

Rutgers University -Newark  
Department of Political Science  
Fall 2019

# World Politics



Cross-boundary issues



Reuters/Corbis

# Dr. James Amemasor

Course Number: 21:790:321:01

Course Location: HIL-115

Class Time: Tuesday 2:30-5:20 p.m.

Office: Hill Hall 712

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

Email: [jamemas@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:jamemas@newark.rutgers.edu)

## **Course Description and Objectives**

World Politics is about how the countries and people of the world get along. For the past 370 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 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 actors.	Course Term Paper and class discussions
C. Recognize that the traditional paradigms of world politics based on realism, liberalism, and constructivism can be understood as a set of assumptions about interests, interactions, and institutions.	Mid-term, Final, and Term Paper
D. Demonstrate understanding of the evolving relations among transnational actors and the global trends that shape such relations.	Oral Presentations and Term Paper
E. Enhance their analytical skills through the study of how the concepts of interests, interactions, and institutions shape our world.	Written assignments

## **Required Text**

Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*, 4th ed. (New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019).

### **Supplementary Readings**

In addition to the text 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. These materials will be available in electronic format in Blackboard.

### **Course Requirements and Grades**

- 1) Readings are assigned for each class session. It is *imperative* that students complete all required readings on time in order to be able to participate actively in class discussions. All readings will provide background information on the topics and themes presented in the course. *Class discussions are an important part of the learning process. That along with student participation will be highly valued by the instructor.*
- 2) As part of your class participation, students are required to bring reputable newspaper or magazine clippings 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 article to the core concepts of interests, interactions, and institutions.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Starting from the second week, a team of 2-3 students will open class sessions with a 15-20 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 and Final Exams: The midterm exam will be held during our regular class period on *Tuesday, October 22*. The final exam will take place during the time period assigned per the Fall 2019 Exam Schedule <https://tls.newark.rutgers.edu/academic-scheduling/academic-scheduling-resources/final-exam-schedule-fall-2019>. Please note that materials from assigned readings along with information presented in class lectures and discussions will be the subject of both the midterm and final exams. The nature and format of the exams 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, December 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, November 12*. It will not be graded, but rather returned with comments. The term paper must have a cover page, title, and abstract. 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 listed in an additional course document, available on the course's Blackboard page.

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

- a.) Class Attendance & Participation – 10%
- b.) Oral Presentations – 10 %

- c.) Quizzes – 10%
- d.) Midterm Exam – 20%
- e.) Term Paper – 30 %
- f.) Final Exam – 20%

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://registrar.newark.rutgers.edu/office-registrar-academic-calendar>

### **Course Format**

Class meetings are divided into lectures and class discussions. These two formats are intended to complement each other and are both 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 University Academic Integrity Policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

### **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 [odsewark@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:odsewark@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.

- ⦿ 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.
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## **Schedule of Classes**

### **Week 1: Introductions to the Course**

Tues., Sept. 3: Introductory Meeting

Read Frieden et al., pp. xx-xxxix.

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

### ***PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS***

### **Week 2: What Shaped Our World? A Historical Introduction**

Sept. 10: Read: Read Frieden, et al., pp. 2-41.

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

Samuel P. Huntington, "Transnational Organizations in World Politics," *World Politics*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (April 1973): 333-368.

### **Week 3: Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions**

Sept. 17: Read Frieden et al, pp. 42-87.

Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, "Power in International Politics," *International Organizations*, Vol. 59 (Winter 2005): 39-75.

Ian Hurd, "The International Rule of Law: Law and the Limit of Politics," *Ethics & International Affairs*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2014): 39-51.

## ***PART TWO: WAR AND PEACE***

### **Week 4: Why are there Wars?**

Sept. 24: Read Frieden et al., pp. 88-117.

Uri Friedman, "Donald Trump Sorrowfully Cancels Another North Korea Meeting," *The Atlantic Monthly*, August 24, 2018.

Joseph Yun, "How the U.S. and North Korea Can Break the Cycle of Disappointment," *Washington Post*, August 15, 2018.

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**

Oct. 1: Read Frieden et al., pp. 138-185.

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

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

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.

### **Week 6: International Institutions and War**

Oct. 8: Read Frieden et al, pp. 186-235.

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

Johannes Karreth and Jaroslav Tir, "International Institutions and Civil War Prevention," *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 75, No. 1 (January 2013): 96-109.

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

BBC News, "INF Nuclear Treaty: NATO 'to Avoid Arms Race' after US-Russia Pact Ends" <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-49207281> (accessed August 2, 2018).

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

Oct. 15: Read Frieden et al, pp. 236-293.

Eeben Barlow, "The Rise and Fall of – and Rise Again of Boko Haram," *Harvard International Review*, Vol. 37, Issue 4 (Summer 2016): 16-20.

"The Origins of Boko Haram," *New African*, Issue 583 (May 2018): 31-33.

### ***PART THREE: INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY***

#### **Week 8: International Trade**

Oct. 22: Read Frieden et al, pp. 294-345.

Liu Xiaoming, "Brics Countries Show the US the benefits of Globalization," *Financial Times*, August 20, 2018.

Ben Bland, "Sino-US Trade War Prompts Rethink on Supply Chains," *Financial Times*, September 3, 2018.

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

<b>Tues. Oct. 22: Midterm Exam</b>
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#### **Week 9: International Financial and Monetary Relations**

Oct. 29: Read Frieden et al, pp. 346-385.

Read Frieden et al, pp. 386-423.

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

#### **Week 10: Development: Causes of the Wealth and Poverty of Nations**

Nov. 5: Read Frieden et al, pp. 424-461.

Read William Easterly, "Development in a Time of Xenophobia," *Journal of International Affairs*, Special Issue, Vol. 70 (2017): 1-6

### ***PART FOUR: TRANSNATIONAL POLITICS***

#### **Week 11: International Law and Norms**

Nov. 12: Read Frieden et al, pp. 462-497

<b>Tues., Nov. 12: Term paper proposal due</b>
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#### **Week 12: Discussion of Term Paper proposals**

Nov. 19: 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.

#### **Week 13: Human Rights**

**Nov. 26:** Read Frieden et al, pp. 498-539.

Rana Mitter, "Five Ways China's Past has Shaped Its Present," BBC,  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-43714279>

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, "I Will Not Stay Silent. Our Leaders are Failing Human Rights," *New York Times*, May 6, 2019. Available from  
<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/10000006306143/un-human-rights-violations.html>

### ***PART FIVE: LOOKING AHEAD***

#### **Week 14: The Global Environment**

Dec. 3: Read Frieden et al, pp. 540-583.

Erle C. Ellis, "Science Alone Won't Save the Earth. People Have to Do It," *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.

#### **Week 15: Challenges to the Global Order**

Dec. 10: Read Frieden et al, pp. 584-635.

**Concluding Lecture** focusing on the future of world politics.

<b>Dec 10: Term Paper Due</b>
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Dec. 12: **Reading Day**

**Final exams begin Dec. 16:**

World Politics Final Exam: Tuesday 11:45 A.M. -2:45 P.M.