
Florida State University, Department of Political Science

POS 3930: Applications of Political Science | Monday through Friday: 2:00 – 3:15 pm | HCB 0212

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Applications of Political Science is a unique course being offered for the first time at Florida State. While many instructors make use of simulations in their classrooms to enhance learning, students in this particular class will spend the vast majority of their class time participating in simulations that have been chosen and designed to engage students with concepts, theories, and ideas that are present and pressing in the real world. The first simulation focuses on various groups trying to reach an agreement regarding the use of natural resources. It emphasizes the role of government actors, multinational corporations, domestic interest groups, and more. The second simulation focuses on how countries deal with one another on issues related to trade, security, and more. Students who have taken an introductory course in either field will recognize many topics, but there is no expectation that students will have taken any particular courses.

COURSE READINGS

There is no required textbook for this class. All articles are available online through the Florida State Library Website or will be posted by the instructors to the course Blackboard site. The only “materials” that students must purchase are two registrations for the simulations that are largely conducted online. The prices are \$13 and \$30. Login details will be provided for each during class.

BLACKBOARD

This course is supported by a Blackboard website to which you should have access. Along with the syllabus and additional readings that are posted there, we will also use the site to send out announcements, e-mails, and/or other communications. As such, you are expected to regularly check the course site as well your own FSU e-mail account that is associated with it. To contact us, we ask that you use the emails listed above and not the Blackboard link.

COURSE EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

Final grades will be based on the following scale:

Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade
93 - 100	A	80 - 82	B-	67 - 69	D+
90 - 92	A-	77 - 80	C+	63 - 66	D
87 - 89	B+	73 - 76	C	60 - 62	D-
83 - 86	B	70 - 72	C-	0 - 59	F

Your individual grades will be based on your participation and performance in the two simulations that we run as well as two background quizzes, weekly reading summaries, and two response papers.

Participation and Performance in Simulations (20% each; 40% total)

The primary component of this class is your **consistent attendance and active participation** in the simulations. Given the unique structure of the course, the absence of even one student can dramatically alter the balance of the ongoing course simulations. If you cannot commit to being in class every day, then you should take another class this summer.

More than simply being present, however, you need to be ready to take an active role every day. This means working with your classmates on a daily basis and not checking your phone, monitoring Facebook, or indulging in any other potential distractions. Your enjoyment of the simulations and what you take from them will largely be determined by what you put in, and we have the highest expectations for all of you.

Given the above, your Participation and Performance grade will have two constituent parts: Half of the grade (20% of the final grade will be based on your consistent attendance in this course. This will simply be the percentage of class sessions attended. The second half of the Participation and Performance grade will depend on your active participation in the simulations. Thus, 10% of your Participation and Performance grade will accrue from the first simulation, and the other 10% from the second. The specific details for these simulation-based grades will be distributed ahead of each simulation, but students can also lose points for being inattentive or unproductive during simulations (checking Facebook/Twitter, etc.).

Weekly Reading Summaries (10%)

We do not have daily lectures or discussions in this class, but we do have readings assigned that address topics and themes that will be played out in the simulations. Additionally, as explained below, you are expected to include in your response papers a comparison between the theories discussed in the readings and whether those expectations are borne out in the simulations. As such, you are required to pick articles from the weekly reading lists and submit 1-page summaries of each reading. Two summaries are due every week with the exception of weeks you are writing a response paper when only one is due. They are due every Friday by 5:00 pm, and should be uploaded to a TurnItIn link under the “Assignments” tab. A guideline that you should follow to complete these summaries is located on Blackboard under the “Assignments” tab.

Simulation Preparation Quizzes (5% each; 10% total)

Each of the simulations that we use in this class has extensive rules that you must know in order to participate in a meaningful fashion. Before the first day of each simulation you will take a quiz that is designed to ensure that you have a functional knowledge of the rules and background for each. It is required that you achieve a score of at least 85% before you will be allowed to begin the simulation. You can take the quiz multiple times until you reach that score, but your grade from the first time you take the quiz will be the grade that you receive for this assignment.

Simulation Response Papers (20% each, 40% total)

At the conclusion of each simulation you will write a 4-5 page paper that explains to us what you learned in the simulation and how it relates to the readings. For each simulation, we have a few background articles that will be required for everyone in the class, but you are on your own to apply the articles that you have read and summarized to add additional detail to your papers. Towards the end of each simulation we will provide a few very general questions that will serve as prompts but the papers should reflect your experiences with the simulations.

Copies of each paper must be uploaded to a Turnitin link that will be provided on the course's Blackboard site (under the Assignments tab). All papers must be uploaded and emailed on the day that they are due by 5:00 pm. Late papers, or papers only emailed or uploaded will not be accepted. The due dates for the papers are noted in the course schedule, which can be found below.

Additional Notes About Grades

If you have a specific question regarding the grade you receive on an assignment, we are happy to discuss that with you. However, you should email us to set up an appointment and include in the email the basis for your question and an explanation for why the grade should be changed.

Grades that end in .5 or higher are rounded up to the nearest whole percentage point.

CLASSROOM POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Late papers will only be accepted with prior instructor approval and/or appropriate documentation or a medical or family emergency.
2. Each of the simulations is run through the Internet, and you are therefore welcome to bring laptops with you to class. However, computers should only be used for simulation or other class related purposes. Additionally, as a courtesy to the rest of the class and the instructors cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off or set to silent/vibrate before class begins and put away. Points will be deducted from your Participation grade if you do not follow these guidelines.
3. The classroom is a place for mutual respect. This class in particular will force you to interact with each other, and it is to be expected that disagreements will occur. However, at no time will personal attacks (i.e. those aimed at another person's appearance, demeanor, political beliefs, etc.) be tolerated. This includes all communication during the simulations and out of class interactions as well as the time we spend together in class.
4. **Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated.** All students are expected to be familiar with the Florida State University Academic Honor Code, which states, in part:

The academic honor system of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility: (1) To uphold the highest standard of academic integrity in the student's own work; (2) To refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) To foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community.

We expect students to bring possible violations of this honor code to our attention. Violations of the honor code, including cheating and plagiarism will be reported to the University and/or otherwise dealt with at our discretion, consistent with FSU guidelines.

5. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) bring a letter to the instructor(s) from the SDRC indicating that you need academic accommodations. This must be done within the first week of class.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact:

Student Disability Resource Center
 874 Traditions Way
 108 Student Services Building
 Florida State University
 Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
 (850) 644-9566 (voice)
 (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu>

ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The syllabus may be modified as necessary to reflect the pace of class and/or instructional objectives. Nothing about the grading policy will change. While we will try to post any changes online, you are ultimately responsible for coming to class and keeping track of our progress.

Week 1	Introduction/Political Institutions	Readings
May 11 th	Course Introduction and Syllabus Review	Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making of the Modern World Income Distribution." <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 117(4): 1231-1294.
May 12 th	Lecture – Domestic Forces	Olson, Mancur. 1993. "Dictatorship, Democracy and Development." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 87: 567-576.
May 13 th	Lecture – Politics of Development	Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In <i>Bringing the State Back In</i> , eds. Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. (Blackboard)
May 14 th	Simulation Introduction, Rules Review, and Quiz	Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Alastair Smith and Randolph Siverson. 2002. <i>The Logic of Political Survival</i> . Chapters 2-3. (Blackboard)
May 15 th	Domestic Politics Simulation – Day 1 Reading Summary #1 Due	Malesky, Edmund and Paul Schuler. 2010. "Nodding or Needling: Analyzing Delegate Responsiveness in an Authoritarian Parliament." <i>American Political Science Review</i>

		Przeworski, Adam. 2004. "Institutions Matter?" <i>Government and Opposition</i> 39(4): 527-540.
Week 2	Comparative Development	
May 18 th	Domestic Politics Simulation – Day 2	Vreeland, James. 2004. "The International and Domestic Politics of IMF Programs." <i>Conference Paper</i> . (Blackboard)
May 19 th	Domestic Politics Simulation – Day 3	Dorfman, Ariel and Armand Mattelart. 1971. "Para Leer al Pato Donald. [How to Read Donald Duck]." Chapters 3-4. (Blackboard)
May 20 th	Domestic Politics Simulation – Day 4	Ross, Michael. 2008. "Oil, Islam and Women." <i>American Political Science Review</i> 102(1): 107-123
May 21 st	Domestic Politics Simulation – Day 5	Ansell, Ben and David Samuels. 2010. "Inequality and Democratization: A Contractarian Approach." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> : 1-32.
May 22 nd	Domestic Politics Simulation Debrief Reading Summary #2 Due Simulation Response Paper #1 Due	de Soto, Hernando. 2003. <i>The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else</i> . Chs. 1-3. Blackboard.
Week 3	Perspectives of International Relations	
May 25 th	Memorial Day – No Class	Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." <i>International Organization</i> 52(4): 887-917.
May 26 th	Lecture – Forces of International Politics	Keohane, Robert O. 1986. Ed. <i>Neorealism and Its Critics</i> . New York: Columbia University. Chs. 1, 2, 9. Blackboard.
May 27 th	Lecture – Particular Problems of International Relations	Lake, David A. 2011. "Why 'isms' Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 55(2): 465-480.
May 28 th	Simulation Introduction, Rules Review, Quiz (Turn 0)	Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics." <i>International Organization</i> 51(4): 513-533.
May 29 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 1 (Turn 1) Reading Summaries #3 and #4 Due	Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." <i>International Organization</i> 46(2): 391-425.
Week 4	Competing Interests	
June 1 st	International Politics Simulation – Day 2 (Turn 1)	Abrams, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." <i>International Security</i> 32(4): 78-105.
June 2 nd	International Politics Simulation – Day 3 (Turn 2)	Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." <i>International Organization</i> 49(3): 379-414.
June 3 rd	Simulation Discussion and International Politics Simulation – Day 4 (Turn 2)	Gartzke, Erik. 1999. "War is in the Error Term." <i>International Organization</i> 53(3): 567-587.

June 4 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 5 (Turn 3)	Morrow, James D. 1993. “Arms Versus Allies: Trade-offs in the Search for Security.” <i>International Organization</i> 47(2): 207-233.
June 5 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 6 (Turn 3) Reading Summaries #5 and #6 Due	Walt, Stephen M. 1965. “Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power.” <i>International Security</i> 9(4): 3-43.
Week 5	Cooperation	
June 8 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 7 (Turn 4)	Abbot, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal. 2000. “Hard and Soft Law in International Governance.” <i>International Organization</i> 54(3): 421-456.
June 9 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 8 (Turn 4)	Downs, George W., David M. Rocke and Peter N. Barsoon. 1996. “Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?” <i>International Organization</i> 50(3): 379-406.
June 10 th	Simulation Discussion and International Politics Simulation – Day 9 (Turn 5)	Gilligan, Michel J. 2006. “Is Enforcement Necessary for Effectiveness? A Model of the International Criminal Regime” <i>International Organization</i> 60(4): 935-967.
June 11 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 10 (Turn 5)	Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. “The Promise of Institutionalist Theory.” <i>International Security</i> 20(1): 39-51.
June 12 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 11 (Turn 6) Reading Summaries #7 and #8 Due	Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. “The Rational Design of International Institutions.” <i>International Organization</i> 55(4): 761-799. Mearshimer, John J. 1995. “The False Promise of International Institutions.” <i>International Security</i> 19(3): 5-49.
Week 6	International Political Economy	
June 15 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 12 (Turn 6)	Broz, Lawrence and Jeffrey A. Frieden. 2001. “The Political Economy of International Monetary Relations.” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 4: 317-343.
June 16 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 13 (Turn 7)	Deardorff, Alan V. and Robert M. Stern. 2002. “What You Should Know About Globalization and the World Trade Organization.” <i>Review of International Economics</i> . 10(3): 404-423.
June 17 th	International Politics Simulation – Day 14 (Turn 7)	Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake and Lawrence Broz. 2012. Eds. <i>International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Wealth and Power</i> . New York : W.W. Norton. Chs. 20-21. (Blackboard)
June 18 th	International Politics Simulation Debrief	
June 19 th	No Class Reading Summary #9 Due Simulation Response Paper #2 Due	Li, Quan and Adam Resnick. 2003. “Reversal of Fortunes: Democratic Institutions and Foreign Direct Investment to Developing Countries.” <i>International Organization</i> 57(4): 175-211.