe the grade you received was unfair or in error.
- After receiving your grievance, I will respond within 48 hours to indicate if it is possible to regrade the assignment. If so, I will ask you to resubmit the original assignment. The entire assignment will be re-graded. Note that this may raise or lower your grade.

For more information on appealing grades, please consult the Office of Academic Standards' website [here](#).

IX. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own without giving credit. Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism is very easy to avoid by giving recognition to the original author or source from which the material came. Academic misconduct, such as cheating or plagiarism, will result in a zero grade for that assignment and possibly trigger disciplinary action. The CUNY Academic Integrity Policy is available [here](#).

X. 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).

XI. 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 (Marshak J-15, phone: 212-650-8222), where you can be linked to relevant services on campus, including the Counseling Resources Center, Gender Resources, and other services. Please see the Counseling Center's website [here](#) for more helpful information, including crisis information.

XII. Reading and Assignment Schedule

January 28: Introduction

January 30: Analytical Framework and Historical Overview (I)

- FLS, Introduction, (pp. xxiv-xxxix)
- FLS, 1st part of Chapter 1, (pp. 2-15)

Recommended:

- Clark, William R., Matt Golder, and Sona N. Golder. 2018. "What is Science?" in *Principles of Comparative Politics*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. 3rd edition.

February 4: Historical Overview (II)

- FLS, 2nd part of Chapter 1, (pp. 16-39)

February 6: The Formation of States (I)

- Powell Jr., G. Bingham, Russell J. Dalton, and Kaare Strøm. 2012. 10th ed. "Chapter 1: Issues in Comparative Politics." In *Comparative Politics Today: A World View*. London: Pearson. (pp. 8-17)
- Krasner, Stephen D. 2007. "Sovereignty." In *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. Wiley. (pp. 1-4)

February 11: READING RESPONSE #1 DUE

The Formation of States (II)

- Bates, Robert H. 2010. "The Formation of States." In *Prosperity and Violence*. New York: W.W. Norton. 2nd edition. (pp. 34-56)

February 13: Colonial States

- Lange, Matthew. 2015. "State Formation and Transformation in Africa and Asia: The Third Phase of State Expansion." In *The Oxford Handbook of Transformations of the State*. Leibfried et al, eds. (pp. 1-29)

Recommended:

- Kohn, Margaret 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.

February 18: Actors and Interests

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

February 20: Institutions

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

February 25: Wars of Incomplete Information

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

February 27: Commitment Problems and Indivisibility

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 3 (118-135)
- Laub, Zachary and Kali Robinson. "What Is the Status of the Iran Nuclear Agreement?" January 7, 2020. *Council on Foreign Relations*. Available: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-status-iran-nuclear-agreement>.

March 3: Alliances

- *FLS*, 1st part of Chapter 5 (pp. 186-205)

March 5: Collective Security

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 5 (pp. 206-233)

March 10: READING RESPONSE #2 DUE

CUNY-WORLD®

- "The Game of CUNY-WORLD: Rules"

March 12: Civil Conflict

- *FLS*, 1st part of Chapter 6 (pp. 236-268)
- Additional "current events" reading TBD

Recommended:

- Wood, Elisabeth. 2003. "The Puzzle of Insurgent Collective Action." In *Insurgent Collective Action and Civil War in El Salvador*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bates, Robert H. 2008. "State failure". *Annual Review of Political Science* 11: 1-12.

March 17: Terrorism

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 6 (pp. 268-291)

March 19: International Law and Norms

- *FLS*, Chapter 11, (pp. 462-495)

March 24: The Politics of International Trade (I)

- *FLS*, 1st part of Chapter 7 (pp. 294-318)

March 26: CLASS CANCELLED

March 31: MIDTERM EXAM

April 2: The Politics of International Trade (II)

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 7 (pp. 319-337)
- Bradsher, Keith. "China Poised to Buy More From U.S., at the Expense of U.S. Allies." January 23, 2020. *New York Times*. Available: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/business/economy/china-us-trade-deal-allies.html>.

Recommended:

- "U.S. Relations with China: 1949-2020." *Council on Foreign Relations*. Available: <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>.

April 7: The Politics of Immigration

- *FLS*, part of Chapter 8 (pp. 378-382)
- *FLS*, part of Chapter 14, (pp. 620-634)

Recommended:

- Jones, Reece. "Borders and Walls: Do Barriers Deter Unauthorized Migration?" October 5, 2016. *Migration Policy Institute*. Available: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/borders-and-walls-do-barriers-deter-unauthorized-migration>.
- Longo, Matthew. 2017. "The Wall and Its Shadow: Security in the Borderlands." In *The Politics of Borders: Sovereignty, Security, and the Citizen after 9/11*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

April 8-16: SPRING RECESS

April 21: The Politics of International Development

- *FLS*, 1st part of Chapter 10 (pp. 424-445)
- Additional "current events" reading TBD

April 23: Debate Preparation

- Conduct and share background research with your team (instructions to be provided)

April 28: READING RESPONSE #3 DUE

Climate Change and the Environment (I)

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

April 30: *Climate Change and the Environment (II)*

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 13 (pp. 556-581)
- Additional "current events" reading TBD

Recommended:

- Michaël Aklin and Matto Mildenerger. 2018. "Prisoners of the wrong dilemma: Why distributive conflict, not collective action, characterizes the politics of climate change." Unpublished working paper.

May 5: *Human Rights (I)*

- *FLS*, 1st part of Chapter 12 (pp. 498-520)

May 7: *Human Rights (II)*

- *FLS*, 2nd part of Chapter 12 (pp. 520-537)
- Richard C. Paddock. "U.N. Court Orders Myanmar to Protect Rohingya Muslims." January 23, 2020. *New York Times*. Available: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/world/asia/myanmar-rohingya-genocide.html>.

May 12: In-class debates

May 14: In-class debates

May 21, 1:00 PM – 3:15 PM: FINAL EXAM