

# The Balance of Power

## PLSC 126

Professor Nuno Monteiro  
Yale University, Spring 2014

### Contact

*Section leader:* William G. Nomikos

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*Time:* Tuesdays 9:25 - 10:15 AM

*Location:* WLH 209

*Office hours:* Tuesdays 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Bass Cafe. Please [sign up in advance](#) or email me.

### Grade Distribution

Section Participation	20%	attendance, participation, discussion points
3 Short Response Papers	15%	see expectations below
Mid-term	25%	February 19 (in-class)
Final Exam	40%	May 3 (in-class)

### Section Expectations

Sections will provide you a space to grapple with many of the ideas introduced in lectures and in the assigned texts, and, most importantly, apply them to contemporary and historical events. **Attendance is mandatory and will be reflected in your section grade.** If you cannot avoid missing a section meeting, you must make arrangements (after informing me) with another TF to attend his or her section the same week. Persistent tardiness and absences will have a negative impact on your section grade. Please put your cellphones on silent prior to arriving in class. Laptops are not allowed.

### Readings, Participation, and Discussion Points

I will expect that you have completed the readings for all the lectures right up until the Monday before section. The participation grade will be determined by both by your participation and the quality of the points that you have contributed.

Additionally, **you are required to submit two discussion points/questions that draw upon the previous week's readings and/or lecture for every section.** The discussion points offer you a chance to highlight what you found interesting, confusing, or

simply would like to talk more about in section. Each point should be no more than a few sentences. Please email these directly to me no later than Sunday at 11:59 PM.

## Response Papers

You are also required to write a 2-page reaction (double-spaced, 12pt font, about 500 words) to the readings for 3 different weeks. **Your response paper should be emailed to me by no later than Sunday at 11:59 PM.** Papers received after the deadline but before the discussion section begins will be dropped a grade. These response papers should include:

- An analysis of strengths or weaknesses of arguments made by the authors for the relevant week.
- Can these arguments be substantiated by historical or contemporary events? How do particular concepts in these readings have more or less application in the contemporary world?
- What are possible counter-arguments?
- Questions and points of confusion left by the reading.

Do not summarize the readings; assume that everybody else has done the reading as well. You do not have to discuss all of the readings assigned for the week; you may discuss just one or two pieces.

## Exams and Grades

The dates for the two final exams are listed above. If you expect that you might need to arrange for an alternative date of an exam, please let us know as soon as possible. Questions regarding grades will not be addressed during section time. If you feel there is a need to talk about specific answers or your overall performance on a test, please come see me in office hours.

Please also feel free to come to office hours or email me to discuss anything related to the course, your performance in it, or if you do not feeling comfortable expressing yourself in section. I will try to respond within 24 hours.