POLITICS 15A: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Spring 2016

Tuesday and Friday 12:30-1:50
Mandel Center, G03

Instructor      E-mail                  Room                  Office Hours
Lucy M. Goodhart lgoodhar@brandeis.edu  Golding Judaica 23     Tuesday 2:10 - 4

Teaching Fellows E-mail                  Room                  Office Hours
Christiana Botticello cbott@brandeis.edu  Rabb 227              Thursday 2 – 3 pm
Christine Choudri echoudri@brandeis.edu  Rabb 219              Wednesday 12 – 1 pm
Lan Ngo          ngodilan@brandeis.edu    Rabb 247              Thursday 2 – 3 pm

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. 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.
2. Learn analytical tools to explain the behavior of states and the characteristics of the international system.
3. Gain confidence in critical thinking by examining contending theoretical perspectives and interpretations.
4. Build a foundation for future study in upper-division international relations courses in the Politics Department (courses numbered POL 160-POL 180).

Course Website

You will also find a copy of this syllabus on the Latte. Assignments and course policies are posted at the top center underneath the masthead. Under each course modules there are links to electronic readings. Additional announcements and handouts will be posted on Latte during the semester and powerpoint slides will be posted shortly before lecture.
Discussion Sections

There is a required 50-minute section each week, starting the week of January 25th. I will generally ask TA’s to facilitate a discussion in which you look at a particular event through the lens of a given IR theory. This practice reinforces critical thinking but also prepares you for questions on the midterm and final exams. Instructions for signing up for a section will be distributed via Google forms after the first class meeting:

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Course Requirements and Grading

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 (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.). The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

1. Regular attendance and active participation in discussion section 10%
2. A country profile due in class on February 2nd 10%
3. One-page “Theory meets Case” essay due week of February 8-12th 5%
4. A midterm examination in class on Friday, March 4th 20%
5. A five page policy analysis memo due in class on Friday, April 8th 25%
6. A final examination on Wednesday, May 11th 30%

Section attendance and participation

“Regular attendance” means that you are expected to come to every discussion section. A sign-in sheet will be circulated at each meeting and it is your responsibility to sign your name. If you have an urgent, unexpected event that makes it impossible for you to attend section, it is your responsibility to alert the section leader by email. You should inform the professor and indicate the reasons if you are likely to miss more than two sections during the semester.

Approximately half the grade for section is given for attendance. The additional five percent is given for “Active participation.” This means that you consistently contribute to discussion. These contributions should demonstrate that you have prepared for the discussion, read the assigned materials, and tried to understand them.
Midterm examination
The midterm exam will be held in class on Friday, March 4th. It will cover course material through Tuesday, March 1st, although most of the material will have been covered up to February 12th. There will be three essay choices.

Final examination
The final examination covers the entire course. Part I will have six identification questions; you will respond to four, identifying each term or concept and explaining its significance. Part II will have three essay options; you will respond to one, providing a thesis statement and substantiating your argument in response to the question asked.

Country Profile
You will compile a report, mainly in tabular form, of a country that is different from the one you grew up in and which will be similar to a Department of State “Country Report.” The report will cover salient information on the country’s influence, vulnerabilities, domestic institutional structure and policy-making process. You will select a country from a list that will be made available on Latte after the first class meeting. A guide to the assignment, explaining the sources of information that you could use and the types of information sought, will be placed on Latte.

Theory Meets Case Analysis
You will prepare a two-page essay analyzing a given event through the lens of a particular theory. You will hand this analysis in during section. The question to which you are to respond will be emailed to you at the start of that week.

Policy Memo
You will adopt the persona of a US Department of State analyst (or an equivalent position within the foreign ministry of another country). You will write a five-page policy memo for the Assistant Secretary of State with responsibility on a given area advising that person (or the equivalent) how the US (or your country) should respond to a particular event. An explanation of how to write a policy memo, and lists of events from which you can choose, will be circulated following the February vacation.

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. Final scores and grades will be computed by weighting each assignment by the percentage given on the previous page.
Please keep the following course policies in mind during the term:

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

*Classroom interaction*
During lecture I will often raise questions for the class to consider. I may ask you to bring a sign with your name on it to class. If you have a strong aversion to speaking in public, I will request that you let me know this at the start of the semester.

*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. Also be sure to contact your class advisor so that s/he is aware of your issue and can advise you on it. For issues regarding religious observance, please read the university guidelines.

*Paper submission*
A printed copy of all assignments must be submitted by the due date indicated. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized 2 points per day, except in cases of a documented illness or personal emergency.

*Final exam date*
University rules prohibit instructors from offering early final exams. Students requiring a make-up final exam should be advised that the conflict resolution block, as scheduled by the Registrar’s Office, is on the afternoon of Thursday, May 12th.

*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 Friday, January 29th. If you have questions, please consult the university guidelines.

*Disability statement*
If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please make sure that I receive your letter of accommodation no later than Tuesday, February 23rd. For questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at 6-3470.

*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; using any material during an exam that is not explicitly authorized; and using or accessing electronic devices during an exam. If you have questions about academic integrity, consult the Academic Integrity Resources on the LTS website. Always feel free to ask your Teaching Fellow or me about these issues when you have questions.

Readings and Course Materials

You should complete all of the 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. They are also on reserve at the Main Library.


Online Materials
Electronic readings, which have the symbol (ER) and a hyperlink, are uploaded to Latte. Find these readings underneath the relevant course module. PowerPoint files of all lectures will available on Latte shortly before the start of a given lecture. These files are uploaded so you can refer back to them when you review course materials. However, I wish you to follow the lecture slides on the screen, and to take additional notes on paper or on laptop, rather than following the slides on your computer. Study guides listing important terms, concepts, people, and events from lectures and course readings are posted to Latte for each of the course’s four parts. The first two study guides will be updated about ten days before the midterm examination and the last two study guides will be updated about ten days before the final examination.
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 15  
**Westphalian Origins**
- An introduction to the game *Diplomacy* and advice from Dennis Ross, see: [http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/531/got-your-back.](http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/531/got-your-back.)
- Sobel, IPE, Ch. 2: Structure, Nation-States, Power, and Order in an International Context, 70-78.

FOCAL NARRATIVES AND ACCOMPANYING THEORY

January 19th  
**A Century of Peace and the Major Paradigms**
- Nye-Welch, *UGCC*, Ch1: 3-16, Ch 2: 38-52, Ch. 3: 78-81, 86-93.
- Sobel, IPE, Ch. 9: Around the World in Eighty Days, 326-328, 332-34, 348-364.

January 22nd  
**World War I**
- (ER) Germany’s “Blank Check” to Austria, 6 July 1914; and Britain’s Indecisiveness, 31 July 1914. (3 pages)

January 26th  
**Interwar Turmoil and the Balancing of Power**
- (ER) President Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, 8 January 1918; and The League of Nations, 25 September 1919 (7 pages).

January 29th  
**World War II**
- (ER) Munich Pact, 29 September 1938; German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, 23 August 1939; and Meeting between President Roosevelt and the Japanese Ambassador on the Japanese Occupation of Indochina, 24 July 1941 (7 pages).
February 2\textsuperscript{nd} Modeling the Decision to Go to War
\begin{itemize}
\item Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 1: 16-24.
\item Sobel, \textit{IPE}, Ch 1: 11-27, Ch. 4: 196-198.
\end{itemize}

NB: Country Report due

February 5\textsuperscript{th} From World War to Cold War
\begin{itemize}
\item Nye-Welch, \textit{UGCC}, Ch. 5: The Cold War, 142-159.
\item (ER) \textit{Suggested Post-Surrender Program for Germany} (Morgenthau Plan), August 1944 (external link, 5 pages).
\item (ER) George F. Kennan’s Long Telegram, 22 February 1946 (12 pages).
\item (ER) \textit{NSC 68}: United States Objectives and Programs for National Security, 14 April 1950, read Part I, Part II, Part III, and Conclusions and Recommendations (external link, 13 pages).
\end{itemize}

February 9\textsuperscript{th} Regional Conflicts in the Cold War and Morality
\begin{itemize}
\item Nye-Welch, \textit{UGCC}, Ch 1: Enduring Logics, 25-34; Ch. 5: The Cold War, 159-165.
\item (ER) Ray Takeyh, The Iran-Iraq War: A Reassessment, \textit{Middle East Journal} 64 (Summer 2010), 365-383.
\end{itemize}

February 12\textsuperscript{th} The Cold War and Its End
\begin{itemize}
\item Nye-Welch, \textit{UGCC}, Ch 5: The Cold War, 165-172.
\item Sobel, \textit{IPE}, Ch. 13: Détente and the End of the Cold War, 511-527.
\item (ER) William C. Wohlforth, No One Loves a Realist Explanation, \textit{International Politics} 48 (July-September 2011), 441-459.
\item (ER) Jack Snyder, The Domestic Political Logic of Gorbachev’s New Thinking in Foreign Policy, \textit{International Politics} 48 (July-September 2011), 562-574.
\end{itemize}

NB: One-page “Theory meets Case” Essay is submitted in section this week

February 15 – 19 Midterm Recess (no class)

ARGUING THE THEORY

February 23\textsuperscript{rd} Can we be Safe in an Anarchic World?
\begin{itemize}
\end{itemize}
February 26th  Can Nations Cooperate?

March 1st  Can Preferences Change?

March 4th  Midterm Examination in class

CONTEMPORARY DILEMMAS IN SECURITY

March 8th  The Use of Force
- (ER) Amatzia Baram, Deterrence Lessons From Iraq: Rationality Is Not the Only Key to Containment, *Foreign Affairs* 76 (July-August 2012), 76-90.

March 11th  Nuclear Weapons
March 15th  
**International Terrorism**
- (ER) Mia Bloom, Devising a Theory of Suicide Terror, Chap. 4 in *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror* (Columbia University Press, 2005), 76-100.

March 18th  
**Iraq and Preemption**
- Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 6: Post-Cold War Conflict and Cooperation, 230-234.
- (ER) Regime Strategic Intent, excerpted from *Comprehensive Report of the Special Advisor to the DCI on Iraq’s WMD*, 30 September 2004 (1 page).

March 22nd  
**State Failure and Civil War**

March 25th  
No class due to March Recess but you should inform your section leader of your choice of event for the policy memo by this date.

March 29th  
**The UN and Conflict Intervention**
- Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 6: Post-Cold War Conflict and Cooperation, 196-206.
THE GLOBAL ECONOMY – CAN WE ALL GAIN?

April 1st  
Globalization and Peace  
• Nye-Welch, UGCC, Ch. 7: Globalization and Interdependence, 255-275.  

April 5th  
How to Sustain Globalization  

April 8th  
No Lecture but Policy Memo due at Class

April 12th  
The Role of the Global Hegemon  

April 15th  
Crises and Instability  
• Sobel, IPE, Ch. 12: The World Post-Bretton Woods, 464-497, 502-507.  

April 19th  
The Prospects for International Finance  
• Sobel, IPE, Ch. 11: The Bretton Woods System, 440-447.  

April 21st  
(Brandeis Friday) Conclusion and Q&A

April 22 – 29  
Spring Recess (No classes)

May 11th  
Final Examination 1:30-4:30