

Rutgers University-Newark
Department of Political Science
Spring 2022

World Politics



Cross-boundary issues



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Dr. James Amemasor

Course Number: 21:790:321:01

Course Location: SMT-B22

Class Time: Tues. 2:30-5:20 P.M.

Office: Hill Hall 720

Office Hour: Tues 1:30-2:30 P.M. (and by appointment)

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Course Description and Objectives

World Politics is about how the countries and people of the world get along. For the past 374 years or so, the *modern world* has been increasingly divided up into *nation-states*. This division has led to the development and growth of a *particular kind of politics*, different from "domestic" politics, and usually referred to as International Relations. This distinction between politics "inside" the state and politics "outside" the state has become deeply entrenched in our understanding of the modern world.

This course offers an introduction to the study of World Politics. We will examine the core concepts and theories that scholars use to explain the dynamics of this subfield of Political Science and will do so by exploring a diverse set of expectations about actors' *interests* and the different *institutions* that shape their *interactions*. The complex patterns of such relations will be examined, with a focus on the roles of national and international institutions, transnational organizations, and civil society.

The course is divided into five sections. The first section presents an overview of the evolution of the modern world. The second part examines the central puzzles associated with international security and explores why the international community finds it hard to cooperate to prevent wars. This section also examines the activities of non-state actors, including rebel groups and terrorist organizations. The third section explores the main puzzles in international economic relations, including trade, financial, and monetary relations. The last two sections deal with transnational issues and processes as well as the challenges associated with global governance. We will examine the development of international law and norms and give attention to efforts that address threats to the global environment. Students are expected to keep abreast of current events and how they impact world politics in order to better understand the information presented in class.

Learning Goals

This course is designed to help students:

Objective	Assessment
A. Understand that world politics spans the continuum from open warfare to peaceful cooperation over issues and resources.	Class discussion and written assignments
B. Demonstrate understanding of the complexities of the global issues that produce relations and interactions among diverse sets of actors.	Course Term Paper and class discussions
C. Recognize that the traditions of realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical approaches to world politics can be understood as a set of assumptions about <i>interests</i> , <i>interactions</i> , and <i>institutions</i> .	Mid-term, Final, and Term Paper, Quizzes
D. Demonstrate understanding of the evolving relations among critical transnational actors and the global issues that shape such relations.	Class Discussions, written assignments
E. Enhance their analytical skills through the study of how the concepts of <i>interests</i> , <i>interactions</i> , and <i>institutions</i> shape the priorities and behavior of nation-states and other actors in our global system.	Written assignments Quizzes
F. Develop understanding of the relationship between theory and policy making or problem solving in world politics.	Class Discussion, written Term Paper
G. Develop the habit of applying new scholarly information learned in class to the problems of the day in logical analyses.	Class Discussions

Required Text

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 4th edition (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019), ISBN 9780393675092, available for purchase from Rutgers University-Newark Bookstore.

Supplementary Readings

In addition to the textbook selected for this course, students will be required to examine book chapters as well as journal articles and newspaper clippings provided as supplementary readings for a broader understanding and integration of the topics and themes discussed in class. Most of these materials are available in electronic format in the course's Canvas page; others are available online. The supplementary materials are taken from scholarly journals, magazines, and newspapers, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Financial Times*, *The Atlantic*, *New York Times*, *BBC News*, *Washington Post*, *Harvard International Review*, and *Journal of International Affairs*.

Course Requirements and Grades

- 1) Readings are assigned for each class session. All readings will provide background information on the topics and themes presented in the course. It is *imperative*, therefore, that students complete all required readings on time in order to be able to participate actively in class discussions. *Class discussions are an important part of the learning process.*
- 2) Regular and punctual attendance is a course requirement. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class session. Please note that more than two unexcused absences will draw a penalty on the participation portion of your grade. Attendance is, however, meaningful if you are involved in class discussions.
- 3) As part of your class participation, students are encouraged to read reputable magazine and/or newspaper (e.g., *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *The Atlantic*) articles that reflect global trends and developments in world politics. The instructor will randomly call upon students to share details of their articles, and students are expected to relate the content of their articles to the core concepts of *interests*, *interactions*, and *institutions*.
- 4) Starting from the second week, a team of 2-3 students will open class sessions with a 20-minute oral presentation based on assigned readings. The presenters will be required to survey what they think are the most significant dimensions of the readings and to present the class with a series of points for discussion.
- 5) Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be held on *Tuesday, March 8*. Please note that materials from assigned readings along with information presented in class lectures and discussions will be the subject of the midterm exam. The nature and format of the exam will be discussed in detail later in the semester.
- 6) Term Paper: The due date for the term paper (no more than 10 double-spaced typed pages, not including the bibliography) is *Tuesday, May 10*. Students are required to submit a preliminary one-page proposal on a topic of their choice within the realm of world politics, which must be approved by the instructor. The proposal is due on *Tuesday, March 29 in class*. It will not be graded, but rather returned with comments. The term paper must have a cover page, title, and abstract.

- 7) All written assignments for this class are to be in Times New Roman, 12-point font with one-inch margins. No space is to be left between paragraphs, which are to be indented on the first line. Details of the term paper assignment are available on the course's Canvas page.
- 8) Papers should utilize one of the *Chicago Manual of Style* citation formats. The guidelines for these formats are on the course's Canvas page.

The final grade earned in this course will be based on student performance in these areas:

- a.) Class Participation – 15%
- b.) Oral Presentations – 10%
- c.) Quizzes (5 quizzes) – 25%
- d.) Midterm Exam – 20%
- e.) Term Paper – 30%

Please note that make-ups for missed exams as well as extensions for the term paper will only be granted with a valid and documented excuse, subject to the instructor's approval.

Grade Scale for Tests, Papers, and Final Grade Assignments

90-100 = A 85-89 = B+ 80-84 = B 75-79 = C+ 70-74 = C 59-69 = D <59 = F

For information regarding important semester dates (e.g., University Academic Calendar and Fall Exams Schedule), see <https://scheduling.rutgers.edu/scheduling/academic-calendar>.

Course Format

Class meetings are divided into lectures, student presentations, and class discussions. These formats are intended to complement one another and are integral parts of the course. The lectures provide context to historical themes, events, and global trends and processes. As such, they will provide context for students' consideration. Class discussions are designed to support the lectures. Thus, students should attend classes and actively participate in the learning process.

Academic Integrity

As scholars of Rutgers University-Newark, all students are held to the university's Academic Integrity and Student Conduct Codes as well as to their instructor's expectations, which include NO engaging in obscene or offensive behavior and NO utilizing inappropriate language or profanity. As an academic community dedicated to the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, Rutgers University is committed to fostering an intellectual and ethical environment based on the principles of academic integrity. Academic integrity is essential to the success of the University's educational and research missions, and violations of academic integrity constitute serious offenses against the entire academic community. Academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism on term papers and exams will not be tolerated and may result in an immediate and final course grade of "F." Please note that such cases will be reported to the Chair of the Political Science Department, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible academic probation and/or suspension from the University. See Academic Integrity Policy at Rutgers University at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>.

Policy on Inclusiveness

It is the policy and practice of Rutgers University-Newark to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. In order to receive such accommodations, you must complete and submit the Registration Form along with the appropriate documentation. Please note that students are not permitted to negotiate any applicable accommodations directly with their professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Services-Newark (ODS), Robeson Campus Center, Suite 219, at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, please be sure to contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or by email at ODS@newark.rutgers.edu.

Policy on Incompletes

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request, accompanied by an Incomplete Grade Extension Form (available from the Department of Political Science Main Office), to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the request for an incomplete is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving it, or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first), automatically becomes an "F." It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the time frame allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

Coronavirus Safety

In accordance with Rutgers-Newark COVID-19 safety guidelines, masks must be worn by all persons inside campus buildings when in the presence of others, and in buildings in non-private enclosed settings (e.g., common workspaces, workstations, meeting rooms, classrooms). Masks should securely cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be worn during class meetings. Each day before you arrive on campus or leave your residence hall, you must complete the brief survey on the My Campus Pass symptom checker self-screening app found at: [myRutgers Portal](#).

- ⦿ **This syllabus is subject to change** and such a change will be announced to students. Please note that students are responsible for keeping track of all announcements and assignments.

Schedule of Classes

PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Jan. 18: Review of course requirements

Week 2: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction

Jan. 25: Frieden et al., "Introduction" and Chapter 1.

Blake Smith, "Slavery as Free Trade," *Aeon*, June 29, 2016. Available from <https://aeon.co/essays/why-the-original-laissez-faire-economists-loved-slavery>

William Dalrymple, "Lessons for Capitalism from the East India Company," *Financial Times*, August 29, 2019.

Lisa Kaltenegger, "Is Earth the Only Living Planet?" *Financial Times*, August 30, 2019.

Week 3: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions

Feb. 1: Frieden, et al, Chapter 2.

Jack Snider, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* (Dec. 2004): 52-62.

Javier C. Hernández, "U.S. and Iran Are Trolling Each Other—in Asia," *New York Times*, January 16, 2020.

PART TWO: WAR AND PEACE

Week 4: Why are there Wars?

Feb. 8: Frieden et al., Chapter 3.

For information on significant conflicts around the world, see "Global Conflict Tracker" on Council on Foreign Relations website

<https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/global-conflict-tracker>

BBC News, "Russia and US warships almost collide in East China Sea"

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-48553568>

Week 5: Domestic Politics and War

Feb. 15: Frieden et al., Chapter 4.

David E. Sanger and David D. Kirkpatrick, "In Face-Off with Iran, Escalation May Depend on Who Prevails Inside Washington and Tehran," *New York Times*, June 15, 2019.

Uri Friedman, "Syria's War Has Never Been More International," *The Atlantic*, February 14, 2018.

Nour Samaha, "The Black Market Kings of Damascus," *The Atlantic*, October 3, 2016.

Week 6: International Institutions and War

Feb. 22: Frieden et al, Chapter 5.

Terrence L. Chapman and Scott Wolford, "International Organizations, Strategy, and Crisis Bargaining," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 72, No. 1 (January 2010): 227-242.

Jimmy Carter, "In Syria, an Ugly Peace is Better than More War," *New York Times*, August 24, 2018.

Week 7: Violence by Non-state Actors: Civil War and Terrorism

March 1: Frieden et al, Chapter 6.

Ryan C. Crocker, "Why Biden's Lack of Strategic Patience Led to Disaster," *New York Times*, August 21, 2021.

Elliot Ackerman, "Winning Ugly: What the War on Terror Cost the United States," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 5 (September/October 2021): 66-74

Week 8: International Trade

March 8: Frieden et al, Chapter 7.

James Politi and Peggy Hollinger, "US Hits EU Goods with New Tariffs after WTO Ruling," *Financial Times*, October 2, 2019.

Jim Brunsten, "EU Hits US Goods with Tariffs in Airbus-Boeing-Dispute," *Financial Times*, November 9, 2020.

Jim Brunsten and Sam Fleming, "EU Chief Hopeful of Deal with US to End Airbus-Boeing Dispute," *Financial Times*, May 2, 2021.

Peggy Hollinger, "What is at Stake in WTO Ruling on Airbus-Boeing Trade Dispute," *Financial Times*, October 2, 2019.

Tuesday March 8: Midterm Exam

PART THREE: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Week 9: Spring Break

March 15: **No Class**

Week 10: International Financial Relations

March 22: Frieden et al, Chapter 8.

Mohamed A. El-Elrian, "The Future of Economic and Financial Globalization," *Journal of International Affairs*, Special Issue, Vol. 70 (2017): 1-6.

Adam Tooze, "The Rise and Fall and Rise (and Fall) of the U.S. Financial Empire," *Foreign Policy*, Issue 239 (Winter 2021): 66-74.

Week 10: International Monetary Relations

March 22: Read Frieden et al., Chapter 9.

Colby Smith, Eva Szalay and Katie Martin, "Dollar Blues: Why the Pandemic is Testing Confidence in the U.S. Currency," *Financial Times*, July 31, 2020.

John Plender, "Global Liquidity Squeeze Looks to Continue," *Financial Times*, August 20, 2018.

Week 11: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations

March 29: Frieden et al, Chapter 10.

Anne- Marie Slaughter and Gordon LaForge, "Opening Up the Order," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 2 (March/April 2021): 154-162.

Jeffery Sachs, "Trials and Tribulations: A Response to 'How Poverty Ends,'" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, Issue 3 (May/June 2020): 186-189.

Tues., March 29: Term paper proposal due

Week 12: Discussion of Term Paper Proposals

April 5: Presentation and Discussion of Term Paper proposals

We will use this meeting to discuss your term paper proposals, the goal of which is to create space for your peers to provide feedback on one another's proposal.

PART FOUR: TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS

Week 13: International Law and Norms

April 12: Frieden et al, Chapter 11.

Week 14: Human Rights

April 19: Frieden et al, Chapter 12.

Sebastian Strangio, "The Myanmar Mirage: Why the West Got Burma Wrong," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, Issue 3(May/June 2020): 179-186.

Richard C. Paddock, "U.N. Court Orders Myanmar to Protect Rohingya Muslims," *New York Times*, January 23, 2020.

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, "I Will Not Stay Silent. Our Leaders are Failing Human Rights," *New York Times*, May 6, 2019.

PART FIVE: LOOKING AHEAD

Week 15: The Global Environment & the Future of International Politics

April 26: Read Frieden et al, Chapters 13 & 14.

Erle C. Ellis, "Science Alone Won't Save the Earth. People Have to Do That," *New York Times*, August 11, 2018.

David A. Graham, "Can Anyone Fill the U.S. Leadership Vacuum on Climate Change?" *The Atlantic Monthly*, June 25, 2018.

Graham Allison, "The Thucydides Trap," *Foreign Policy*, Issue 224 (May/June 2017): 80-81.

May 3 & 4: **Reading Days**

May 10: Term Paper Due