

# GV100: Introduction to Politics (2017/18)

View Online



60 items

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## Module outline (16 items)

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Lecturer and Module Supervisor:

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Room: 5A.314

Office Hours: TBC

Class Teachers:

TBA

Module Administrator:

Nicola Rowley [govquery@essex.ac.uk](mailto:govquery@essex.ac.uk)

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ASSESSMENT: Full year student - this module is assessed by 65% coursework and 35% exam.

Study Abroad student - this module is assessed by 100% coursework

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## INSTANT DEADLINE CHECKER

Assignment Title

Due Date

Coursework Weighting

**Feedback Due**

Essay Outline 1

Week 7

5%

Week 10

Class Test 1

Week 11

20%

Week 14

Essay 1

Week 15

20%

Week 18

Essay Outline 2

Week 21

5%

Week 24

Class Test 2

Week 25

25%

Week 28

Essay 2

Week 29

20%

Week 32

Participation

Continual

5%

Week 28

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## TOP READS (3 items)

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There is one textbook for this module, **abbreviated CGG** in the module diary below:

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

Book

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Further, a selection of readings is assigned throughout the module. Log on to Moodle to access these assigned readings. The readings are listed and discussed in more detail below

## Module description (1 items)

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This module is designed to provide you with an introduction to political science and to politics. The module consists of four parts: democracy and democratisation; political behaviour; political institutions; political outcomes. We will also introduce some practical aspects of political science, such as methods used to study political systems, reading and interpreting political science articles, and writing political science essays.

This document constitutes the syllabus for the entire full-year module. It sets out the aims and objectives of this Introduction to Politics and explains how the module is structured. Every student taking GV100 should have a copy and keep hold of it. You will find that the great majority of the questions you have about the module is answered below.

This syllabus can be accessed and downloaded from Moodle. Students wishing to proceed to a degree course involving politics are required to take GV100. The module is also open to students in the first year of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities and Comparative Studies, to Erasmus students and to International Programme students.

## Objectives and transferable skills (1 items)

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By the end of this module, you should be able to:

- (1) Summarize the basic building blocks of the academic study of politics;
- (2) Read, understand, and discuss articles involved in more specialised study in the field of politics;

- (3) Compare and contrast political systems, institutions, behaviours, and outcomes at different times and in different places;
- (4) Write clear and cogent essays;
- (5) Conduct independent library and internet searches for scholarly work;
- (6) Contribute with well-informed contributions in small-group discussions.

## Module structure and teaching (1 items)

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There are two main modes of instruction in GV100: a weekly lecture given by Professor Reinhardt, the module supervisor, and a weekly class with your graduate teaching assistant (GTA). Everyone will be assigned to a class at the beginning of the academic year.

Lectures are important. We have a short time to cover a lot of material, so a well-rounded approach to studying is recommended. It is expected that on a weekly basis you will be:

- Completing readings,
- Attending and engaging in lectures,
- Taking and reviewing notes,
- Preparing questions for class, and
- Participating actively in class.

**Students not attending the lectures regularly and taking full notes are seriously disadvantaging themselves and should not expect to succeed.** Abbreviated slides will be posted online, but you should not consider these a replacement for lectures.

Dr Reinhardt gives the weekly lecture at a time and location that will be available on your timetable. Lectures commence on the hour and end at 10 minutes to the hour.

Class teachers for GV100 will be announced. Details of their office locations, the times of their office hours and other contact information will be circulated separately.

**Your class teacher should always be your first port of call** in connection with GV100. Queries and problems relating to the academic aspects of the module should always be addressed to your class teacher in the first instance. Class teachers are there to help, and they will be in the best position to advise the students enrolled in their own classes.

## Assessment (7 items)

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Students are required to write one essay and take two exams in each of the two modules – that is, two essays and four exams if both modules are taken. The essay topics will be assigned during the modules. Essays should be approximately 2,500-3,000 words in length (and certainly not less than 2,500 words). They should include a bibliography and proper references and should be typed on a computer or equivalent.

### Assignment Title

### Due Date

### Coursework Weighting

### Feedback Due

Essay Outline

Week 4

15%

Week 6

Class Test 1

Week 6

25%

Week 8

Essay

Week 9

25%

Week 11

Class Test 2

Week 11

30%

Week 16

Participation

Continual

5%

Week 16

Students' work will be assessed in three ways:

1. Fifty-five per cent of the final mark for each module will be derived from students' in-class test marks, with the marks for the first test constituting 25% of the final mark, and the marks for the second test constituting 30% of the final mark. These will be closed tests taken during class in the weeks indicated above. Each test should be considered comprehensive, covering all previous material in the term.
2. Forty per cent of the final mark for each module will be derived from students' essay marks, with the first component being an outline counting 15% of the final mark, and the second component being the final essay counting 25% of the final mark.
3. Five per cent of the final mark for each module will be derived from class teachers' assessment of individual students' attendance and contributions to class discussion.

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Students are required to write two essays and take two exams over the course of the year – that is, one essay and one exam in each of the autumn and spring terms. The essay topics will be assigned during the modules. Essays should be approximately 2,500-3,000 words in length (and not less than 2,500 words). They should include a bibliography and proper references and should be typed on a computer or equivalent.

**Assignment Title**

**Due Date**

**Coursework Weighting**

**Feedback Due**

Essay Outline 1

Week 7

5%

Week 10

Class Test 1

Week 11

20%

Week 14

Essay 1

Week 15

20%

Week 18

Essay Outline 2

Week 21

5%

Week 24

Class Test 2

Week 25

25%

Week 28

Essay 2

Week 29

20%

Week 32

Participation

Continual

5%

Week 28

Students' work will be assessed as follows:

1. Coursework will contribute to 65% of your final mark:
  - a. Forty-five per cent of the coursework mark will be derived from your in-class test marks, with the marks for the first test constituting 20%, and the marks for the second test constituting 25%. These will be closed tests taken during lecture in the weeks indicated above. **Each test should be considered comprehensive, covering all previous material in the term.**
  - b. Fifty per cent of the coursework mark will be derived from your essay marks, with each term requiring one essay outline and one essay (two outlines and two essays total). Each outline counts for 5% of the coursework mark, and each essay counts for 20% of the coursework mark.
  - c. Five per cent of the coursework mark will be derived from your class teacher's assessment of your attendance and contributions to class discussion.
  
2. Thirty-five per cent of the final mark will be derived from an exam taken during exam time. The exam will last 2.5 hours. The exact date, time, and location of the exam will be announced in due course.

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Autumn Term students - Students leaving at the end of December will be assessed strictly on their Autumn Term marks, which will constitute their entire grade for the module, in the distribution given here:

### Submission deadlines

Assignment Title

Due Date

Coursework Weighting

Feedback Due



Essay Outline

Week 7

15%

Week 6

Essay

Week 11

35%

Week 16

Class Test

Week 11

45%

Week 16

Participation

Continual

5%

Week 16

Full Year Study Abroad students

### **Submission deadlines**

**Assignment Title**

**Due Date**

**Coursework Weighting**

**Feedback Due**

Essay Outline 1

Week 7

5%

Week 10

Class Test 1

Week 11

20%

Week 14

Essay 1

Week 15

20%

Week 18

Essay Outline 2

Week 21

5%

Week 24

Class Test 2

Week 25

25%

Week 28

Essay 2

Week 29

20%

Week 32

Participation

Continual

5%

## Week 28

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### How to submit your work using FASer (Online Coursework Submission)

You will be able to access the online submission via your myEssex portal or via <https://faser.essex.ac.uk>. FASer allows you to store your work-in-progress. This application provides you with an ideal place to keep partially completed copies of your work and ensures that no work, even drafts, is lost. If you have problems uploading your coursework, you should contact [ltt@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ltt@essex.ac.uk). You may find it helpful to look at the FASer guide <http://www.essex.ac.uk/elen/student/ocs.shtm>. **If you have any questions about FASer, please contact [ltt@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ltt@essex.ac.uk) or refer to the handbook.**

**Under NO circumstances is your coursework to be emailed to the administrators or the lecturer. This will NOT be counted as a submission.**

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### University Coursework Deadline Policy

There is a single policy at the University of Essex for the late submission of coursework in undergraduate courses. Essays must be uploaded before 09.45 on the day of the deadline. ALL submissions should have a coversheet (Available from Moodle). Essay feedback will be given via FASer.

If you do not submit your coursework on time and you still wish to submit something, **you should submit your late coursework as soon as possible**. FASer will still accept the submission for up to 7 days after the deadline. All coursework submitted after the deadline will receive an initial mark of zero. The mark of zero can only change if the student submits satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that indicate that the student was unable to submit the work prior to the deadline. For further information on late

submission of coursework and extenuating circumstances procedures please refer to <http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/extenug.html>.

Essay feedback will be given via FASer.

ALL submissions should be provided with a coversheet (Available from Moodle).

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## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and whether done wittingly or unwittingly it is your responsibility. **Ignorance is no excuse!** Plagiarism could mean receiving a mark of zero for the piece of coursework, and you may fail your degree. You could be required to withdraw from the University. It is important that you understand good academic practice right from the start of your studies and that you adhere to it throughout your studies.

The Department will randomly select coursework for plagiarism checks and lecturers are very good at spotting plagiarised work. **Plagiarism gets you nowhere; DON'T DO IT!**

**Following the guidance on referencing correctly will help you avoid plagiarism.** Please familiarise yourself with the University's policy on academic offences: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/academic/docs/regs/offpro.shtm>

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## Extenuating circumstances for late submission of coursework

The university has guidelines on what is acceptable as extenuating circumstances for later submission of coursework. If you need to make a claim, you should upload your coursework to FASer **as soon as possible** and submit a Late Submission of Coursework form which can be found here:

[http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/crswk\\_pol.htm](http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/crswk_pol.htm). This must be done within seven days of the deadline. FASer closes for all deadlines after seven days. The Late Submissions committee will decide whether your work should be marked and you will be notified of the outcome.

If you experience significant longer-term extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your work either by the deadline or within seven days of the deadline, you should submit an Extenuating Circumstances Form for the Board of Examiners to consider at the end of the year <http://www2.essex.ac.uk/academic/students/ug/extenug.html>.

## Reading list (44 items)

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### READING (3 items)

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There is one textbook for this module, **abbreviated CGG** in the module diary below:

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

Book

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Further, a selection of readings is assigned throughout the module. Log on to Moodle to access these assigned readings. The readings are listed and discussed in more detail below.

These extra readings are available in the Library, typically on seven day loan and/or in e-format. The Library web site is also accessible from your myEssex student portal; myEssex offers you a structured set of links to online services and information that have been customised with your needs in mind: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/myEssex/>.

The Library provides online access to a number of journals that will serve as sources for your essay each term: <http://libwww//essex.ac.uk>. You must use these academic outlets, rather than popular outlets (opinion pages, Wikipedia, blogs, daily news) when sourcing your essays. Essays based solely on browsing the web with no use of scholarly sources will not receive high marks.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS (41 items)

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### October Week 1 2-6 Welcome Week

### Week 2 9-13 The World of Politics (4 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

Book | Essential | Read Introduction

## Week 3 16-20 Why are Some Countries Democratic? (2 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | Read 'Democracy and Dictatorship: Conceptualization and Measurement.'

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**Inequality and Democratization: A Contractarian Approach** - Ben Ansell, David Samuels, 2010-12

**Article** | **Essential**

## Week 4 23-27 How to Write a Political Science Essay (items)

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Instructor's notes on Moodle

## November Week 5 30-3 Varieties of Dictatorship (items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | Read 'Varieties of Dictatorship.'

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**Authoritarian Institutions and the Survival of Autocrats** - Jennifer Gandhi, Adam Przeworski, 2007-11

**Article** | **Essential**

## Week 6 6-10 Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to Politics (items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | Read 'What is Science.'

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**The craft of political research** - W. Phillips Shively, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | chapter 6 - 'Causal thinking and design of research'

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**The craft of political research** - W. Phillips Shively, EBSCOhost ebook collection, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | chapter 6 - 'Causal thinking and design of research'

## Week 7 13-17 Political Preferences and Ideologies (items)

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**Party policy in modern democracies** - Kenneth Benoit, Michael Laver, 2006

**Book** | **Essential** | Read "Left and right in comparative context"

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**Party policy in modern democracies** - Kenneth Benoit, Michael Laver, EBSCOhost ebook collection, 2006

**Book** | **Essential** | Read "Left and right in comparative context"

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**Citizens, context, and choice: how context shapes citizens' electoral choices** - Russell J. Dalton, Christopher Anderson, 2011

**Book** | **Essential** | Read "Left-right orientations, context and voting choice"

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**Citizens, context, and choice: how context shapes citizens' electoral choices** - Russell J. Dalton, Christopher Anderson, 2011

**Article** | **Essential** | Read "Left-right orientations, context and voting choice"

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**Social Modernization and the End of Ideology Debate: Patterns of Ideological Polarization** - RUSSELL J. DALTON, 2006-3-31

**Article** | **Essential**

## Week 8 20-24 Voting Behaviour: Expressive v. Strategic (3 items)

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**Comparing democracies 2** - Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi, Pippa Norris, 2008

**Book** | **Essential** | Read Chapter 9 - 'Political Cleavages, Issues, and Electoral Change'

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**Comparing democracies 2: new challenges in the study of elections and voting** - Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G. Niemi, Pippa Norris, EBSCOhost ebook collection, 2002

**Book** | **Essential** | Read Chapter 9 - 'Political Cleavages, Issues, and Electoral Change'

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**Comparing Strategic Voting Under FPTP and PR** - Paul R. Abramson, John H. Aldrich, Andr  Blais, Matthew Diamond, Abraham Diskin, Indridi H. Indridason, Daniel J. Lee, Renan Levine, 2010-01

**Article**

## December Week 9 27-1 Political Parties: Convergence v. Polarisation (1 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | Read 'Social Cleavages and Party Systems.'

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**Explaining Variation In The Success Of Extreme Right Parties In Western Europe** - Matt Golder, 2003-05

**Article** | **Essential**

## Week 10 4-8 How Electoral Systems Shape Political Behaviour (2 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

**Book** | **Essential** | Read 'Elections and Electoral Systems.'

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**The Electoral Sweet Spot: Low-Magnitude Proportional Electoral Systems** - John M Carey, Simon Hix, 2011-04

**Article** | **Essential**

## Week 11 11-15 TEST 1, IN LECTURE, WEEK 11

\*\*\* ESSAY DUE, WEEK 15 \*\*\* \*\* ESSAY DUE, WEEK 15 \*\*\*

## January Week 16 15-19 Why Mobilise? Interest Groups and Social Movements (2 items)

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**The logic of collective action: public goods and the theory of groups** - Mancur Olson, 1965  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'A Theory of Groups and Organisations'

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**The logic of collective action: public goods and the theory of groups** - Mancur Olson, EBSCOhost ebook collection, c1971  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'A Theory of Groups and Organisations'

## Week 17 22-26 Majorities, Consensus, Agendas, and Vetoes (3 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Consequences of Democratic Institutions.'

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**Veto players: how political institutions work** - George Tsebelis, c2002  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Veto Players Theory.'

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**Veto players: how political institutions work** - George Tsebelis, ebrary, Inc, 2002  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Veto Players Theory.'

## Week 18 February 29-2 Presidents, Ministers, and Parliaments (3 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Democracies...' AND 'Consequences of Democratic Institutions.'

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**DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND REGIME SURVIVAL: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered** - José Antonio Cheibub, 2003-11-28  
[Article](#) | **Essential**

## Week 19 5-9 Cabinets, Coalitions, and Single-Party Governments (3 items)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017  
[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Parliamentary, Presidential, and Semi-Presidential Democracies...'

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**Veto Players and Law Production in Parliamentary Democracies: An Empirical Analysis** - George Tsebelis, 1999-09  
[Article](#)

## Week 20 12-16 Federalism and De-Centralization (1 item)

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**Principles of comparative politics** - William Roberts Clark, Matt Golder, Sona Nadenichek Golder, 2017

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read 'Institutional Veto Players.' AND 'Consequences of Democratic Institutions.'

## Week 21 (3 items)

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**Exploring the Bargaining Model of War** - Dan Reiter, 2003-3

[Article](#) | **Essential**

**The War We Deserve**

**Original text** - Alasdair Roberts

[Article](#) | **Essential**

**Rationalist explanations for war** - James D. Fearon, 1995-6

[Article](#) | **Essential**

## ESSAY 2 OUTLINE DUE, WEEK 21

## Week 22 (3 items)

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**"National Security" as an Ambiguous Symbol** - Arnold Wolfers, 1952-12

[Article](#) | **Essential**

**The logic of political survival** - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, c2003

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read Chapter 1, pp. 3-36

**The logic of political survival** - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, EBSCOhost ebook collection, c2003

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read Chapter 1, pp. 3-36

## Week 23 (3 items)

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**Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade** - Ronald Rogowski, 1987-12

[Article](#) | **Essential**

**Trading in Illusions** - Dani Rodrik, 2001-03

[Article](#) | **Essential**

## Week 24 (2 items)

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**World politics: interests, interactions, institutions** - Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake, Kenneth A. Schultz, 2016

[Book](#) | **Essential** | Read Chapter 6 (in the older edition of this text the corresponding chapter is ch.10)

**The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism** - ROBERT A. PAPE, 2003-8

Article | Essential

Week 25□19-23□TEST 2, in lecture, WEEK 25

ESSAY 2 DUE, WEEK 29

FINAL EXAM During exam period.