

**GVPT200 Introduction to International Political Relations
Spring 2010
MW 2-2:50pm Lectures in ASY2203
ThF Discussion Sections
v1.0**



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Introduction

How is world politics changing under the impact of globalization and political and economic competition? What are the major global issues that we need to understand? What frameworks, concepts, and social science tools can help us answer the questions we have about world politics? This course introduces students to the basic theoretical approaches and analytical concepts we use to understand patterns and trends in international relations. The goal is to help establish a foundation for further study; increase understanding of contemporary events; and enhance research, communication, and information literacy skills.

GVPT200 consists of two lectures per week taught by Prof. Haufler, and one discussion section per week taught by teaching assistants. Both the lectures and discussion section are required! GVPT200 fulfills CORE Distributive Studies requirements. The CORE requirement is designed to ensure that you take a range of courses that familiarize you with different academic disciplines. GVPT200 is a prerequisite for upper level courses in international politics in the Dept. of Government and Politics. Students are required to take GVPT100 prior to enrolling in this course.

All students must read and understand the university's policy regarding academic dishonesty. It's easy to understand: *Don't cheat or plagiarize!* University policy is contained in the Academic Integrity code. If you have questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, don't hesitate to ask. Other resources include the Library website on plagiarism at http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/plag_stud_what.html and information about the Academic Integrity Code and Student Honor Council at <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code.html>

Important Note!

Tell us by the end of the second week of classes if the course schedule conflicts with religious observances, or if you have any physical or learning disability, so we can make alternative arrangements. The University only excuses students from obligations on the actual holiday but not for any travel days you choose to take. Students who require accommodation may need to provide documentation from Disability Support Services.

Readings:

We will be using a textbook to provide a framework for analysis and as a reference source, plus additional articles that flesh out the details. Both the textbook and non-textbook readings are required. NOTE: Other sections, taught by Prof. Kaminski, use a book of readings—you do not need to buy that book for this class.

1. *World Politics* by Jeffrey Frieden, David Lake, and Kenneth Schultz

Buy this book at the bookstore, or buy a digital copy for half the price through Norton ebooks, at <http://www.nortonebooks.com/disciplines/polisci.asp?Discid=14> We will also have this on reserve at the Library. There is a website for the book at <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world-politics/> which provides study guides to help you organize the material, learn it, and apply it.

2. Assigned articles from recent political science and foreign policy journals will be available to you online, through ELMS or on general websites. Short pieces from the news may be added to the readings throughout the semester.

3. You are encouraged to read a major daily newspaper such as *The Washington Post* or *The New York Times*, in addition to relevant blogs such as Foreignpolicy.com, Politico.com and others.

4. If you need a refresher or reference on the history of world politics, I recommend Jeffrey Frieden, *Global Capitalism*.

ELMS/ Blackboard:

We will use the ELMS/ Blackboard course software to manage this course. Log in at www.elms.umd.edu If you are registered for the course you will have access to the course; if you are waitlisted you will not have access until you register. If you have not used ELMS already, use the student resources available on the ELMS website. Remember to follow the directions on browser settings or the system will not work correctly! Login issues should be brought to the OIT HelpDesk at the Office of Information Technology at 405-4122, or walk-in services at 1400 Computer and Space Science Building.

Course Requirements:

- 25% Midterm Exam (essay)
- 35% Final Exam (essay)
- 20% Writing Assignment (essay)
- 10% Assignments (homework, quizzes)
- 10% Section Participation (attendance, discussion)

Schedule:

Week 1

- Jan 25 Lecture: Puzzles in World Politics
Frieden, Introduction
- Jan 27 Lecture: The Global Agenda and Political Science
- Jan 28/29 Section: Introduction

Week 2

- Feb 1 Lecture: How did the World System Evolve?
Frieden, Ch 1
Stephen Krasner, "Abiding Sovereignty," *International Political Science Review* 2001 22,3
- Feb 3 Lecture: Wars, Markets, and States
- Feb 4/5 Section: What do You Know?
Sovereignty and Statehood

Week 3

- Feb 8 Lecture: Who are the Actors?
Frieden, Ch.2
Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* Nov/ Dec 2004 #145
- Feb 10 Lecture: Interactions and Institutions
- Feb11/12 Section: Contending Approaches
Homework #1: One page on a current issue and your own approach to it, applying concepts from the readings/lectures

Week 4

- Feb 15 Lecture: Why Fight? Why Not?
Frieden, Ch.3
Fortna, "Scraps of Paper?" *International Organization* Spring

2003

Feb 17 Lecture: Commitment and Compromise

Feb 18/19 Section: Bargaining in Peace and War

Week 5

Feb 22 Lecture: Whose Interests Drive War?
Frieden, Ch4
Condoleeza Rice, "Rethinking the National Interest," *Foreign Affairs* July/ August 2009

Feb 24 Lecture: Democracy and Peace

Feb 25/26 Section: Interest Groups and Interdependence
Homework #2: One page on whether a world of democracies will be a more peaceful one, and why
Map Quiz

Week 6

March 1 Lecture: How is Polarity Related to World Stability?
Frieden, Ch.5
Niall Ferguson, "The Axis of Upheaval," *Foreign Policy* Mar/April 2009
Fareed Zakaria, "The Future of American Power," *Foreign Affairs* 2009

March 3 Lecture: Collective Security

March 4/5 Section: U.S. Primacy
Paper Topic Due

Week 7

March 8 Lecture: Review for Mid-term

March 10 Lecture: Mid-term

March 11/12 Section: No Discussion Section

Week 8

March 15-19 SPRING BREAK

Week 9

March 22 Lecture: What Causes the Liberalization of Trade?
Frieden, Ch. 6

Roger Altman, "Globalization in Retreat," *Foreign Affairs*
Jul/Aug 2009

March 24 Lecture: Theory and Evidence

March 25/26 Section: Globalization

Week 10

March 29 Lecture: Why Invest Abroad?
Frieden, Ch. 7

March 31 Lecture: The Global Financial Crisis

Apr 1/2 Section: Multinational Corporations
Homework #3: One page analyzing a recent issue regarding
global corporations

Week 11

Apr 3 Lecture: Who Cares About Exchange Rates and Why?
Frieden, Ch.8
Barry Eichengreen, "The Dollar Dilemma," *Foreign Affairs*
Sept/Oct 2009

Apr 5 Lecture: The Euro

Apr 6/7 Section: The US, the IMF, and Currency Markets

Week 12

Apr 12 Lecture: Why is there Uneven Development?
Frieden, Ch. 9
Jagdish Bhagwati, "Banned Aid," *Foreign Affairs* Jan/ Feb
2010

Apr 14 Lecture: Foreign Aid

Apr15/16 Section: BRICs, NICs, and LDCs
Homework #4: Discuss whether US foreign aid is enough

Week 13

Apr 19 Lecture: Do Transnational Advocacy Networks Matter?
Frieden, Ch. 10
Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,"
American Political Science Review August 2003

Apr 21 Lecture: Global Terrorism

Apr 22/23 Section: Security, Activism, and Civil Liberties
Writing Assignment Due

Week 14

Apr 26 Lecture: Are Human Rights Global?
Frieden, Ch. 11
Louise Arbour, "The Responsibility to Protect as a Duty of
Care in International Law and Practice," *The Review of
International Studies* 2008
Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn, "The Women's
Crusade," *The New York Times Magazine* Aug 17, 2009

Apr 28 Lecture: International Intervention

Apr 29/30 Section: Norms and Strategic Interests
Homework #4: One page on a specific case where human
rights are an issue, and the pros and cons of intervention

Week 15

May 3 Lecture: Are there Global Public Goods?
Frieden, Chs. 12 and 13
Michael Levi, "Copenhagen's Inconvenient Truth," *Foreign
Affairs* Sept/ Oct 2009

May 5 Lecture: Environment and Security

May 6/7 Section: Global Governance

Week 16

May 10 Lecture: The Future: Cooperation and Competition

Final Exam May 17 1:30-3:30pm