

# Final Paper Guidelines and Expectations

## International Political Economy

Kyle L. Mackey  
kmackey1@binghamton.edu  
Binghamton University  
Summer Session II

**Due:** 12:00am (midnight, Eastern Standard Time) on August 10, 2012

### 1 Introduction

In order to receive credit for the course, students will be required to submit a final paper, worth 30% of their final grade. The topic of the paper will be determined by the student. However, I reserve the right, after reading paper proposals, to object any topic on the basis of feasibility, appropriateness, etc. That being said, students are encouraged to write a theoretical paper, grounded in the international political economy literature, that is built on argument and evidence. In other words, while students are not expected to collect data and conduct some empirical test of their argument, they are expected to write their paper while keeping in mind whether their theory will hold up in the real world. The discipline of political science is interested in following the scientific method as a framework for research, and you will be expected to write your research paper in a way that will suggest reasonable hypotheses. If you've taken, for example, Introduction to World Politics, chances are that you've encountered a *hypothesis* paper. Again, while you will not be expected to collect and interpret data, you will be expected to show at least **2 hypotheses** that can be derived from your theory. For the convenience of the reader, I recommend that you do something similar to the following for each hypothesis:

**Hypothesis 1** *I expect that ...*

### 2 Paper Expectations

Students will be graded on the thoughtfulness of their final paper, but these grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Introduction:**

Outline the research question that you are addressing in your paper. This will be the best way to *sell* your paper. Follow this up by outlining why this paper is important for the study of international political economy. Also, make a point to tell the reader what you are arguing in this paper. The best way to tell the reader what you are arguing is by writing something similar to: **I argue that...** or **It is reasonable to argue that...** Remember, if I don't know what you're arguing, I will probably have a hard time evaluating (grading) your paper. In all, the introduction section should not be long (no longer than 1 to 2 double spaced page(s)). But it is important for moving forward in the paper.

- **Literature Review:**

Since part of your final paper requires you to do some reading and research on your topic of interest, you will be expected to write a brief literature review (no more than 2 double spaced pages) on the relevant literature for your topic. You will be expected to cite literature when appropriate. The easiest way to write this literature review will be to point out the main argument of a particular article/book/chapter, report any major findings, and if possible, tie that reading into your paper topic.

- **Theoretical Argument:**

This part is all you. Take what you have been exposed to in the class and from outside research to make an argument about some interesting topic in international political economy. Because IPE is a subfield of international politics in general, it is reasonable to extend what you have encounter in IPE to international relations literature in general. As much as this is a course on political economy, I find that the extension of concepts/arguments in IPE to international relations literature (e.g. conflict studies and war) is generally lacking. You will be expected to write your argument while keeping in mind testable implications (see "Hypotheses" below) that will be observable if your argument were to be tested against data.

- **Hypotheses:**

You will be expected to propose testable hypotheses that follow from your argument. While you will not be expected to collect data and test your argument, you will be expected to propose your hypotheses while keeping in mind whether they are reasonable predictions from your theory.

### 3 Grading Scale

The following grading criteria will be used to evaluate the final paper:

Criteria	Weight
Introduction/Research Question	15%
Literature Review	20%
Theory	30%
Hypotheses (at least 2)	20%
References/Citations	10%
Grammar/Spelling	5%
<b>Total</b>	100%

### 4 A Model of the Paper

A scientific paper is easiest to read when it is broken up into sections. It is easiest to break up the paper into the following sections **Introduction**, **Literature**, **Theoretical Argument** (note: include hypotheses in your argument section, and make them clear like the example above), and then **Conclusion** (tell me what you did in this paper and why it is important).

### 5 Some Reasonable Topics

While I recognize that this paper will expect the student to choose a topic of interest, this may, for some, be especially difficult since the class is only 5 weeks long. As such, the following are examples of some reasonable final paper ideas:

- Domestic politics of trade and international conflict
- Shifts in domestic trade coalitions and their consequences on: foreign policy, joining international organizations or alliances, or domestic policy
- The consequences of expanding trade on civil conflict
- Borrowing and lending as influences on conflict/war, domestic policy, domestic conflict, trade policy

The point is that, while this is not an all inclusive list (especially not with 4 suggested topics), I hope it makes the point that at times the best research topic is applying one argument to some other interesting topic in politics.

### 6 Rough Drafts

I am happy to read drafts of the final paper. In fact, it is encouraged that you send a draft of your paper to me. I will tell you my thoughts, and give you suggestions/advice. This is a habit that I suggest you become accustomed to doing in this class and in the future. I do have 2, and only 2, requirements that you must do before sending me a draft.

1. Read over your paper first before sending it to me.
2. Do not send a draft to me within 72 hours of the final paper due date. This paper is due on Friday, August 10 at 12:00am (midnight, Eastern Standard Time). You have until 12:00am (midnight, Eastern Standard Time) on Tuesday, August 7 to send me a rough draft.

## 7 Citations

Students will be expected to cite sources when taking material from other readings. Plagiarism will receive severe punishments, and will result in *at least* a grade of **0** for the paper, if not worse (see the syllabus). You will be expected to use in-text citations and have a references page that follows the style described below. I will give examples for articles, books, and chapters in what follows (please ask me for further citation styles if necessary):

### 7.1 In-Text Citation

- **Article:** (Hiscox 1999) or Hiscox (1999)
- **Book:** (Tomz 2007) or Tomz (2007)
- **Chapter in Edited Book:** (Frieden & Lake 2000) or Frieden & Lake (2000)

## References

Frieden, Jeffrey A. & David A. Lake. 2000. "Introduction: International Politics and International Economics." In *International Political Economy: Perspectives on Global Power*, ed. Jeffrey A. Frieden & David A. Lake. 4th ed. New York: W.W. Norton and Company Chapter 1, pp. 1–16.

Hiscox, Michael J. 1999. "The Magic Bullet? The RTAA, Institutional Reform, and Trade Liberalization." *International Organization* 53(4):669–698.

Tomz, Michael. 2007. *Reputation and International Cooperation: Sovereign Debt across Three Centuries*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.