International and Global Affairs: Concepts and Applications  
IGA-100

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 2:45 pm – 4:00 pm  
The first day of class is Monday, January 23.

Instructor: Stephen M. Walt  
Littauer 367  
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM  
Faculty Assistant: Leah Knowles, L340

Course Assistant: Esther Lee, MPP2

Objectives: This course is a wide-ranging introduction to central principles of international affairs and foreign policy analysis. Topics covered include key concepts of international relations, the changing landscape of global affairs, different tools of statecraft, and the implications for a diverse set of contemporary policy problems. The course emphasizes skill development through written exercises, class discussion, and team assignments.

Course Organization and Requirements: The course will be taught through a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, and individual and team assignments. Some of these assignments will be coordinated jointly with the comparative politics section of DPI-101.

Expectations of professionalism: Students are expected to complete all of the required reading prior to each class and to arrive on time and prepared to be called upon by name and to participate fully in the discussion. Written work must observe Kennedy School and Harvard rules regarding citation of sources: any sentences or paragraphs taken verbatim from the writing of (or interviews with) any other person(s) must be placed in quotation marks and the source clearly identified. Changing the wording of a sentence or passage slightly does not evade the requirement for citation. Indeed, a reference to the original source is required whenever you are drawing an important argument or insight from someone else, even if you express it in your own words.

I encourage you to discuss topics in the class with each other, but individual written work must be entirely your own. Team exercises require collaboration and a fair division of effort among team members.

Grades will be based on class participation (10%), several written/oral assignments (40%), and a final take-home examination (50%).

Course Materials: Readings for the course will be available on the course webpage; materials that are not available online will be available for purchase from the Course Materials Office.

Textbooks: three books are available for purchase:  
4. “A One-Page Memo on Writing Policy Memos” (class handout)

Who should take this course?  
IGA-100 is a required first year course for all MPP1 students considering a concentration in IGA. Unless exempted, students who entered the MPP Program in the Fall semester of the 2014/15 academic year must enroll in IGA-100 during the Spring 2015 semester in order to concentrate in IGA. These students are guaranteed enrollment in the course and do not need to spend bidding points on it. Remaining seats in the course will go to bidding by MPA, MPA/ID, or MC-MPA students.
Class Schedule and Assignments

January 23: Introduction: How Can We Understand a Complex International System?


Read *either* Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, chaps. 2-3 *or* Lauren, Craig and George, *Force and Statecraft*, pp. 3-131.

January 25: Theoretical Traditions: Realism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism:


January 30: Why is There Conflict in World Politics?


February 1: Why and When Do States Cooperate?


February 6: How Do Others See the World (and why don’t they see it like we do?)


“Yan Xuetong on Chinese Realism, the Tsinghua School of International Relations, and the Impossibility of Harmony,” at http://www.theory-talks.org/2012/11/theory-talk-51.html
February 8: Globalization and Its Discontents:


February 13: Meeting the Challenge of Global Governance [Guest lecturer: John Ruggie]


February 15: Non-State Actors in World Politics:


NOTE: The first graded assignment will be posted on February 15 and is due on February 22. Be sure to read the “One Page Memo on Writing Policy Memos” before completing this assignment.

February 20: President’s Day: NO CLASS

February 22: Making and Managing International Alliances:


February 27: Deterrence and Coercion:

Lauren, Craig, and George, *Force and Statecraft*, chapters 9-11.

*Note: the second graded assignment will be posted on March 1 and is due on March 8

March 1: Policy Issue: Managing a Rising China: Which Tools for What Purposes?

March 6: Norms and Institutions: Where do they come from and what can they do? [Guest lecturer: Kathryn Sikkink]


March 8: Policy Analysis and Evaluation in International and Global Affairs

Walt, S. M. “Making the Grade: Is There a Way to Judge if a Foreign Policy is Successful?” Foreign Policy (online), January 6, 2014.

MARCH 13, 15: SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS

March 20, Science, Technology and International Affairs (Guest lecturer: John Holdren)


March 22: Policy issue: Cyber-Security (Guest lecturer: David Eaves)

March 27, 29, April 1: TEAM EXERCISE (joint with DPI101): Topic to be announced on March 27.

April 3-5: America’s Role in the World: What Is It? What Should It Be?


April 10-12: Forecasting the Future of International and Global Affairs

Desch, M. “War and Strong States; Peace and Weak States,” International Organization 50, no. 2 (Spring 1996).
Diamond, L. “Democracy in Decline,” Foreign Affairs (July/August 2016).
Walt, S. “The Top 5 Foreign Policy Lessons of the Past 20 Years,” Foreign Policy, November 2014, at