

INTA 4740 Senior Seminar: International Political Economy
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Georgia Institute of Technology
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Murat Bayar
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Office: Ivan Allen College 141
Office hours: M 2:30-3:30 p.m. or by appointment

Section: A
Class Time: M 9:05-11:55 a.m.
Location: Ivan Allen College G17

Objectives

This course aims to combine your substantive and empirical knowledge in international affairs and to guide you into writing a research proposal. For this purpose, you will formulate a research question, conduct literature review, place your topic in its theoretical context, develop hypotheses, choose the appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative methods, and state your data sources for this project. The focus of this course is international political economy (IPE), so you have a wide range of potential topics from the role of international financial organizations in world economy to the performance of regional trade agreements. By the end of the semester, you will have a research proposal which you may use for your senior thesis or a policy paper.

Requirements

Participation makes up 10% of your overall grade. You are expected to do the readings, follow news pertinent to international political economy, and contribute to class discussions. Sometime around the midterm, I will give you a letter grade for your participation so that you will have a clear idea about your standing and have time to improve your performance.

Your research assignment is an individual research proposal. First, you will have your research question approved by the instructor by September 10. Since this is the deadline for *approval*, you need to contact the instructor and discuss your topic as early as possible. Once your research question is approved, you will conduct the literature review. In this step you are expected to show your command of the major academic work written on your topic. The literature review is due on October 8 (around 7 pages plus references). You are required to cite the reviewed work in the text and in the references section at the end of the paper. Please bring a hard-copy to the class and also send it to the instructor on T-Square. The instructor will provide you with the reference format.

The third research assignment will be the presentation of methodology and data sources. You will state your dependent and independent variables, develop hypotheses, explain how you will test these hypotheses, and state your data sources, which should be available or collectable for the intended spatial and temporal parameters. You will cite the data sources and other relevant works in the text, and provide the extended references section at the end of the paper. The methodology section is due on October 29 (around 10 pages plus references). Please bring a hard-copy to the class and also send it to the instructor on T-Square.

The fourth assignment will be the presentation of your draft research proposal in class. The presentations will begin on November 19 in the alphabetical order of your last names. The presenters are required to e-mail draft proposals to their classmates on T-Square three days in advance (Friday). The format of presentations will include PowerPoint and any other visual material you may need. Having received the drafts in advance, the audience is expected to provide constructive criticisms to the presenters in order to improve their work.

Finally, your research proposal will include introduction, literature review, methodology-data sources, and conclusion, and is due on December 7 (around 20 pages plus references). Please leave a hard-copy at the instructor's office and also send it to the instructor on T-Square.

The format for written assignments is double-space, Times New Roman, 12 font, with page numbers. The above page limitations are rough estimates, and the quality of your work is definitely more important than the quantity. You also need to do grammar and spell check before submitting any assignment. Please use either Word or PDF format when sending an electronic document to the instructor and to your classmates. You are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours and/or mutually-set appointments throughout the semester in order to coordinate your research and writing process.

The breakdown of your grade will be as follows:

Participation: 10%
Midterm Exam: 20% (see the schedule below)
Research Assignment I (Research Question): 5%
Research Assignment II (Literature review and references): 15%
Research Assignment III (Methodology and data sources): 15%
Research Proposal Presentation: 15%
Research Proposal: 20%

Grade Scale:

A	100-90	Excellent
B	89-80	Good
C	79-70	Satisfactory
D	69-60	Passing
F	Below 60	Failure

Required Book

The following book is available for purchase at the campus bookstore. The additional readings are posted on T-Square. You are expected to check T-Square for announcements every day.

Brians, Craig L., Lars Willnat, Jarol B. Manheim, and Richard C. Rich. 2011. *Empirical Political Analysis: Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods*. 8th edition. Boston, MA: Longman. ISBN-13: 978-0-205-79121-7. (Brians et al.)

Other Rules

If you miss an assignment and want to have a make-up exam, you need to contact the instructor as soon as possible and document your excuse.

If you feel that an assignment was graded incorrectly, e-mail the instructor within a week of the assignment. Students should keep graded assignments until they receive their final course grade.

Students with disabilities who require individualized testing or other accommodations should discuss this with the instructor in the first week of the semester.

Students who will need to miss a class meeting to observe a religious holiday should make arrangements with the instructor in the first week of the semester.

All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. Each student is responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. See: <http://www.osi.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=46>

The use of cell phones is not permitted during class meetings.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Class Schedule

August 20 – Introduction, IPE Review

August 27 – Research Question, Theory, and Hypothesis

Brians et al. chp. 1, 2

Discussion Assignment: come up with two research questions.

Milner, Helen V. 1999. The political economy of international trade. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 91-114.

September 3 – No class (Labor Day)

September 10 – Literature Review and Research Design

Brians et al. chp. 3, 4

Simmons, Beth A. 2000. International law and state behavior: Commitment and compliance in international monetary affairs. *The American Political Science Review* 94(4): 819-835.

Research Assignment I deadline.

September 17 – Operationalization, Measurement, Causation, and Sampling

Brians et al. chp. 5, 6, 7

September 24 – Survey Research and Scaling Techniques

Brians et al. chp. 8, 9

Mayda, Anna M., and Dani Rodrik. 2005. Why are some people (and countries) more protectionist than others? *European Economic Review* 49: 1393-1430.

October 1 – Content Analysis, Aggregate Data, and Comparative Research

Brians et al. chp. 10, 11, 12

Lijphart, Arend. 1971. Comparative politics and the comparative method. *The American Political Science Review* 65(3): 682-693.

October 8 – Direct Observation, Focus Group Research, and Interviews

Brians et al. chp. 19, 20, 21

Research Assignment II deadline.

Collier, David, and James Mahoney. 1996. Insights and pitfalls: Selection bias in qualitative research. *World Politics* 49: 56-91.

October 15 – Fall 2012 Student Recess

October 22 – Social Network Analysis, Coding Data, and Describing the Data

Brians et al. chp. 13, 14, 15

Elkins, Zachary, Andrew T. Guzman, and Beth A. Simmons. 2006. Competing for capital: The diffusion of bilateral investment treaties, 1960-2000. *International Organization* 60(Fall): 811-846.

October 29 – Statistics

Brians et al. chp. 16, 17, 18

Research Assignment III deadline.

November 5 – Midterm Exam

November 12 – Overview of a Research Project

Brians et al. chp. 22, 23

Chase, Kerry A. 2003. Economic interests and regional trading agreements: The case of NAFTA. *International Organization* 57(Winter): 137-174.

Davis, Christina L. 2004. International institutions and issue linkage: Building support for agricultural trade liberalization. *American Political Science Review* 98(1): 153-169.

November 19 – Student Presentations

November 26 – Student Presentations

December 3 – Student Presentations

December 7 – Research Proposal Deadline (No class)