POLITICS 15A: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Spring 2018

Tuesday and Friday 11:00-12:20
Olin-Sang 101

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucy M. Goodhart</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lgoodhar@brandeis.edu">lgoodhar@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Golding Judaica 23</td>
<td>Tuesday 2:10 - 4</td>
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<tr>
<th>Teaching Fellows</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mika Hackner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mhackner@brandeis.edu">mhackner@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Rabb 227</td>
<td>Thurs, 2-3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lan Ngo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ngodilan@brandeis.edu">ngodilan@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Rabb 224</td>
<td>Tues, 1-2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Smerkovich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:msmerk@brandeis.edu">msmerk@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Rabb 313</td>
<td>Tues, 3-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merima Tricic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:merimatricic@brandeis.edu">merimatricic@brandeis.edu</a></td>
<td>Rabb 313</td>
<td>Weds, 4-5pm</td>
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Learning Goals

This course introduces the academic study of international relations. Prior coursework in international relations is not required. During the course, students will:

1. Learn the **theories** that help to explain the behavior of states, the characteristics of the international system and the occurrence of war or peace.
2. Develop an **empirical grounding** in international relations by covering important events and trends, including the outbreak and aftermath of wars, developments in the global economy, and the growth of international institutions.
3. Gain confidence in **critical thinking** by examining contending perspectives and completing assignments in which you formulate an argument and address counter-arguments.
4. Build a **foundation for future study** in upper-division international relations courses in the Politics Department (courses numbered POL 160-POL 180).

POL 15A is designated as an Experiential Learning Course. This means that you will be actively engaged in connecting the readings and materials connected in class to events and processes occurring in the international realm. In particular, I believe that students appraise core ideas more decisively when they put themselves in the position of relevant countries or individuals. As such, classroom experience will approximate real instances in which the theories of international relations are germane.
For instance, the op-ed assignments will ask you to take on the persona of an international affairs theorist and to make an argument on a given topic from that viewpoint. Further, and as part of the simulated meeting of the UN Security Council, you will act as a diplomat representing one of the permanent five members of the Council. In this same role, you will write a strategy memo advising your government on how to approach the UN talks. These assignments underscore the immediate and real importance of international relations theory and are intended to foster a deeper and more meaningful engagement with that theory for the students who complete them.

You will also find a copy of this syllabus on the Latte. Under each section “button” there are links to electronic readings, activities and assignments. Additional handouts will be posted on Latte during the semester and powerpoint slides will be posted shortly after each lecture.

Discussion Sections

There are ten, required 50-minute sections, staring on Friday, January 19th. Participation in section is a crucial learning tool. You will receive an index card on the first day on which you will write down your top three choices of section time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>TF</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12 – 12:50 pm</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Mika Hackner</td>
<td>O-S 201</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4 – 4:50 pm</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Lan Ngo</td>
<td>O-S 212</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 – 10:50 am</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Lan Ngo</td>
<td>O-S 201</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>2 – 2:50 pm</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Maria Smerkovich</td>
<td>O-S212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>1-1:50 pm</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Mika Hackner</td>
<td>Kutz 132</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 – 10:50 am</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>Merima Tricic</td>
<td>O-S 124</td>
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Course Requirements and Grading

Success in this four credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of nine hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.). Course requirements and their weighting are as follows:

1. Regular attendance at section 5%
2. Active participation in section and class 5%
3. Two op-ed exercises for 10 % each 20%
4. Midterm exam in class on Tuesday, March 6th 25%
5. Diplomatic strategy memo and reflection for simulation exercise 20%
6. Final exam 25%
**Attendance and participation**

“Regular attendance at section” means that you come to every discussion section. Each teaching fellow, or TF, will maintain an attendance sheet. It is your responsibility to ensure that the TF knows you are present. If you have an unexpected event that makes it impossible for you to attend, you should alert the TF by email. You should seek my permission if you expect to be absent for more than two sections. “Active participation in section and class” means that you participate in discussion in section and class and contribute to the understanding of your peers. I will also post discussion questions on Latte so that those who prefer not to speak in class can make comments online before a class discussion.

**Midterm examination**

The midterm exam will be held in class on Tuesday, March 6th. It will cover course material through Friday, March 2\textsuperscript{nd} and will include identification questions and a choice of essay question. The final exam will be similar in structure to the midterm and will cover the material for the entire course. I reserve the right, in either the midterm or the final, to include a map question, which may be required. You will be notified in advance if the exam will include a map question.

**Op-ed Exercises**

You will write two op-ed (opinion editorial) pieces, of approximately 600-800 words each. For the first op-ed, you will be given two to three prompts and will be asked to make an argument that you link to the theoretical approaches we have covered. That op-ed is due on Tuesday, February 9\textsuperscript{th}.

For the second op-ed, you will respond to and take issue with an existing op-ed, which will be provided at the time of the exercise. You will develop and justify your own viewpoint, separate from that of the original author. That op-ed will be due on Tuesday, April 17\textsuperscript{th}. Both op-eds will be submitted in hard copy in class as well as electronically on Latte.

**The Simulation Exercise**

You will be divided into various groups representing the Permanent Five members at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). At the introductory session, you will be provided with a crisis scenario, which requires the intervention of the UNSC. Your objective is to negotiate and seek passage of a draft UNSC resolution. Participation in the simulation exercise is mandatory.

There are two parts to the written component: a diplomatic strategy memo and a reflection paper. Prior to the negotiation of the draft resolution, you will help guide the policy deliberations by arguing for a particular diplomatic strategy. Your input will be in the form of a three-page memo which you will submit on Latte by March 22\textsuperscript{nd}. This memo accounts for twelve percent of the grade. After the exercise, you will write a two-page reflection on the lessons of the negotiation for your team. This will also be submitted on Latte, by March 29\textsuperscript{th} and accounts for eight percent.
Grading
Assignments will be graded out of 100 points according to the following scale: A (95 and above); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (67-69). A score of less than 63 is regarded as a fail. Please note that I do not round up scores.

Please keep the following course policies in mind during the term:

Electronic devices
Please turn off your phone in class. Because note-taking on laptops has been found to be less effective for retaining knowledge than handwritten notes, I strongly discourage the use of laptops. The exceptions are students who find that laptops are particularly helpful to their learning style. Anyone using their laptop in a manner that disrupts their own learning or that of others will not be permitted to use their laptop for a three-week period and will be assigned a public participation exercise, most likely involving the singing of a national anthem to the class at the next session.

Illnesses and personal emergencies
If an illness or emergency prevents you from taking a scheduled exam, you must inform me by e-mail or phone before the exam.

Late submission
Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized two points per day, except in cases of a documented illness or personal emergency.

Student athletes
If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for the course, please provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the dates of these conflicts no later than Tuesday, February 6th.

Disability statement
If you receive academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please make sure that I receive your letter of accommodation no later than Tuesday, February 6th.

Academic integrity
I expect you to adhere to the highest academic integrity. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in referral to the Department of Student Development and Conduct. 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 electronic devices during an exam. The op-ed assignments will be handed in online and in hard copy so that both you and the teaching staff can assess the percent of your writing that is original content using the Turnitin online tool. Always feel free to ask your TF or me about these issues.
Readings and Course Materials

Textbooks
Textbooks are available for purchase or rental at the university bookstore. They are also on reserve at the Library. Purchasing used versions of these texts, or the earlier edition, is a wonderful way to save money and will give you the same insights as a clean copy of the current edition.

Karen A. Mingst and Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft, *Essentials of International Relations*, Seventh edition (W. W. Norton, 2017). This text will be referenced as M&A in the course schedule.


Prior to the Course
Before the course starts, you should have read the article on North Korea in the *New Yorker* from September 2017 by Evan Osnos and which is available on Latte and here: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/09/18/the-risk-of-nuclear-war-with-north-korea.

Online Materials
Any reading not from one of these two textbooks is generally available as a link on the Latte course page. These readings are designated (ER) for “electronic reading” in the course schedule. Study guides will also be posted to Latte.

Additional Readings
The course schedule indicates additional readings that are recommended for those students who have a particular interest in a given topic. They are not required but will enrich your understanding.

Background Reading on Historic Events
It is particularly important that you are attentive to the lectures on the major instances of conflict that we cover in the section, *The Causes of War and Peace*, so that you understand the historic setting of key events. The study guides for this section will highlight the material that you should know. In addition, however, I recommend the following sources.

World War I: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/origins_01.shtml


Cold War: PBS Documentary: The Cuban Missile Crisis – At the Brink
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pl3GZUrYOX0
COURSE SCHEDULE

NB: Page numbers in this course schedule refer to the seventh edition of Mingst and Arreguin-Toft. If you are using the sixth edition, I refer you to the concordance on Latte, which gives the relevant pages for that edition. Any readings form Art & Jervis listed here, and which are not in the twelfth edition, are available on Latte.

January 12th  Introduction
- M&A, Chapter One, pp. 3-19.

THEORY

January 16th  Theory Overview

January 19th  Anarchy and the International System

January 23rd  Power and Polarity


January 26th  State Preferences and Constructed Understandings
- Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in A&J.

Additional: The Economist, “Relative Moralism: Donald Trump’s Administration is Promoting Human Rights and Democracy,” December 2017

THE CAUSES OF WAR AND PEACE

January 30th  Lead Up to WWI
February 2nd  **WWI: Causes and Conduct**

February 6th  **Interwar Years**
- Dale Copeland, “Economic Interdependence and War,” in A&J.

February 9th  **Causes of WWII**
- James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” in A&J.

February 13th  **Post WWII Settlement**
- “Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany” (Morgenthau Plan), 1944 (ER)

February 16th  **Early Cold War**
- George F. Kennan’s Long Telegram, 22 February 1946 (ER).


February 19 – 23  **Midterm Recess (no class)**

February 27th  **Cold War Escalation**

March 2nd  
**Cold War Resolution and its Consequences**


March 6th:  
**In-class Midterm**

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: RIGHTS, NORMS AND ANARCHY**

March 9th  
**Civil and Ethnic Conflict**
- World Bank, “Shape of Violence Today,” in A&J.

March 13th  
**Human Rights**
- Martha Finnemore, “Changing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” from *The Purpose of Intervention*. (ER)

March 16th  
**International Organizations and Intervention**
- Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age,” in A&J.
- Caroline Hartzell and Matthew Hoddie, “Crafting Peace through Power Sharing,” in A&J.

**SIMULATION**

March 20th  
**Introduction to Simulation Exercise**
- UNSC Resolution 1973 (2011) on Libya (ER) and UNSC Resolution Vocabulary (ER).

March 23rd & 27th  
**Simulated UNSC Meetings**

March 30 – April 6  
**Spring Recess (No classes)**
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: EMERGING THREATS

April 10th  
**Terrorism**
- Audrey Kurth Cronin, “Ending Terrorism” in A&J.

April 13th  
**Nuclear Proliferation**


April 17th  
**The Rise of China**

April 20th  
**Cyber Security and Hybrid Warfare**
- Herbert Lin, “Cyber Conflict and National Security,” in A&J.
- Mark Galeotti, “Hybrid, Ambiguous and Non-Linear,” *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, 2016. (ER)

April 24th  
**US Grand Strategy**
- Peter Dombrowski and Simon Reich, “Does Donald Trump have a Grand Strategy?” *International Affairs*, 2017. (ER)

April 25th  
**Course Review**

May 1st  
**Final Exam**