

International Politics, PolSci 498
Winter 2007
Professor Barbara Koremenos
M: 2-4 pm
Office Hours: W: 3-5 pm
korememo@umich.edu

This course will introduce you to and involve you in the excitement and challenges of a new, major research project addressing core questions of international agreement and institutional design. Hundreds of multilateral agreements are signed each year. If we count bilateral agreements as well, the number jumps to thousands. This is not to say that cooperation is easy. Rather, if agreements and institutions are to be effective, they must be tailored to the specific parties involved and the environment. The course will begin with a sampling of game-theoretic models of international agreement design as well as an in-depth look at how to conceptualize and measure international delegation. I will then demonstrate how to collect original data so that these theories can be tested scientifically. I will address issues such as the importance of data, ethical issues related to data collection, defining the population of interest, and systematic and random sampling. I will also consider how to bring to life theoretical constructs that appear in game-theoretic models. Together we will resolve these through brainstorming sessions. At the end of the quarter, I will ask some of you to join the project officially as paid research assistants.

The main prerequisite for the course is a high grade in PS364. You do not have to purchase any books or packets; I will email all readings at least one week in advance.

Grades will be based on course participation (25%), presentations/assignments (25%), and a research paper (15 pages) (50%).

Course Schedule

- 1.) January 8: Introduction; International Delegation
Reading: "The Concept of International Delegation" by Curtis Bradley and Judith Kelley.
- 2.) January 15: no class (Michigan holiday)
- 3.) January 22: Introduction to Coding Project; More on Escape Clauses
Readings: "Seeking Escape: Managing the Use of Escape Clauses in International Trade Agreements (BK see 12/6/06 email);" BK manuscript on coding procedures
- 4.) January 29: More on Coding Project: Dependent and Independent Variables
Readings: Review glossary of design terms; Review (and be ready to present) cooperation problems from your class papers.
- 5.) February 5: Coding International Bodies; More on Withdrawal Clauses

Reading: BK handout on tasks delegated to bodies; BK will email manuscript on withdrawal clauses. Assignment: Coding for bodies from the random sample of international agreements.

6.) February 12: International Delegation: What do the Data Say?

Reading: “An Empirical Analysis of International Delegation;” Assignment: present paper proposal.

7.) February 19: The Incidence of Cooperation Problems across the Random Sample

Assignment: Each of you will take two agreements from the random sample and code for cooperation problems.

8.) February 26: No class (Michigan holiday)

9.) March 5: No class.

10.) March 12: International Monitoring Provisions: What do the Data Say?

Readings: Koremenos and Raustiala manuscript; two independent study papers that BK will email.

Make-up classes: There will be **three** either Th evening potlucks or Saturday brunches to make up for the fact that we will end the class so early.

Potential Dates: PLEASE BRING DATEBOOKS AND MAYBE WE CAN SETTLE ON THESE. Two are immediate while I am feeling energetic and before the semester gets too complicated. I won't give you too much reading that week since we'll meet so much. Thanks for your flexibility!

January 18: More on Coding International Bodies

January 20: More indepth Coding Training

March 8: Ethical Issues Related to Coding

COURSE PAPER DUE AT 8:00 PM on March 18. (No exceptions.)