Introduction to International Relations
Political Science 101z, Summer 2016
Lectures MTW 4:30-5:20 in Econ 139
canvas.stanford.edu

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Objectives: This course introduces students to the systematic study of international relations. The course has three main goals:

- To familiarize students with major theories of international relations. The course will focus on explanations for war and peace, protectionism and free trade, environmental destruction and preservation, and capital flows between rich and poor nations.

- To evaluate the theories according to logical and evidentiary standards. Students will practice thinking like social scientists, by scrutinizing the internal logic of theories and testing them rigorously with quantitative and qualitative data.

- To encourage philosophical as well as scientific analysis. People often disagree about what is morally right or wrong in international affairs. Students will join these ethical debates through class discussion and writing assignments.

Lectures: Attendance in lecture is essential for success in the class. Lectures will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays at 4:30 in Econ 139 and will reinforce and supplement the readings.

Assignments:

- Midterm exam (20% of your grade): The midterm exam will take place in class on Monday, July 11 at 4:30 p.m. and will cover the material in Unit 1. The exam will include multiple-choice and short essay questions.

- Final exam (30% of your grade): The final exam, scheduled for Saturday, August 13, 7:00–10:00pm, will cover all material in the course with a special emphasis on topics since the midterm. The exam will include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You must be available to take the final at the designated time. Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond the control of individual students, e.g. illness, scheduled athletic events, or family emergencies. Please inform the teaching staff of any disabilities registered with the SDRC during the first two weeks of class.
Section participation and response papers (20% of your grade). You must register for one of the following weekly discussion sections.

**Section Times TBA**

**Please register for section on Canvas, not Axess.** You must attend and actively participate in discussion section each week. Be sure to read the assigned texts before section. The success of section depends on your willingness to offer insightful comments and ask probing questions that help everyone learn about international relations.

Twice during the quarter, you must submit a brief essay that analyzes the readings for the week. Writing these essays will help you think critically about the material, prepare for class, and test ideas before you incorporate them into the exams. Your TA will use the response papers as a basis for discussion in section. You will receive a check mark on these papers; if warranted, you may receive a check-minus or a check-plus. These papers will be part of your TA’s assessment of your section participation.

You may write a response paper for any week when section is held. You may not write more than one response paper for any given week, nor may you write more than two for the course as a whole. Response papers should be short: no more than two double-spaced pages with Times Roman 12-point font and 1” margins. Papers are due via email to your TA by noon on the Thursday before your section. Format your paper as a Microsoft Word document and send it as an attachment named after yourself, using your last name, followed by your first name, followed by the response paper number, e.g., TomzMichael1.docx for your first response paper and TomzMichael2.docx for your second response paper. Paste the text of the paper into the body of the email, as well, as insurance in case the attachment does not go through. Late response papers will not be accepted.

If you miss a section, you will receive credit as if you participated in that section if and only if: (1) you missed the section for reasons beyond your control, i.e. illness, scheduled athletic event, or family emergency; (2) you notify your TA prior to the scheduled section or demonstrate why advance notification was impossible; and (3) you write a one-page commentary on the readings for that section and submit it electronically to your TA by 4:30 pm on the Monday following the section you missed. The one-page commentary will count as your participation for the week, but will not count as one of the two response papers you must write during the quarter.

If you must miss a section, you may attend another section for your own learning (but not for participation credit) if you obtain prior permission from your TA.

**Data Analysis (15%):** Near the beginning of the quarter, we will conduct a public opinion survey about U.S. foreign policy. The teaching staff will post the results at the course website and ask you to analyze the data using scientific methods discussed in class. You must prepare two documents: (1) a Project Summary Form, which you can download from Canvas, and (2) a data analysis paper, which should be no more than four double-spaced pages. Both documents are due in Econ 139 at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6.
Be sure to submit the documents on time. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of one letter grade for every 24 hours.

- **Policy Memo (15%)**: Late in the term, you will collaborate another student to write a policy memorandum for the U.S. President. Your memo will advise the president on a major problem he faces in the area of foreign trade, the international environment, or global finance. The memo should use theories and evidence from the class, plus material you gather from independent research, to justify your recommended course of action. Your collectively written memo should be no more than four double-spaced pages. Endnotes and references will not count against the four-page limit. The memo is due in Econ 139 at 4:30 on Wednesday, August 10. Submit one copy for your entire group. Be sure to turn in the memo on time. Late memos will be penalized at a rate of one letter grade for every 24 hours.

**Students with Documented Disabilities:**

- Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, phone (650) 723-1066.

**Grades:**

- Political Science 101z will be graded on a curve. The distribution of grades will approximate the distribution across undergraduate social science lecture courses at Stanford: approximately 35% in the A range, 50% in the B range, and 15% below a B-.

- We hope there will be no reason to contest a grade. If you strongly feel that your grade on an assignment does not reflect the quality of your work, though, you may appeal through the following procedure: Write a memo that explains, in as much detail as possible, why you think you should have received a different grade. Give the memo to your TA, along with your graded assignment and a letter in which you formally request a re-grade. If you and your TA cannot reach agreement on your grade, your TA will pass the materials to Professor Tomz, who will reevaluate the work and assign a new grade, which may be higher, lower, or identical to the one you originally received. This new grade will be final.
Teaching Assistant:

Teaching Assistant TBA

Readings:


- All other readings will be posted on Canvas.
SEQUENCE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

UNIT 1: WAR AND PEACE

June 20: Introduction – Questions and Methods


June 21: Theories about Democracy and War


June 22: How to Evaluate Evidence


June 27: Evidence about Democracy and War


June 28: Anarchy and the Security Dilemma


**June 29: Deterrence and Bargaining**


**July 4: Holiday. No Class.**

**July 5: Case Study: Israeli-Palestinian Relations**


Selected readings from Government of Israel.

**July 6: The Ethics of War**


*July 6: Data Analysis due in class at 4:30pm.*

*July 10: Midterm review session at 6:30pm in Encina Hall West Room 400.*

*July 11: Midterm Exam in Class (covering Unit I only)*
UNIT 2: PROTECTIONISM AND FREE TRADE

July 12: The Case for Free Trade


July 13: The Case against Free Trade


July 18: Domestic Politics of Trade


July 19: International Politics and Trade


July 20: Ethics and Trade


Paul Krugman, “In Praise of Cheap Labor: Bad Jobs at Bad Wages are Better Than No Jobs at All,” *Slate* (March 20, 1997).


UNIT 3: ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION AND PRESERVATION

July 25: The Tragedy of the Commons


July 26: International Environmental Agreements and Mobilization


July 27: Ethics and the Environment


August 1: No Lecture. Work in groups on your policy memo.

UNIT 4: POVERTY AND FOREIGN AID

August 2: Foreign Aid from Governments


August 3: Foreign Aid from International Organizations

International Monetary Fund, “The IMF at a Glance” (August 2012).


August 8: No Lecture. Work in groups on your policy memo.

August 9: Globalization and Private Capital Flows


August 10: Inequality and International Justice


August 10: Policy Memo due in class at 4:30pm.

August 11: Final review session at 4:30pm, location TBA.

August 13: Final Exam, 7:00pm – 10:00pm.