PS 0500: World Politics

William Spaniel

williamspaniel.com/classes/worldpolitics2018/

Evaluation

- Two exams: 25% each
- Two problem sets: 10% each
- Two data analyses: 5% each
- Recitation attendance and participation: 20%

Exams

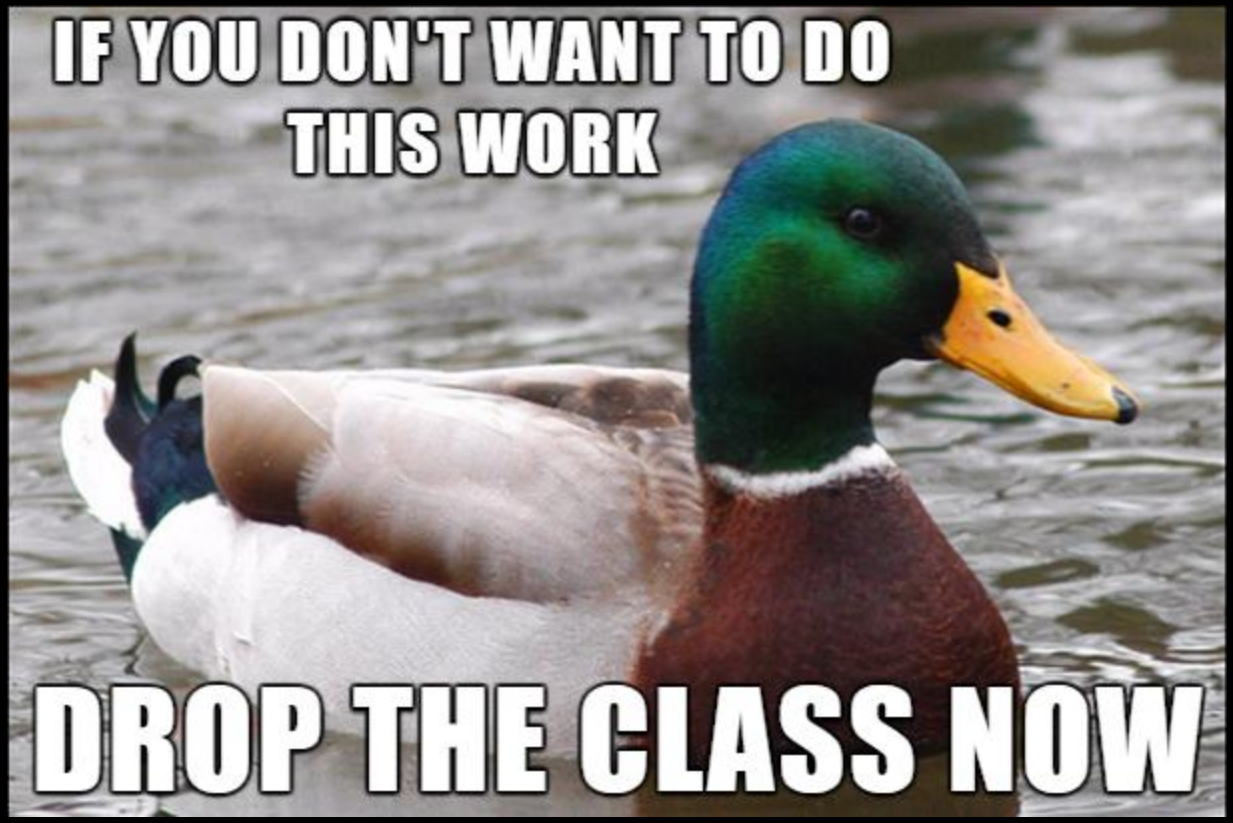
- Identification of key terms
- Knowledge of the readings
- Application of abstract concepts to relevant policy issues

Problem Sets

- Yes, there are problem sets
- Most of the work will involve comparing numbers
- You might have to solve for x a few times

Problem Sets

- Analytical skills are a mandated part of the political science curriculum
- It is also how research is done
- By staying in this class, you agree that this is okay and waive your right to complain


IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO
THIS WORK
DROP THE CLASS NOW

IF YOU START THE PROBLEM SETS
THE DAY BEFORE THEY ARE DUE
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BAD TIME

Data Analyses

- You will download some of the major datasets that international relations scholars use
- Goal are to get familiar with them, think about implications of coding rules, and do some light interpretation

Recitation

- Meets weekly
- TA: Rian Litchard
- Recitation attendance and participation expectations will be discussed at first meeting
- If you don’t attend recitation, your maximum grade is a B-

Readings

- No required textbook
- Links to articles available on the syllabus and website
- General rule: complete readings before week's recitation

Contact Information

- Email: williamspaniel@gmail.com
- Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00, Posvar 4446
- I usually linger after class

Communication Guide

- Make sure the answer is not on the syllabus
- If the question is something others would like to know, ask during recitation
- If the response requires fewer than three sentences, send me an email
- If the response requires more, talk to me in person (office hours or after class)

The Internet

- Blackboard is garbage, so everything will be done on my website (williamspaniel.com)
- Condensed versions of all lectures are on YouTube (search “international relations 101”)
  - The videos are not a substitute for lecture

Why are you here?

The media offer hot takes.
Actual analysis is hard.

لا إله إلا الله
محمد رسول الله