Politics 214B
Special Topics in World Politics: Democracy and International Relations
Spring 2017
Block S8: Wednesday 9am-11:50am
Olin-Sang 212

Instructor
Kerry A. Chase
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Office Hours
TBD, by appointment

Location
Olin-Sang 106

Description
This course investigates how democracy affects foreign policy and international relations. Democracy is often considered both an advantage, particularly in relations with other democracies, and a liability in world politics. The focus of the course is to examine how legislative-executive interactions, legislative and party politics, and other features of democratic institutions shape and constrain diplomacy, the use of force, international agreements, and foreign policy-making, as well as government strategies for gaining and maintaining support at home for choices in foreign policy.

The course is structured in two parts. The first part explores selected scholarly works to familiarize everyone with recent literature on democracy and international relations. The second part is organized around student research projects, which will determine reading assignments and guide class discussions for these sessions.

Although many examples are drawn from the case of the United States, the foremost democracy in the scholarly literature, students are encouraged to consider extensions to other democracies. Class discussions will consider whether and how insights drawn from one country pertain to others, and research projects may analyze democracy’s effects on foreign policy or international relations anywhere in the world.

Learning Goals
Learning goals for the course include:

- Familiarizing students with some of the latest research on democracy, foreign policy, and international relations.
- Deepening substantive and theoretical knowledge of how democratic institutions function in foreign policy making and international relations.
- Identifying interesting and important cases, contemporary and historical, where domestic institutions influenced state behavior and/or international outcomes.
• Developing comprehension of various methodological approaches and research designs in the study of international relations.
• Gaining proficiency in how to design a research prospectus or analytical paper with theoretical, methodological, and empirical components.

Prerequisites
The course is for graduate students in Politics. Graduate students in other departments or programs should have prior background in the academic study of international relations. Undergraduates require instructor’s permission to enroll. Please e-mail me if you wish to obtain a consent code.

Course Requirements
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:
1). Regular attendance and participation, including two class presentations 25%
2). A research statement and bibliography due Monday, March 13 10%
3). A research question literature review due Friday, April 7 20%
4). A completed research paper or prospectus due Friday, May 12 45%

Regular Attendance and Class Participation (25%)
You are expected to attend every session and participate actively. Active participation means that your contributions to class discussion regularly demonstrate comprehension of and critical insight into the issues covered in the assigned readings.

There are two presentations during the term. The first presentation will be on March 15, based on the research question statement and bibliography. The second presentation will be on April 26 or May 3, based on your work on the research paper or prospectus.

Research Statement and Bibliography (10%)
A research statement and bibliography is due on Monday, March 13. This paper should detail, in no more than 5 pages, the research question or puzzle you will investigate, the theoretical and/or practical significance of the question or puzzle, and the scholarly sources you will consult for your literature review. Research projects must address democracy and foreign policy or international relations in some way. From your source list, you will choose 30-50 pages of reading to assign the class for discussion for the session on March 22, March 29, or April 5.

Research Question Literature Review (20%)
A research question literature review of no more than 12 pages is due by Friday, April 7. For this assignment, you will elaborate a research question, explain its theoretical and/or practical significance, and review scholarly literature that relates to your question. This
is not all new writing; the first part of this assignment will include revised material from your research statement and bibliography.

**Completed Research Paper or Prospectus (45%)**
A completed research paper or prospectus of no more than 30 pages is due in my mailbox by 4pm on **Friday, May 12**. This is not all new writing; the first part of this assignment will include revised material from your research question literature review. Ph.D. students must complete the research prospectus option; M.A. students may choose either the research paper or the research prospectus option.

*Research paper option (M.A. students):* the rest of the paper will add an explanation of research methodology and either a single case study or a case comparison. You may either develop hypotheses to be tested, or use case analysis for theory building.

*Research prospectus option (Ph.D. students and M.A. students):* the rest of the paper will add theory and hypotheses, and describe the sources of evidence you would use, and your methods for using them, to answer your research question. In this option, you will not execute your research plan for the prospectus—your task is to carefully explain how you would execute this research plan, if you were to do so, in the future.

**Assigned Papers: Page Limits and Late Penalties**
The page maximums indicated are upper limits for the paper’s text plus notes (but not bibliography). Papers that exceed the page limit in double-spaced, 12-point font with 1” margins may be returned for revision. Papers that are not up to acceptable standards also may be returned for revision. A late paper will be deducted 2 points per every 24 hours or fraction thereof unless you have received my advance approval to hand it in late.

**Note Regarding Four Credit Course**
Success in this 4 credit-hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (e.g. completing readings; preparing presentations and other exercises; and writing the assigned papers).

**Grading**
Assignments will be graded as follows: A (93 and above); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (65-69); and F (less than 65).

**Academic Integrity**
You are expected to adhere to the highest academic integrity. For information about academic integrity, please refer to the website [Academic Integrity at Brandeis](#).
Disability Statement
If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please give me your letter of accommodation as soon as possible. For questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at brodgers@brandeis.edu or 6-3470.

Course Readings
There are no books to purchase. Readings are available at JSTOR, Ebrary, or eJournals A-Z via links in the course schedule. Books are also in hard copy in the library stacks.

Please complete assigned readings before the respective course meeting, and have these readings accessible electronically or in hard copy to refer to in class.

Books (available online)—selected chapters to be assigned


Course Schedule

January 18  Introduction and Syllabus

January 25  Public Constraints on the Use of Force
  ➢ Chapter 1: 1-10 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 14-52 (theory)
  ➢ Chapter 5: 103-130 (empirical tests), 130-150 (statistical appendix; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 7: 193-221 (case studies)

February 1  US Presidential War Powers
  ➢ Chapter 1: 3-32 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 33-49 (theory)
  ➢ Chapter 4: 75-113 (empirical tests)
  ➢ Chapter 5: 114-151 (case studies)

February 8  Congressional Constraints on Waging War
  ➢ Chapter 1: 1-34 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 39-85 (theory)
  ➢ Chapter 4: 147-192 (empirical tests)
  ➢ Chapter 5: 193-231 (case study)
February 15  Institutions and Instruments in US Foreign Policy
  ➢ Chapter 1: 1-26 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 33-76 (theory)
  ➢ Chapter 4: 121-155 (empirical tests)
  ➢ Chapter 7: 209-253 (case studies)

February 22  No Class—Midterm Recess

March 1  Democracy and International Commitments
  ➢ Chapter 1: 1-20 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 21-52 (theory)
  ➢ Chapter 3: 53-80 (empirical test)
  ➢ Chapter 4: 81-112 (empirical test)

March 8  US Treaty Making
  ➢ Introduction: 1-17 (introduction; skim)
  ➢ Chapter 2: 51-70 (empirical test)
  ➢ Chapter 4: 96-135 (case studies)
  ➢ Chapter 5: 136-163 (empirical test)

Read two of the following:
March 15  Research Projects Workshop

March 22  Student-Led Session 1

Congressional Politics of Humanitarian Intervention:

Domestic Politics and Alliance Formation:

March 29  Student-Led Session 2

Ethnic Groups and Foreign Policy:

Domestic Politics of Private Military Contracting:
April 5  Student-Led Session 3

Congressional Intelligence Oversight:


Humanitarian Intervention Failures:


Antiwar Protest and Congress:


April 12  No Class—Spring Recess

April 19  No Class—Brandeis Monday

April 26  Class Presentations

May 3  Class Presentations