

17.41, Introduction to International Relations

Professor: Rich Nielsen



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Goals of the course

1. Give you tools to understand politics
2. Train you to think critically and strategically
3. Help you write better
4. Help you not undermine democracy with your start-up

About the class

- ▶ Foundations: theories of international relations.
 - ▶ paradigms, rational choice/game theory, others
- ▶ Applications:
 - ▶ war, trade, development, environment, human rights, nuclear weapons.

Class format

Getting information in:

- ▶ lectures, readings, recitations (TBA), news

Products out:

- ▶ discussion, writing, oral presentation, midterm, final

Assignments

Midterm exam (in class) (15%)

Final exam (30%pts)

3 Short policy memos (5% each)

- ▶ 1,000 words, excluding references

Long policy memo (5% first draft, 25% final draft)

- ▶ 4,000 words, excluding references

Oral presentation (5%)

Participation (5%)

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