Politics 173A
U.S. Foreign Economic Policy
Fall 2014
H Block: Tuesday-Friday 11-12:20pm
Olin-Sang 112

Instructor: Kerry A. Chase  E-mail: chase@brandeis.edu  Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2:30pm  Location: Olin-Sang 106

Description
The United States emerged from World War I as a new great power with a tradition of political and economic isolation from the world outside its hemisphere. As it has gained wealth and power over the past century, the United States has become more closely engaged in the global economy. This course investigates the politics behind the U.S. government’s management of its foreign economic relations.

The course joins three subject areas. One area is Foreign Policy: we will study U.S. policy in the context of the country’s political power, its exposure to global markets, and its participation in international institutions. The second area is American Politics: we will examine the interaction of domestic institutions (the executive and the legislature) and private actors (organized interest groups) in the policymaking process. The third area is Political Economy: we will consider political factors in the management of the dollar, international finance, and international trade.

Learning Goals
The purpose of the course is to explore the history and politics of U.S. foreign economic policy as a vehicle for developing and enhancing skills in critical reasoning, analytical writing, oral communication, and research planning and operations. This includes:

- Identifying and analyzing causal relationships in a series of short causal reasoning exercises.
- Investigating large collections of original documents in a research lab module to assemble and organize meaningful information from primary source material.
- Mobilizing empirical evidence to support a thesis statement in a midterm research paper.
- Designing a manageable research project related to U.S. foreign economic policy and executing the research plan for a final term paper.
- Summarizing and communicating research findings in an oral presentation with visual aids.
Requirements the Course Fulfills
Politics 173A fulfills the seminar requirement and the international politics subfield requirement for majors and minors in Politics. It is cross-listed as an elective course in Economics. The course also satisfies the university’s Writing Intensive (WI) and Oral Communication (OC) requirements.

Prerequisites
Enrollment requires sophomore standing or higher. There are no other prerequisites.

Consent Codes
Enrollment is capped at 25 students. I will not provide consent codes unless enrollment drops below this number.

Research Lab Module
This course includes a research lab module, a new initiative in select Politics courses. In a research lab module, students learn how to design and execute research operations that are related to both the instructor’s current research and the themes of the course. For this module, you will be guided on how to collect evidence from original documents, and part of your grade for the course will be based on the final product of this exercise.

Course Requirements
The requirements for the course and the calculation of final grades are as follows:

1. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions 15%
2. Seven (7) one-page critical reasoning exercises over the course of the term, adding up to no more than 7 pages of writing 10%
3. A midterm research module paper of about 10-12 pages due in final draft on Monday, October 27 30%
4. An in-class presentation to be scheduled sometime between December 5 and December 11 15%
5. A final term paper of about 15 pages due no later than Wednesday, December 17 30%

1. Regular Attendance and Class Participation (15%)
The attendance and participation portion of the grade is based on the number of absences from class and the quality of your participation. High-quality participation demonstrates knowledge of the assigned readings and/or an honest effort to grasp their most difficult parts. Asking thoughtful questions is also an effective way to participate.
I may call on you at any time. If you rarely volunteer to speak, then you should expect to be called on at least 3-4 times during the term. Thus, you can avoid being put on the spot by raising your hand and speaking up.

2. Critical Reasoning Exercises (10%)
Critical reasoning exercises (CREs) are based on an assigned reading; guidelines for the CRE and a template are posted to Latte. The general requirements are:

- Each CRE must be no more than one page in length.
- You must submit seven (7) CREs over the course of the term.
- A CRE on a particular reading is due in class on the date for which that reading is assigned.
- It is entirely up to you to choose which 7 course meetings to submit a CRE, as long as “CRE” appears next to that date in the course schedule below.
- You may not submit more than one CRE for any course meeting.
- You may submit more than 7 during the term and I will drop your lowest scores.
- CREs will be graded as ✓+, ✓, ✓−, or 0, roughly equivalent to A, B, C, and F.

3. Midterm Research Module Paper (30%)
The midterm paper is the final product of the research lab module, which investigates the U.S. government’s leadership and vision in establishing the “Bretton Woods System” to govern the global economy after World War II.

The midterm paper assignment and additional content related to the module are posted to Latte. The paper is due in draft form on Wednesday, October 15. The completed midterm paper is due on Monday, October 27.

4. Class Presentation (15%)
A presentation of your research for your final term paper will be scheduled for one of the following three dates: Friday, December 5 (the last day of class); Tuesday December 9 (the first study day); or Thursday, December 11 (the final exam block for H block). Only scheduled presenters are required to attend on these dates. Using PowerPoint or other visuals, presentations will introduce a research question, connect the question to scholarly work on the topic, and review the major results of the research.

5. Final Term Paper (30%)
A completed final term paper is due no later than Wednesday, December 17. Final term papers should include: a research question or puzzle; a thesis statement; evidence to substantiate the thesis drawn from outside research; and citations to all outside sources of ideas and information.
Each student will select his or her own topic and design a manageable research project for the final term paper, subject to the following parameters:

- Papers must include a **clear research question** that seeks to explain some political or policy outcome related to U.S. foreign economic relations.
- Papers must involve **outside research**. In particular, you must actively use primary sources: government documents; archival records; original data; etc.

A one-page **research question and justification** is due at the start of class on **November 11**. You will not be graded on your research question.

A two-page **list of primary sources** is due at the start of class on **November 18**. You will not be graded on your primary source list.

**Grading**

Assignments will be graded out of 100 points based on the following scale:  A (93 and above); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76); C- (70-72); D (65-69); F (less than 65). Final scores and grades will be computed using the formula:  

\[
\text{SCORE} = 0.15 \times \text{ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION} + 0.10 \times \text{CREs} + 0.3 \times \text{MIDTERM_PAPER} + 0.15 \times \text{PRESENTATION} + 0.3 \times \text{FINAL_PAPER}.
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**Course Policies**

A statement of **course policies on absences, late papers, and missed presentations** can be found on Latte. Please consult this handout if you have an illness or family emergency that causes you to miss class, or if you cannot submit an assignment on time. If you have an issue regarding religious observance, make sure to read the **university guidelines**.

**Electronic Devices**

Laptop computers may be used only for note-taking or accessing course materials. No email, texting, messaging, surfing, etc. Phones and other handheld devices are prohibited.

**Disability Statement**

If you need academic accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact me and present your **letter of accommodation** as soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic accommodations, please contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in Academic Services at brodgers@brandeis.edu or 6-3470.

**Student Athletes**

If your participation in intercollegiate athletic competition conflicts with any of the requirements for the course, please provide me with a letter from the Director of Athletics
stating the dates of these conflicts no later than September 12. If you have questions, please ask me or consult the university guidelines.

Course Readings
There are no books for the course; all of the readings are available electronically. To access a selection, follow the links in the syllabus posted to Latte or find it listed on the Latte front page. Printed packets are available for purchase in the Politics department.

Course Schedule

August 29 Introduction and Syllabus

Part I: Historical Foundations

September 2 The U.S. as a New Global Power CRE

September 5 The Tariff CRE

September 9 Delegating Trade Authority CRE
- Document: Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act (RTAA) of 1934.
September 12  The Dollar  CRE

- Document: Tripartite Monetary Agreement of 1936.

September 16  Bretton Woods  CRE


Part II: Research Lab Module

September 19  Discussion of Sources

- No reading assigned. On Latte, review the international agreement your paper will address (IMF; IBRD; GATT; ITO) and finding aids for research resources.

September 23  No Class—Brandeis Thursday

September 26  No Class—Rosh Hashanah

September 30  Working with Primary Sources


October 3  Research Strategies and Methods

- No reading assigned. Continue your research for your midterm paper using the digital archives (and secondary sources as needed) available on Latte.
October 7  Analysis and Citation

October 10  Writing Up Results

Part III: Contemporary Issues

October 14  The Gold-Dollar Standard and After  CRE

*Draft Midterm Paper due by 3pm on Wednesday, October 15*

October 17  The Future of the Dollar  CRE
- Documents: Congressional legislation and IMF rules on exchange rates.

October 21  Midterm Paper Discussion

October 24  International Financial Institutions  CRE
*Completed Midterm Paper due by 3pm on Monday, October 27*

October 28  Financing the IMF and World Bank  CRE

October 31  Global Financial Crises  CRE

November 4  The RTAA and Fast Track  CRE

November 7  The U.S. and the WTO  CRE

November 11  WTO Dispute Settlement  CRE
*Research question and justification due in class on November 11*

November 14    Term Paper Discussion
• Clifford Bob, A Question and an Argument: Enhancing Student Writing through Guided Research Assignments, PS: Political Science and Politics 34 (September 2001): 653-655.

November 18    Foreign Trade Agreements

*Primary source list due in class on November 18*

November 21    Term Paper Discussion

November 25    Class Canceled—Extra Office Hours

November 28    No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2     Term Paper Discussion
• Ron E. Hassner, Sliding into Home Plate: How to Use Slideware to Improve Your Presentation (While Dodging the Bullets), PS: Political Science and Politics 38 (July 2005): 393-397.

December 5     Research presentations (last class meeting: 11:00am-12:20pm)

December 9     Research presentations (first study day: 11:00am-12:20pm)

December 11    Research presentations (exam block H: 9:15am-12:15pm)

*Final term paper due by 3pm on Wednesday, December 17*