

Introduction to World Politics
PLSC 117 – Fall 2017
Tue & Thu 10:05-11:30am
Lecture Hall 001

Instructor: Prof. Katja Kleinberg
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Office hours: T 1-2:30pm, F 10-11:30am
 and by appointment

Teaching Assistants:	Section	Time & Location
Jeremy Berkowitz (jberkow5@binghamton.edu)	20781	M 10:50-11:50am, Fine Arts 249
	20780	W 9:40-10:40am, Student Services Wing 311
Jose Santana (jsanta11@binghamton.edu)	20775	M 4:40-5:40pm, Library North 1404
	20777	W 4:40-5:40pm, Fine Arts 344
Brendan Szendro (bszendr1@binghamton.edu)	20773	T 6-7pm, Student Services Wing 313
	20784	W 5:50-6:50pm, Tuscarora Office Bldg. 219
Abdul Basit Adeel (aadeel1@binghamton.edu)	20783	M 5:50-6:50pm, Science 2 G42
	20776	T 6-7pm, Library North 1404
Esol Cho (echo33@binghamton.edu)	20778	W 8:30-9:30am, Fine Arts 346
	20779	R 6-7pm, Library North 1404
Matthew Walz (mwalz2@binghamton.edu)	20774	M 8:30-9:30am, Fine Arts 346
	20782	R 6-7pm, Rockefeller Center 259

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to the study of international relations. We will examine a wide range of issues related to armed conflict between and within states, global trade and finance, economic development, and human rights. More specifically, we will discuss some of the big questions about war, prosperity, and coexistence in a world of limited resources, that have occupied policymakers and political scientists for over a hundred years. We will also consider the social scientific methods that scholars have used to answer these questions. Given the breadth of our subject matter, this course can only provide an overview of foundational concepts and arguments. Most of the topics we touch upon here are covered in greater detail in intermediate and upper-level courses offered in Political Science and in international relations in particular.

Course Materials

The following book is required for this course. It is available for purchase at the Binghamton University bookstore but you may purchase it from other sources, provided you buy the correct edition.

Frieden, Jeffry A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2016. *World Politics: Interests, Institutions, Interactions*. Third Edition. New York, NY: W. W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-93809-8

Additional materials will include excerpts from edited volumes, scholarly articles, and media reports. They will be available on the course website on Blackboard/My Courses. In the syllabus, they are marked as **[BL]**. The URL is myCourses.binghamton.edu.

Students are strongly encouraged to follow current events, including but not limited to international negotiations to which the U.S. government is a party, armed conflicts, and developments in the global

economy. Examples of useful sources include major daily newspapers (New York Times, Financial Times, Wall Street Journal) and weekly journals (e.g., The Economist). Keeping up with current events will enrich our class meetings and discussion sections by allowing us to draw parallels to historical events and developments. Moreover, it will allow students to participate in public life as informed citizens.

Student Responsibilities

You are expected to complete the assigned readings **before** each class, to attend lectures and discussion sections, and to participate actively in the discussion sections. Mere attendance (showing up but not contributing to discussion) is not enough. Neither the lectures nor the discussion sections will cover every aspect of the readings; attendance is not a substitute for doing the reading. At the same time, simply doing the reading will not make up for skipped lectures and/or discussion sections.

There will be two cumulative exams, a term paper, and several quizzes and short written assignments. For purposes of assigning a final grade, the following weighting factors will be applied:

Discussion section participation	20%
Quizzes & written assignments	15%
Hypothesis testing paper	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	20%

Grading Scale. Your semester letter grade for the course will be computed on a 100-point scale as follows:

95-100 A	84-87 B	74-77 C	0-64 F
91-94 A-	81-83 B-	71-73 C-	
88-90 B+	78-80 C+	65-70 D	

Discussion section participation (20%). Attendance is mandatory. The discussion sections are intended to deepen your understanding of the course material and provide an opportunity to apply what you have learned. Your Teaching Assistant will record your participation on a weekly basis through the following method: You will receive credit for participation in section if (and only if) the section meeting is better for your having attended. At the end of each section, if you think you have sufficiently contributed to the class, hand your TA a piece of paper with your name and a brief note on how you contributed. Your TA will either accept it or decline it. If you have 9 of these by the end of the semester, you get full credit. If you have 5, you get half credit, etc.

A Note on Missed Discussion Sections. You may not make up a missed discussion section by attending another section without valid and prearranged excuse. Contact your TA at least 24 hours in advance to receive permission.

Quizzes and written responses (15%). You will have several quizzes and short written assignments over the course of the semester, either during the lecture or in the discussion section. The quizzes will not be announced in advance. Written assignments will be paragraph-length responses to short questions, again either during the lecture or in the discussion sections. At the end of the semester, your lowest scores for each task (quizzes and written assignments) will be dropped.

A Note on Missed Quizzes & Written Responses. Because your lowest score for each task will be dropped at the end of the semester, there will be no make-ups for missed quizzes or written responses.

Hypothesis testing paper (20%). Students will write a paper over the course of the semester aimed at testing a hypothesis using data you will collect on your own. The details of the social scientific process, and of formulating and empirically testing a hypothesis, will be discussed in detail in class. A separate detailed explanation of what such a paper should look like will be available on Blackboard/MYCourses. A one-page statement of your topic (more precisely, your research question) will be **due in Week 6 (September 25-29)** during your discussion section. The full paper is **due in lecture on Tuesday, December 5.**

A Note on Late Papers. Each part of the paper is due at the beginning of class. Late papers, including those turned in at the end of class, will be penalized one letter grade per day. Computer problems, printer problems, homework-eating dogs etc. do not constitute a valid excuse for late submissions. Plan accordingly.

Exams (25% Midterm, 20% Final). The **midterm exam** is tentatively scheduled for **October 19, 2017** and will cover all the material up to that date. This includes all assigned readings, lectures, and discussion topics. The final exam will take place during Binghamton University's designated final exam period; a date will be announced when it becomes available. The **final exam** will be cumulative, though it will focus more heavily on material covered after the midterm exam.

A Note on Missed Exams. Exams missed without valid and prearranged excuse cannot be made up, effectively resulting in a zero for the exam. Missing an exam greatly reduces your chances of receiving a passing grade for the semester. Plan accordingly.

Course Policies

Classroom electronics. The use of laptops, tablets, smartphones, and any other electronic devices is NOT permitted in this course. Exceptions will be made for students with documented special needs.

Contacting your instructor or teaching assistant. In addition to office hours, we will be available to answer questions by email during normal business hours (M-F 8am – 6pm). Emails sent outside of this time window will be answered on the following business day.

For your entertainment, here is a little reminder about proper email etiquette:



Attendance. Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Although I will not take roll during the lecture to enforce this policy, repeated absences will have a negative impact on your final grade. Student participation in discussion sections is a crucial component of this course. Obviously, you cannot participate if you are not present. You are also responsible for all readings and materials covered, as well as all any announcements made in class.

Grade appeals. All grade appeals must be made in writing. If you believe that I grade I have assigned you is incorrect, you should write a brief letter detailing your concerns and submit it to your Teaching Assistant along with the original graded assignment. The materials will be reviewed and you will receive a response in writing.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. You may not give or receive any unauthorized assistance during exams, quizzes, or assignments. All work submitted in this course must be original work. Sources must be properly cited. You may use any citation style of your choice, as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. Any and all instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Harpur College Academic Honesty Committee for possible further disciplinary measures. You can find out more about the Honesty Code in the bulletin: <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu> (Click on Academic Policies and Procedures - All Students).

Classroom civility. In order to create a productive learning environment in our classroom, you will be asked to observe a few simple rules of behavior:

- Be on time.
- Be prepared for class.

Students are strongly encouraged to contribute opinions and observations in ways that invite discussion. Keep in mind that students in our classroom will have divergent perspectives, unique life experiences, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully. Just as importantly, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking. If at any time you are offended by something that is said in class, please come speak to your Teaching Assistant or Instructor.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD)

Students requiring particular accommodations for participation in this course must contact the Binghamton University office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), located in the University Union, Room 119. (Phone: 607-777-2686, email: ssd@binghamton.edu). Students are strongly encouraged to register with SSD and obtain the necessary documentation by the Drop/Add date, **September 5**.

A Note on Stress and other Challenges

Binghamton University has available a wide range of resources for students who may be experiencing undue stress and other challenges in connection with this class or the college experience (or anything else, really). Please come talk to your instructor and/or see the Announcements section of the Blackboard/My Course page for an overview of how we may try to help, as well as relevant contact information.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS

The online version of this syllabus (found on the MyCourses Site) is the official syllabus for this class. It will be updated periodically. I reserve the right to change dates and readings as necessary; any changes will be announced through Blackboard/MyCourses.

Week 1 (August 24): Introduction

*No discussion sections this week

Readings:

- Course syllabus [BL]

Week 2 (August 29): The State, Sovereignty, and Anarchy

*No lecture on August 31. All discussion sections meet as scheduled.

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 2 [Read Chapter 1 if you need a refresher in world history. Hint: You probably do.]
- Olsen, Mancur. Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development. *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 567-76. [BL]

September 5 – Add/Drop deadline (11:59pm)

Week 3 (September 5 & 7): World War I & International Relations as Social Science

*No Monday discussion sections this week!

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Introduction, pages xx-xxxii
- Tooze, Adam. *The Deluge: The Great War, America and the Remaking of the Global Order, 1916-1931*. Chapter 1 (Introduction). [BL]
- Lave, Charles A., and James G. March. 1975. *An Introduction to Models in the Social Sciences*. Chapters 1-3. [BL]

Week 4 (September 12 & 14): Why War?

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 3.
- Kang, David C. Op-ed: Kim Jong-un is not a freakish buffoon. *New York Times*, July 5, 2017. [BL]
- Carl von Clausewitz: On War. (Excerpt: 'What is war?') [BL]

Movie (required): Doctor Strangelove – Thursday, September 14, 7:30-9:30pm in AA G008

Week 5 (September 19): Domestic Politics

*No Thursday discussion sections this week!

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 4.
- Eisenhower, Dwight D. 1961. Farewell Address to the Nation. Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyBNmecVtdU>

Week 6 (September 26 & 28): International Institutions & War

*** Hypothesis-testing paper: 1-page outline due in discussion sections this week.**

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 5.
- Fulton, Jonathan. China is trying to pull Middle East countries into its version of NATO. *Washington Post*, June 21, 2017.

Week 7 (October 3 & 5): Self-Determination & Civil War

- *Review*: Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 5, pages 203-231.
- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 6, pages 235-264 (stop before ‘Terrorism’ section).

Recommended reading:

- Anderson, Scott. Fractured Lands: How the Arab world came apart. *New York Times Magazine*, August 11, 2016.

Week 8 (October 10 & 12): Terrorism, Catch-up/Summary

Reading:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 6, pages 264-287.

Week 9 (October 19): MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10 (October 24 & 26): International Cooperation

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 11.
- NYTimes Sunday Review Editorial Board: “Mr. Trump Squanders the World’s Trust.” **[BL]**

Week 11 (October 31 & November 2): International Trade

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 7.
- Buttonwood. Globalization Backlash 2.0. *The Economist* July 27, 2016. **[BL]**

November 3 – Course withdraw (with “W”)/Change grade option deadline

Week 12 (November 7 & 9): International Capital Flows

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 8.
- Ryssdal, Kai, and Bridget Bodnar. 2017. The Place Where Globalization Kept its Promise & “We make German cars, in America.” *American Public Media (APM) Marketplace* August 15-16, 2017. **[BL]**

Week 13 (November 14 & 16): Economic Development

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 10.
- Additional reading TBA

Week 14 (November 21): Human Rights

*No discussion sections this week!

Reading:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 12

Week 15 (November 28 & 30): The Environment

Readings:

- Frieden, Lake, and Schultz, Chapter 13.
- Plumer, Brad, and Lisa Friedman. Island Nations, With No Time to Lose, Take Climate Response into Their Own Hands. *New York Times*, November 17, 2017. **[BL]**

Week 16 (December 5 & 7): Outlook & Summary

*No discussion sections this week!

Reading:

- Fukuyama, Francis. 1989. The End of History? *The National Interest* 16: 3-18. **[BL]**

FINAL EXAM Wednesday, December 13, 8:05pm – 10:05pm in LH 001