

## **Politics UA-700.1 International Politics**

**Fall 2018**

**Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:45PM**

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Office hours: Monday 14:00-15:00

### **Overview**

The goal of this course is to introduce you to the basic analytical concepts and techniques that are essential for understanding international politics. Note that the focus of this course will neither be historical nor descriptive. Rather, the course will require you to exercise your skills in logic, and to think of imaginative ways to apply subtle techniques to real life political situations. Be prepared to solve lots of problems, which will demand a command of elementary algebra.

### **Requirements**

There will be two exams. Both will be in-class. The mid-term exam will be on October 17th at 12:30pm. The final exam will be on December 19 at 12pm. (You will not be allowed to take either exam on an earlier or later date.) The midterm exam is worth 30% of the grade. The final exam is worth 40%. 15% of the course grade will be for participation in the recitation sections. In each recitation, with a few exceptions, you will assigned a problem set, which will be due the following week. Your TA will allocate this part of your grade both based on how promptly you submit your homework, and on how regularly you attend the recitation. The remaining 15% of your grade will be based on a five page paper in which you will apply one of the techniques you have studied to a problem in international politics. You will be required to submit your idea for your paper to your TA on November 12. The paper is due in class on December 12.

## **Textbook-**

**Please note the textbook will primarily be used as a back-up for you to use to reinforce your grasp of technical materials taught in class. The articles referred to below will be uploaded to NYU Classes.**

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics*. Washington DC: CQ Press. 4th or 5<sup>th</sup> edition. (Some homeworks will come from the workbook that comes with the textbook – you will also have access to homeworks from your TA.)

## **Readings**

- 1) September 5: Introductory Session.
- 2) September 10: Foundations of International Relations.
- 3) September 12: Evaluating Arguments about International Politics.
- 4) September 17, 19, 24: Tools for Analyzing International Affairs
- 5) September 26, October 1, October 3: Two Structural Theories of War+ Fearon article
- October 8- No class
- 6) October 9 (**Tuesday**): Guest lecture
- 7) October 10: International Politics from Group and Decision Making Perspectives + Domestic Origins of Foreign Policy+ Maoz and Russett article
- 8) October 15: Review session.
- \*\*\* Midterm Exam: October 17\*\*\*
- 9) October 22: The Analysis of Power.
- 10) October 24: Review of Exam
- 11) October 29, October 31, and November 5: Additional tools for analyzing international affairs
- 12) November 7: Guest lecture
- 12) November 12: Lecture on paper writing,
- 13): November 14, 19, 26: Civil conflict and terrorism. (**No class on November 21, day before Thanksgiving.**)

14) November 28, and December 3: Decision making under incomplete information

16) December 5, 10, 12: The International Political Economy of Trade and Finance +  
Downs, Rock, and Barsoom article + Leblang article

\*\*\*Final Exam: December 19: 12:00-13:50 pm\*\*\*