Politics 173A
U.S. Foreign Economic Policy
Spring 2020
Tuesday-Friday 9:30-10:50am (G block)
Mandel G10

Instructor E-mail Office Hours Location
Kerry A. Chase chase@brandeis.edu Tuesday 1-3pm Olin-Sang 106

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.

Prerequisites and Consent Codes
Sophomore standing or higher is required. Enrollment is limited to 18 students.

Course Credits and Cross-Listings
The course provides credits and fulfills requirements as follows:
- Seminar requirement and international politics subfield requirement in Politics.
- Cross-listed as an elective course in Economics.
- Foundational Literacies: Writing Intensive (WI); Oral Communication (OC).

Learning Goals
The course is designed to enhance students’ skills in critical reasoning, analytical writing, oral communication, and research planning and operations. Learning goals include:
- 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.
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 one in-class presentation in January-March 20%

3). Two short writing assignments: a research memo due on March 27, and a primary source list due on April 3 15%

4). An in-class presentation of semester research to be scheduled for April 24 or April 28 10%

5). A term paper of at least 15 pages due via Latte 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 discussion of assigned readings. Everyone is expected to actively engage in these conversations, and I may ask you to speak up at any time.

Each student will complete one in-class presentation in January-March. Preparation will involve locating government documents, media reports, or other materials on the Internet or via library search engines to answer a policy-oriented question. Presentation questions are posted to Latte, and sign-up dates can be accessed via Google document on Latte.

2). Midterm Examination (15%)
A midterm examination will be held in class on March 17. The exam will ask for written responses to short answer questions and essay questions.

3). Two Short Writing Assignments (15%)
Each student will select a topic for the research presentation and term paper:
- Research projects will start from a clear research question and a specific case. A two-page research memo is due in class on Tuesday, March 27.
- Research projects will use primary sources, for example, government documents, archival records, and/or original data. A primary source list is due in class on Tuesday, April 3.

4). Research Presentation (10%)
Research presentations will be scheduled for April 24 and April 28. 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%)
The term paper is due via Latte by 12 noon on Friday, May 8. Term papers should include a research question; a thesis statement; evidence to support the thesis, assembled through research; and complete citations to all sources of information and ideas.

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).

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).

Academic Integrity
You are expected to understand and follow university standards for academic integrity. Consult Rights and Responsibilities for policies and procedures. Any suspected academic dishonesty will be referred to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty may include failing grades and/or suspension from the university.

Brandeis Writing Center
You are encouraged to consult the Writing Center if you feel you would benefit from writing assistance. Visit the Writing Center’s website for information 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. Be sure to consult these policies if you must miss class time, or if you cannot complete an assignment on time. For issues involving religious observance, 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 the term. For questions, contact Student Accessibility Support at access@brandeis.edu or 6-3470.
**Student Athletes**
If intercollegiate athletic events interfere with any course requirements or due dates, be sure to provide me a letter from the Director of Athletics detailing these conflicts no later than the third week of the term. For questions, consult the university guidelines.

**Course Readings**
There are no books to purchase. Course readings are posted to Latte. Printed packets are available for purchase for $16 in the Politics Department in Olin-Sang 204. You are expected to complete all readings for the scheduled date before that day’s class.

**Course Schedule**

**January 14**
**Introduction and Syllabus**
- **In-class:** Donald Trump’s Contract with the American Voter (2016).

**Part I: Conceptual and Historical Foundations**

**January 17**
**Liberal Internationalism in Decline?**

**January 21**
**Liberal Internationalism Resilient?**

**January 24**
**The Trading System**
January 28  Monetary and Financial Order


January 31  Institution-Building and the US Congress


Part II: International Trade

February 4  The Trade Regime and US Politics


February 7  Free Trade Agreements

February 11  Renegotiating Trade

February 14  WTO Dispute Settlement

February 18-21  No Class—Midterm Recess

February 25  Trade under Trump

Part III: International Finance

February 28  Bretton Woods and Its Demise
March 3  Dollar Politics and China

March 6  The IMF and World Bank

March 10  International Financial Crises

March 13  Financial Order: Obama and Trump

March 17  Midterm Examination

Part IV: Independent Research

March 20  Term Paper Assignment
- **Before class:** read the term paper assignment on Latte.
- **In-class:** review the term paper assignment; discussion and questions.

March 24  Drafting the Research Memo
- **Before class:** read sample research memos on Latte; start drafting your memo.
- **In-class:** review the research memo assignment; discussion and questions.
March 27  Locating Sources I
- **Before class:** try the techniques in the reading to locate sources for your paper.
- **In-class:** discussion about searching; demonstration of search techniques.
- **Assignment:** research memo due in class.

March 31  Locating Sources II
- **Before class:** use at least one of the search engines linked on Latte to locate sources for your paper; review at least one source you have located.
- **In-class:** discussion about sourcing; demonstration of search techniques.

April 3  Assembling and Organizing Information
- **Before class:** review at least two sources you have located.
- **In-class:** discussion on assembling and organizing information from sources.
- **Assignment:** primary source list due in class.

April 7   No Class—Brandeis Thursday

April 10-14  No Class—Spring Recess

April 17  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.
- **Before class:** review sample presentations on Latte.
- **In-class:** review the presentation assignment; discussion and questions.

April 21  Write Up
- **Before class:** start organizing your findings and preparing slides.
- **In-class:** discussion about how to structure the term paper.

April 24  Research presentations I

April 28  Research presentations II