Politics 15A
Introduction to International Relations
Spring 2019
Tuesday and Friday 12:30-1:50 (Block J)
ROOM TBD

Instructor
Kerry A. Chase
chase@brandeis.edu

Office Hours
Friday 1:50-3:20 pm
Room
Olin-Sang 106

Teaching Fellows
E-mail
Office Hours
Room

Learning Goals
This course introduces the academic study of international relations. Prior coursework in international relations is not required. The course goals are to:

1) Develop an empirical grounding in international relations by investigating important events and trends, particularly the outbreak and settlement of major wars, the origins and effects of international institutions, and the development of the global economy.

2) Provide analytical tools by introducing theoretical approaches for understanding state actions and interactions, and the consequences for the international system.

3) Encourage critical thinking by examining contending theoretical perspectives on and differing interpretations of major patterns and key moments in international relations.

4) Build and enhance research, analysis, writing, and citation skills through a case study paper project.

5) Establish a foundation for future study in upper-level international relations courses in the Politics Department (courses numbered POL 160-POL 180).

Latte Course Website
On Latte a copy of this syllabus is posted under Latte Course Tools at the upper left. At the top of the page are assignments, course policies, and related materials. In the topics sections are lecture slides and electronic readings for each session. Announcements and additional materials will be posted at times during the semester.
Course Requirements and Grading
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:
1). Regular attendance and active participation in discussion section 5%
2). A midterm examination in class on Tuesday, March 12 20%
3). A case study paper due in class on Tuesday, April 16 35%
4). A simulation write-up due via Latte on Friday, May 3 10%
5). A final examination on Friday, May 10 30%

Discussion section
Discussion sections are an additional 50-minute recitation that will meet during the weeks of January 28, February 4, February 11, February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25, April 1, and April 8. Instructions on signing up for section will be posted to Latte.

You are expected to attend discussion section every week and to actively contribute by demonstrating that you have read the assigned materials and prepared for the discussion. A sign-in sheet will be circulated at each meeting. It is your responsibility to sign in.
For information about section absences, see the Course Policies handout on Latte.

Midterm examination
In class: Tues., March 12
The midterm examination will cover readings and lectures through Friday, March 8. Part I will involve identification of terms and concepts. There will be 3 options; you will respond to one. Part II is an essay. There will be 3 options; you will respond to one.

Case study paper
Due in class: Tues., April 16
The case study paper is an approximately 10-page analysis of a state action or an international outcome using a theoretical approach from the course.

Simulation write-up
Due via Latte: Fri., May 3
The simulation write-up will explain what you learned from the class simulation in no more than 4 pages of text.

Final examination
Exam week: Fri., May 10
The Registrar has scheduled final exams for J block for Friday, May 10 from 1:30pm-4:30pm. The final exam covers the entire course. Part I will have 6 identification questions; you will answer 4. Part II will have 3 essay options; you will answer one.

Note Regarding Credit Hours
Pursuant to university standards, 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 assigned readings, researching and writing papers, and preparing for exams).

**Grading**
Assignments will be scored out of 100 points (or some fraction) according to this scale: A (93+); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (65-69); F (<65). Final scores and grades will be computed using the formula: \( \text{SCORE} = 0.05 \times \text{SECTION} + 0.2 \times \text{MIDTERM} + 0.35 \times \text{PAPER} + 0.1 \times \text{SIMULATION} + 0.3 \times \text{FINAL} \).

**Course Policies**
Please note the following course policies:

**Electronic devices**
Please turn off your phone in the classroom. You may use electronic devices but only for taking notes or accessing Latte. No e-mail, texting, messaging, web surfing, etc.

**Classroom interaction**
Please don’t let the size of the class discourage you from speaking up. I will often raise questions during lecture, and I will do my best to answer your questions. If your hand is up and I don’t call on you, don’t hesitate to ask or answer a question next time!

**Illnesses and emergencies**
If an illness or emergency prevents you from taking a scheduled exam, you must inform me before the exam. For information about missed exams, including scheduling make-up exams and penalties for absences without a documented illness or emergency, consult the Course Policies handout on Latte.

**Paper submission**
A printed copy of your case study paper must be submitted by the due date. Papers submitted after the due date will be penalized 2 points per day, unless there is a documented illness or emergency. For information about handing in a paper late, consult the Course Policies handout on Latte.

**Final exam date**
University rules prohibit instructors from offering early final exams. Students requesting a rescheduled final exam should note that the conflict resolution exam period, scheduled by the Registrar, is the afternoon of Tuesday, May 14.
**Student athletes**

If intercollegiate athletic commitments interfere with any course requirements or due dates, you must provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than the third week of the semester. For questions, consult the university guidelines.

**Disability statement**

If you are entitled to accommodations because of a documented disability, be sure to give me your letter of accommodation no later than the third week of classes. For questions, contact Beth Rodgers-Kay at brodgers@brandeis.edu or 6-3470.

**Academic integrity**

You are expected to be familiar with and to follow all university policies on academic integrity, per the university document *Rights and Responsibilities*. Instances of possible academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity.

Academic dishonesty includes: buying papers; borrowing papers; lending papers; using a paper in two classes without the permission of both instructors; plagiarism, either by quoting without including quotation marks or paraphrasing without citation; and using or accessing any material during an exam that is not explicitly authorized, including using any electronic devices during an exam.

For questions, consult the Academic Integrity Resources on the LTS website, and always feel welcome to ask a Teaching Fellow or me.

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**Readings and Course Materials**

Complete all assigned readings before the corresponding lecture. Page numbers for assigned readings appear in **boldface**. If a reading assignment covers part of a book chapter, start and end with the section headings on the pages indicated.

**Textbooks**

Textbooks are available for purchase or rental at the university bookstore and online. They are also on reserve at the Main Library.


Electronic readings
Electronic readings, noted with the symbol (ER), are posted to Latte in the topic modules for each lecture. Consider the electronic readings as equivalent to a third textbook: read them. Bound copies are available for purchase in the Politics Department office, Olin-Sang 204.

Lecture slides
PowerPoint files of all lectures will be posted to Latte, usually right before class meets.

Course Schedule

January 15 Introduction and Syllabus

January 18 The State System
• Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 2: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation: 39-65.

January 22 No Class—Brandeis Monday

January 25 The Century of Peace
• Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 3: From Westphalia to World War I: 81-94.

January 29 World War I
• Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 2: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation: 75-77 and Ch. 3: From Westphalia to World War I: 98-112.
• James D. Fearon, Rationalist Explanations for War, Art-Jervis, IP: 95-103.

February 1 Interwar Turmoil
• Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 4: The Failure of Collective Security and World War II: 116-126.


• (ER) Stephen M. Walt, There’s Still No Reason to Think the Kellogg-Briand Pact Accomplished Anything, *Foreign Policy*, 29 September 2017 (4 pages).


February 5    World War II


February 8    Origins of the Cold War

• Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch. 5: The Cold War: 146-164.


February 12  The Cold War’s End


• (ER) Jack Snyder, The Domestic Political Logic of Gorbachev’s New Thinking in Foreign Policy, *International Politics* 48 (July-September 2011): 562-574.

February 15  Regional Conflicts in the Cold War


February 19-22   No Class—February Break
## Theoretical Perspectives

### February 26: Realism

### March 1: Institutionalism

### March 5: State Structures

### March 8: Domestic and Transnational Politics

### March 12: Midterm Examination
March 15    Researching and Writing Papers: Digital Literacy

International Security

March 19    Nuclear Weapons

• Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch. 5: The Cold War: **178-191**.
• Robert Jervis, Losing Control in Crises, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **259-264**.
• *(ER)* Graham Allison, The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50: Lessons for U.S. Foreign Policy Today, *Foreign Affairs* 91 (July-August 2012): **11-16**.
• *(ER)* Leslie H. Gelb, The Lie That Screwed Up 50 Years of U.S. Foreign Policy, *Foreign Policy* 196 (November 2012): **24-26**.
• *(ER)* Nina Tannenwald, How Strong Is the Nuclear Taboo Today? *Washington Quarterly* 41 (Fall 2018): **89-109**.

*Critical Essay Proposals due March 19*

March 22    Nuclear Proliferation

• Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch. 7: Current Flashpoints: **263-265, 290-292** and Ch. 10: What Can We Expect in the Future: **369-371**.
• Henry D. Sikolski, Our Not So Peaceful Nuclear Future, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **264-269**.
• Thomas C. Schelling, A World without Nuclear Weapons? *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **269-274**.
• *(ER)* William C. Potter, The NPT and the Sources of Nuclear Restraint, *Daedalus* 139 (Winter 2010): **68-81**.

March 26    The United Nations

• Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch. 6: Post-Cold War Conflict and Cooperation: **201-215**.
• Kofi Annan, Reflections on Intervention, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **408-413**.
• Adam Roberts and Dominik Zaun, The UN Security Council, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **491-499**.
• *(ER)* Miles Kahler, Legitimacy, Humanitarian Intervention, and International Institutions, *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 10 (February 2011): **20-45**.

March 29    Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding

• Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch. 6: Post-Cold War Conflict and Cooperation: **215-229**.
• The World Bank, Shape of Violence Today, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **252-258**.
• Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **427-434**.
• Caroline A. Hartzell and Matthew Hoddie, Crafting Peace through Power Sharing, *Art-Jervis*, *IP*: **442-453**.
April 2 Regime Change

April 5 International Terrorism

International Political Economy

April 9 The Trading System

April 12 The Monetary and Financial System

In-Class Simulation

April 16 World Order / Class Simulation Preview

*Critical Essays due April 16*
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<tr>
<td>April 19-26</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
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