

Politics V53.0700 International Politics

Fall 2007

Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:45PM

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Overview

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the basic analytical concepts and techniques that are essential for understanding international politics. Note that the focus of this course will neither be historical nor descriptive. Rather, the course will require you to exercise your skills in logic, and to think of imaginative ways to apply subtle techniques to real life political situations. Be prepared to solve lots of problems, which will demand a command of elementary algebra.

Requirements

There will be two exams. Both will be in-class. The mid-term exam will be on October 17 at 12:30pm. The final exam will be on December 19 at 12pm. (You will not be allowed to take your exam on an earlier or later date.) The midterm exam is worth 30% of the grade. The final exam is worth 40%. 15% of the course grade will be for participation in the recitation sections. In each recitation, with a few exceptions, you will be assigned a problem set, which will be due the following week. Your TA will allocate this part of your grade both based on how promptly you submit your homework, and on how regularly you attend the recitation. The remaining 15% of your grade will be based on a five page paper in which you will apply one of the techniques you have studied to a problem in international politics. You will be required to submit your idea for your paper to your TA on October 24. The paper is due in class on December 12.

Required Texts

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 3rd edition. *Principles of International Politics*. Washington DC: CQ Press.

Bennett, D. Scott and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. *Applying the Strategic Perspective*. Washington DC: CQ Press. (Goes with above book.)

Course Pack- Available from New University Copy and Graphics, 11 Waverly Place.

Readings

All chapter references are to *Principles of International Politics*.

- 1) September 5: Introductory Session.
 - 2) September 10: Introduction: Foundations of International Politics.
 - 3) September 12 and 17: Chapter 2: Evaluating Arguments about International Politics.
 - 4) September 19: Chapter 3: Christopher Columbus and International Relations.
 - 5) September 24: Chapter 4: International Politics from a Structural Perspective + Fearon article (in course pack).
 - 6) September 26: Chapter 5: International Politics from Group and Decision Making Perspectives.
 - 7) October 1, 3, and 10: (Note that October 8 is a holiday) - Chapter 6: Domestic Politics and International Interactions + Maoz and Russett article (in course pack).
 - 8) October 15: Review session.
- *** Midterm Exam: October 17***
- 9) October 22 and 24: Chapter 7: What is Power?
 - 10) October 29: Review of Exam
 - 11) October 31, November 5, and November 7: Chapter 8: Limits to Power.
 - 12) November 12: Chapter 9: Preferences in International Politics.
 - 12) November 14: Lecture on paper writing.
 - 13): November 19 and 21: Chapter 10: Perceptions in International Affairs.
 - 14) November 26, 28, and December 3: Chapter 11: Perceptions, Deterrence, and Terrorism + Achen and Snidal article (in course pack).

15) December 5: Chapter 12: Domestic Institutions and National Performance.

16) December 10 and 12- Chapter 13: The International Political Economy of Trade +
Downs, Rock, and Barsoom article (in course pack) + Leblang article (in course pack).

Final Exam: Wednesday December 19-12:00-13:50 pm