

How Do I Integrate Statecraft into my Class? Four Approaches

Statecraft will substantially decrease your prep time, but you will need to take a moment to integrate it into your course structure. The ease of integrating Statecraft will vary based on the nature of your current syllabus, but there are some proven techniques for a smooth transition. Here are four approaches for incorporating Statecraft into your class.

- ***Flipped Classroom***
- ***Online Only***
- ***Project Abbreviation***
- ***Condense Topic Schedule***

“FLIP” THE CLASSROOM ON STATECRAFT DAYS. If you don’t want to lose any of your current course content, one solution is to “flip” the classroom. Specifically, you can free up 40-50 minutes of class time per week (for the 7 to 8 weeks that Statecraft runs) by recording short lectures for students to view online outside of class. Best practices regarding online teaching indicate that these recorded lectures should be no longer than 10-15 minutes. These shorter lectures can cover the same content as a 40-50 minute in-class lecture since you won’t be repeating yourself or pausing for students to take notes: (they can pause or rewind the video)

ONLINE ONLY. In this approach, no class time is directly devoted to Statecraft. Identify 7-8 consecutive weeks on your syllabus and designate this period as the Statecraft experience, with one “turn” each week. You’ll want to modify your grading criteria to give students credit for participation and performance: scores that Statecraft will automatically generate for you. We also recommend that you spend some class time during these weeks discussing students’ sim experience (see the suggested discussion questions) and add at least one reflection paper to your syllabus to encourage students to make connections between Statecraft and course material. **NOTE:** Because 40-50 minutes of Statecraft-focused class time per “turn” can help increase student engagement and learning, this approach is recommended if you are teaching an online course or can’t devote 40-50 minutes of class time per week for 7-8 weeks during the semester.

PROJECT ABBREVIATION. The easiest path toward freeing up class time for Statecraft is to replace or abbreviate non-lecture activities that, on your existing syllabus, were taking up 40-50 minutes of class time per week for 7 to 8 weeks. Candidates for replacement or reduction or online integration could include class discussion, films, and other simulations or group activities.

CONDENSE TOPIC SCHEDULE. Another approach to freeing up class time for Statecraft is to modify your schedule by dropping certain topics or covering them more quickly. Because Statecraft is designed to help illustrate IR concepts, similar to case studies or example-laden lectures, some instructors find that they can drop case studies or shorten lectures that were needed to explain concepts like deterrence, the collective action problem, realism vs. idealism, etc. This approach is often used in concert with abbreviating a project. Instructors may replace a films or class discussions with sim time and also condense a topics in their course schedule. You’ll only need to find weekly Statecraft time for 7-8 weeks, not the entire semester.