**Politics 173A**  
**U.S. Foreign Economic Policy**  
Spring 2019  
G Block: Tuesday-Friday 9:30-10:50am  
Rabb 333  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerry A. Chase</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chase@brandeis.edu">chase@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Tuesday 1:50-3:20pm</td>
<td>Olin-Sang 106</td>
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**Description**  
This course investigates U.S. government management of foreign economic relations. The class joins three subjects: 1) **Foreign Policy**, as national power, exposure to global markets, and participation in international organizations are important influences on policy; 2) **American Politics**, as the interactions of state institutions, political actors, and domestic groups shape policymaking processes; and 3) **Political Economy**, as politics impact economic policies toward international trade, the dollar, and international finance.

**Learning Goals**  
The course goals are to enhance students’ skills in critical reasoning, analytical writing, oral communication, and research planning and operations. This includes:  
- Identifying and analyzing causal relationships through reading assignments, class discussion, and writing exercises.  
- Designing a manageable research project on U.S. foreign economic policy and executing the research plan in an end-of-semester term paper.  
- Navigating and using primary-source materials to extract, assemble, and organize meaningful information and substantiate a thesis in the semester research project.  
- Summarizing and communicating research findings through oral presentation with visual aids.

**Prerequisites and Consent Codes**  
Enrollment requires sophomore standing or higher. There are no other prerequisites.

**Requirements the Course Fulfills**  
The course fulfills the seminar and international politics subfield requirements for **Politics** majors and minors. It is also cross-listed as an elective course in **Economics**. It satisfies the **Writing Intensive** (WI) and **Oral Communication** (OC) general education requirements.
Course Requirements
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

1). Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions, including two in-class presentations in January-March 20%
2). Two short writing assignments: a research question due on March 19, and a primary source list due on March 26 10%
3). A midterm examination (in class or take home) on April 2 15%
4). An in-class presentation of semester research to be scheduled for April 30 or May 2 15%
5). A term paper of about 20 pages due by 12 noon on May 8 40%

1). Regular Attendance and Class Participation (20%)
The attendance and participation portion of the grade is based on the number of absences and the quality of your participation. Class time will prioritize discussions of assigned readings. I expect everyone to actively engage in these conversations, and I may ask you to speak up at any time.

Everyone will complete two in-class presentations in January-March. Preparation will involve some outside work, using government documents, media reports, or other source materials. Sign-up dates can be accessed via Google document on Latte. Presentation questions are available on Latte.

2). Two Short Writing Assignments (10%)
Each student will select a topic for semester research and design a research project for the term paper, subject to the following requirements:
- Research projects must include a clear research question that seeks to explain some political or policy outcome related to U.S. foreign economic policy.
- Research projects must actively use primary sources, for example, government documents, archival records, or original data.

To begin work on the research project, there will be two short writing assignments. A two-page research question is due in class on March 19. A primary source list is due in class on March 26.

3). Midterm Examination (15%)
A midterm examination is scheduled for April 2. The exam will ask for written responses to short answer questions and essay questions.
4). **Research Presentation (15%)**  
Research presentations will be scheduled for **April 30** and **May 2**. Using visuals, presenters will introduce their research question, review the major findings of the research, and describe the sources and methods used.

5). **Term Paper (40%)**  
A term paper is due by 12 noon on Wednesday, **May 8**. Term papers should include a research question; a thesis statement; evidence to substantiate the thesis drawn from outside research; and citations to all sources of ideas and information.

**Note Regarding Credit Hours**  
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, researching and writing papers, and preparing for exams and presentations).

**Grading**  
Assignments will be letter-graded. Final scores for the term will be computed using the weights listed in the course requirements and this scale:  
- A+ (4.3)  
- A (4.0)  
- A- (3.7)  
- B+ (3.3)  
- B (3.0)  
- B- (2.7)  
- C+ (2.3)  
- C (2.0)  
- C- (1.7)  
- D (1.0)  
- F (0.0)

**Academic Integrity**  
You are expected to understand and follow university standards for academic integrity. Please consult **Rights and Responsibilities** for policies and procedures. All assignments must be your own work. Instances of suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university.

**Brandeis Writing Center**  
If you feel you could benefit from assistance with your writing, you are encouraged to consult the **Writing Center**. Visit the Writing Center’s website to find out about services, hours, and location, and to make an appointment. Plan ahead—their schedule fills up.

**Course Policies**  
Posted on Latte are course policies for absences, late papers, and missed presentations. Please consult this handout if you must miss class time, or if you cannot complete an assignment on time. If religious observance is an issue, please consult the university’s guidelines on **academic coursework and religious observance**.
Electronic Devices
Electronic devices may be used only for note-taking or accessing course materials. Other uses may result in deductions from the attendance/participation portion of your grade.

Academic Accommodations
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.

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

Course Readings
Course readings are posted to Latte. Printed packets are available for purchase for $18 in the Politics Department in Olin-Sang 204. You are expected to complete all readings for the scheduled date before coming to class on that day.

Course Schedule

January 15  Introduction and Syllabus
• In-class reading: Donald Trump’s Contract with the American Voter (2016).

Part I: Conceptual and Historical Foundations

January 18  Liberal Internationalism in Decline?

January 22  No Class—Brandeis Monday

January 25  Liberal Internationalism Resilient?
January 29  Foundations of the Trading System


February 1  Foundations of the Monetary System


February 5  Global Economic Order and U.S. Politics


Part II: International Trade

February 8  The United States and the Trade Regime

February 12  Trade on the Fast Track

February 15  WTO Dispute Settlement

February 19-22  No Class—February Break

February 26  Free Trade Agreements

March 1  Trade in the Trump Presidency

Part III: International Finance and Dollar Management

March 5  Bretton Woods and Its Demise
March 8  Dollar Politics

March 12  The IMF and World Bank
• Bessma Momani, American Politicization of the International Monetary Fund, Review of International Political Economy 11 (December 2004): 880-904.

March 15  International Financial Crises
• Sidney Weintraub, As Mexico Imploded: Action and Inaction in the United States, North-South Agenda Papers 28, University of Miami, July 1997.

March 19  Crafting a Research Question
• Clifford Bob, A Question and an Argument: Enhancing Student Writing through Guided Research Assignments, PS: Political Science & Politics 34 (September 2001): 653-655.
• Assignment: research question due in class on March 19.

March 22  Digital Literacy: Locating Sources

March 26  Financial Order in the Trump Presidency
• Assignment: primary source list due in class on March 26.
Part IV: Independent Research

March 29  Case Study Methods

April 2  Midterm Examination

April 5  Causal Process Tracing

April 9  Analysis and Citation

April 12  Write Up

April 16  Preparing a Presentation
• Ron E. Hassner, Sliding into Home Plate: How to Use Slideware to Improve Your Presentation (While Dodging the Bullets), *PS: Political Science & Politics* 38 (July 2005): 393-397.

April 19-26  No Class—April Break

April 30  Research presentations

May 2  Research presentations (note: Brandeis Friday)

May 8  Completed term paper due by 12 noon