

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Voyage: Summer 2013

Discipline: Politics and International Relations

PLIR 1010: International Relations

Lower Division

Faculty Name: David Leblang

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of world politics. It focuses on theories used to explain international and domestic politics central to world politics in its full generality. The evidence for such theories lies in patterns of behavior over time, although extensive examples and cases will be presented both to illuminate the concepts of the theories and to help the student see how theories try to explain individual events.

The course begins with an introduction to world politics. The three central concepts of interests, institutions and interactions are explained in detail. The course then uses these three concepts to assess structural, domestic, and strategic theories of war and how states prepare for the possibility of war. After this section on security and conflict, the course turns to analyze cooperation and conflict in the international political economy and addresses issues related to trade, financial relations and development. The course concludes with a section devoted to transnational problems including human rights, terrorism and environmental change. Throughout the class we will use theories to help us understand historical and contemporary phenomena.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To develop theoretical tools necessary to evaluate competing social science theories.
- To understand basic theoretical explanations of conflict, political economy and transnational problems.
- To develop an analytical perspective useful for understanding persistent problems of conflict and cooperation in the international system.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Frieden, Jeffry, David Lake and Kenneth Schultz (FLS)

TITLE: World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions

PUBLISHER: W.W. Norton

ISBN #: 978-0-393-91238-8

DATE/EDITION: 2nd edition

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

C1: Introduction to the Class/Overview/Requirements

FLS, Chapter 1

C2: Democracy, Democratization and the Arab Spring

FLS, pp154-166

Boix, Carles. 2006. "The Roots of Democracy," Policy Review #135

Carothers, Thomas, 2011. "Think Again: Arab Democracy," Foreign Policy 2011

Audio: egyptian_democracy_marketplace.mp3

C3: Civil Conflict

FLS, pp214-242

Audio: Planet Money: #374_ Why Is Syria Locked In Endless Conflict.mp3

C4: Commodity Prices and Conflict

Brown, Lester. 2011. "The New Geopolitics of Food," foreign Policy, May/June.

Geewax, Marilyn. 2011. "Rising Food Prices Can topple Governments, Too,"

Audio: commodity prices_NPR.mp3

Casablanca

C5: The International System

FLS, pp38-65

C6: Theories and International Politics

Russett, Bruce. 1993. "The Fact of Democratic Peace."

C7: Anarchy and the Security Dilemma

FLS, pp.74-80

C8: Why Wars Occur: Bargaining Theory

FLS, Chapter 3

C9: Exam #1 (in class: short answer and multiple choice)

Antalya

C10: International Trade 1: Theory

FLS, pp264-276; pp.306-312

Audio: # 454 The Lollipop War.mp3

C11: International Trade 2: Domestic Politics

FLS: 276-300

Audio: Planet Money 01 #224_ The Cotton Wars.mp3

Istanbul

C12: International Economics Organizations

FLS, pp312-337

C13: International Money

FLS, pp350-372

Audio: 01 #421_ The Birth Of The Dollar Bill.mp3

Piraeus

C14: The Global Financial Crisis of 2007-

FLS, pp.375-81

Eichengreen, Barry. 2008. "The Global Credit Crisis as History," *Current History*.

Audio: #390_ Return To The Giant Pool of Money.mp3

C15: Global Development

FLS, Chapter 10

C16: Exam #2 (in class: short answer and multiple choice)

Livorno/Civitavecchia

C17: International Migration I

Council of Economic Advisors. 2007. "Immigration," Chapter 9 of the *2007 Economic Report of the President*. Washington DC: US Government Printing Office.

Audio: #436_ If Economists Controlled The Borders.mp3

C18: International Migration II

OECD 2012, Recent Trends in International Migration, International Migration Outlook, pp. 28-46

Malta

C19: Terrorism

FLS, pp242-62

C20: Human Rights

FLS, Chapter 12

Marseille/Barcelona

C21: Global Environmental Issues I

FLS, Chapter 13

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162:1243-1248.

C22: Case Study: The International Politics of Olive Oil

Mueller, Tom. 2007. "Slippery Business: The Trade in Adulterated Olive Oil," *New Yorker*.

Slippery Politics put the Squeeze on Olive Oil. *Huffington Post*.

Audio: Extra Virginity_ The Sublime and Scandalous World of Olive Oil - Tom Mueller.mp4

Audio: NPR_OliveOil.mp4

Cadiz/Lisbon

C23: Wrap Up and Review

C24: Exam #3 (in class: short answer and multiple choice)

FIELD WORK: Local commodities and international trade

Within the course we have spent time discussing global factors and local commodity prices, the role that specialization plays in the organization of international trade, and the importance of international organizations in facilitating international cooperation. This field lab will bring these three theoretical ideas into practice as we explore and understand the politics of commodity labeling, commodity trade and national labeling within the context of olive oil production.

Andalucia produces almost one third of the world's olive oil and competition from cheaper oils pressed in Morocco, Greece, Spain and Turkey place tremendous pressures on local producers. We will visit a local mill and learn about how olive oil is processed, how it is distributed and, importantly, how it is associated with the cultural and identity of the Spanish. In tasting the oils we will get an understanding of how local foods represent local cultures; something that is left out of simple theories of trade that emphasize specialization and comparative advantage.

Students should dress comfortably as the weather promises to be hot. Hats, water bottles and sunscreen are highly recommended.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC

1. Field Work -- 20% Upon returning to the ship students will write a 3-5 page essay exploring how the complex international politics of olive oil production and distribution can be explained by any of the theories we have explored during the course of this semester.

The field lab will occur in Cadiz, Spain on August 11th. We are scheduled to depart the ship at 9am though alterations to this schedule may occur and you will be informed of any changes.

Attendance in this field lab is mandatory. Missing this field lab will result in an automatic 20% reduction in your final grade. Improper or disruptive behavior will be considered equivalent to missing the field lab.

2. Examinations -- There will be **three** exams (25% each). Examinations will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions designed to test the student's comprehension of the material. The student is not expected to memorize names, places and dates; rather the emphasis is on the ability to deploy such details in the service of understanding key theoretical concepts.

3. Class Participation – 5%

5% of the score will be based on attendance while the other 5% will be allocated on the basis of active class participation. Participation includes questions and comments made during the class period.

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

All required readings other than the textbook will be available on the ship's intranet

HONOR CODE

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University's honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager's Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: "On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment." The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed "[signed]."