Description
This course investigates the U.S. government’s management of the country’s foreign economic relations. The class joins three subject areas: 1) Foreign Policy, as national power, exposure to global markets, and participation in international organizations can be important influences on policy; 2) American Politics, as the interactions of governmental institutions, political actors, and domestic groups shape policymaking processes; and 3) Political Economy, as political factors impact economic policies toward international finance, the dollar, and international trade.

Learning Goals
Beyond learning about U.S. foreign economic policy, the course goals are to develop and 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 discussions, and writing exercises.
- Designing a manageable research project related to 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. The class will be limited to 25 students.

Requirements the Course Fulfills
The course fulfills both the seminar requirement and the international politics subfield requirement for majors and minors in Politics. It is cross-listed as an elective course in Economics, and it satisfies the Writing Intensive (WI) and Oral Communication (OC) university requirements.
**Course Requirements**

The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

1. **Regular Attendance and Class Participation (20%)**
   This assessment is based on the number of absences from class and participation quality. High-quality participation demonstrates sound knowledge of the assigned readings and/or a genuine effort at comprehension. In class, I may call on you at any time. If you rarely volunteer to speak, then expect to be called on several times during the term. By engaging in class discussions, you can avoid being put on the spot.

   Everyone will complete one in-class presentation in September or October. Preparation will involve some outside work, using government documents, media reports, or other source materials, to answer a policy-oriented question. Sign-up dates by policy area will be distributed via Google documents. Presentation questions are available on Latte.

2. **Midterm Examination (20%)**
   A take-home midterm examination will be distributed in class on Tuesday, **November 7**. It is due, via upload to Latte, no later than 5pm on Friday, **November 10**. The exam will involve written responses to short answer questions and essay questions.

3. **Two Short Writing Assignments (10%)**
   Each student will select a topic for semester research and design a manageable 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 relations.
   - 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 Tuesday, October 31. A primary source list is due in class on Friday, November 17.

4. Research Presentation (10%)
A research presentation will be scheduled for one of these dates: Friday, December 1; Tuesday, December 5; or Friday, December 8. Using visuals, presenters will introduce the 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 Monday, December 18. 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 Four-Credit Course (with 3 class hours per week)
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 and writing assignments, and preparing for class presentations).

Grading
Assignments will be graded out of 100 points based on the following scale: 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); F (less than 65).

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.

Course Policies
If an illness or emergency keeps you out of class, or if you cannot submit an assignment on time, please consult the handout course policies for absences, late papers, and missed presentations on Latte. 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 in the classroom only for note-taking or accessing course materials. If your electronic device becomes a distraction for you or others, I may deduct points from the attendance and participation portion of your course grade.
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, contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at brodgers@brandeis.edu or 6-3470.

Student Athletes
If intercollegiate athletic commitments interfere with any of the course requirements or deadlines, please provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than the third week of classes. For questions, consult the academic guidelines on student athletes.

Course Readings
Course readings are posted to Latte. Printed packets will be available for purchase 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

September 1 Introduction and Syllabus

Part I: Conceptual and Historical Foundations

September 5 Diplomacy and Domestic Politics

September 8 Liberal Internationalism

September 12 Foundations of the Trading System
September 15  Foundations of the Monetary System

September 19  Global Order and U.S. Politics

September 22  No Class—Rosh Hashanah

Part II: International Finance and Dollar Management

September 26  Bretton Woods and Its Demise

September 29  Dollar Politics

October 3  No Class—Brandeis Thursday
October 6  The IMF and World Bank

October 10  International Financial Crises

October 13  Global Finance and U.S. Politics

Part III: International Trade

October 17  The U.S. and the Trade Regime

October 20  Trade on the Fast Track

October 24  WTO Dispute Settlement

**October 27**  
**Trade Strategy in the 21st Century**  

**October 31**  
**Crafting a Research Question**  

*Research question due in class on Tuesday, October 31*

**November 3**  
**Trade in the Trump Administration**  

**November 7**  
**Case Study Methods**  

*Take-home midterm examination circulated on Tuesday, November 7*

**November 10**  
**No class—midterm examination due on Latte by 5pm**

**November 14**  
**Analysis and Citation**  
November 17  Causal Process Tracing

*Primary source list due in class on Friday, November 17*

November 21  Write Up

November 24  No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28  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 and Politics 38 (July 2005): 393-397.

December 1  Research presentations

December 5  Research presentations

December 8  Research presentations

*Completed term paper due by 12 noon on Monday, December 18*