

International Theory and Policy

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3PM or by appointment

Course Information:

POLS 560
Thursday 11:30-2:15
Woodburn 306E
Spring 2015

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to familiarize you with many of the broad themes and theoretical approaches in the international relations research literature, including Realism, Neorealism, Liberalism, Neoliberal Institutionalism, Rational Choice, Constructivism, the English School, and Feminism. We will also focus on the foundational literature surrounding the study of domestic politics and international relations, which will serve as an introduction to upper-level classes on foreign policy and international political economy. This class will give you a broad theoretical grounding in the IR literature, which will prove to be extremely useful when you take other courses in the field of international relations and when you take your comprehensive exams.

Required Texts:

Bull, Hedley. 1977. *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*. London: Macmillan.

Gilpin, Robert. 2001. *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.

Tickner, J. Ann. 2001. *Gendering World Politics*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. London: Cambridge University Press.

All other required readings are available on JSTOR (as noted), via link, or on the class's ecampus website. It is your responsibility to access them, print them, read them, and bring them to class.

Course Requirements:

Class participation and attendance (30%): The quality of a graduate level seminar depends largely on the efforts of the students. I will not run class meetings as a lecture. All students are expected to come to each class meeting prepared to discuss the readings. This will involve spending time to read each book and article on the required reading list, and thinking about what each book

and article on the reading list, and how it contributes to the weekly topic. To help facilitate discussions, you are required to email me two questions related to the readings before class. These questions should facilitate discussion and should be sent no later than 3PM on the preceding day (Wednesday). Only email submissions will be accepted. Obviously, it is impossible to participate in a seminar discussion if you are not in attendance. I expect no absences, and I encourage you to discuss with me any circumstances that may preclude you from attending class. I also expect you to arrive on time. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you will be considered absent for the day and given a zero for that day's participation grade.

The following general grading scale will be used for participation:

- A to A-: The student made a very strong contribution to the course. Class discussion, comments, and/or presentations reflected a great deal of thought about the material, and were constructive (for example, not only identifying current weaknesses and showing how these weaknesses limit the current literature, but suggesting useful future directions that could help to overcome these weaknesses or to extend the literature in important ways).
- B+ to B-: The student contributed meaningfully to the course. Class participation and/or presentations went beyond repeating the assigned material, perhaps identifying weaknesses in the current literature, but did not make many constructive suggestions about how these weaknesses might be overcome or how the literature might usefully be extended in the future.
- C+ or lower: The student did not contribute meaningfully. Class participation and/or presentations were limited to repeating the assigned material rather than making connections or extensions, or was filled with mistakes and inaccuracies.
- F: The student was a net drain on the course, rarely if ever speaking in class or failing to make the required number of presentations.

Research Design (40%): For the research design paper assignment, you must outline a specific research question in the study of international relations, make the case that it is something that warrants study, generate one or more empirically falsifiable hypotheses, and present a research design and the method(s) and data you will use to test the hypothesis/hypotheses. The key here is to focus on the following:

1. The puzzle or question that motivates the proposed research
 - Identify the place of your proposed research in the literature
2. The theory that provides an answer to the question
 - Domain of theory
 - Concepts
 - Assumptions

- Causal Mechanisms
3. The hypotheses implied by the theory
 4. The research design that will enable you to draw inferences about your hypotheses
 - Spatial-temporal domain
 - Sample
 - Operational definitions
 - Inferential method

Please note that this is not a research paper, it is a research proposal. Please do not focus on the specific data set you plan to use or the estimation technique you will employ. These are important parts of the paper, they are not the main emphasis.

I will take the lead in helping you with the research design portion of the paper (assuming you stop by and seek such assistance, which I recommend). Once you have settled on a research topic, the question that motivates the project, and a theory that implies one or more hypotheses, send me an email message briefly describing those three elements. You must send me such an email message by February 19th at the latest.

I will set up individual meetings with students at the beginning of April to discuss the progress of your research. Each student will make a conference-style presentation of his/her paper to the class on April 30. Students are then asked to incorporate comments into the final draft of their paper that is due on May 7th at 11:15AM.

Final Exam (30%): The final exam will require you to know the content of and be able to critique the semester's readings. This will entail both theoretical and methodological concerns. You will need to know the ideas, studies, and theories discussed in class in detail, be able to compare and contrast them, and discuss how they fit together to inform our current knowledge of IR. The exam will be in a take-home format, given to you a week in advance of the due date of April 23rd.

Course Schedule: Students are required to read each of the assigned readings prior to the class meeting in order to facilitate discussion of the week's topic. Also, in order to help you prepare for comprehensive exams, the instructor suggests writing abstracts for each of the readings (or chapters) in order to jog your memory.

January 15: Realism and Neorealism

- Morgenthau, Hans. (1978) "A Realist Theory of International Politics." in *Politics Among Nations*, 5th edition revised, pp. 3-15. (on ecampus)
- Mearshimer, John J. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: Norton. Chapters 1 and 2. (on ecampus)
- Waltz, Kenneth 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Ch. 8 (on ecampus)
- Brooks, Stephen G. 1997. "Dueling Realisms (Realism in International Relations)." *International Organization* 51 (3): 445-447. (on JSTOR)
- Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory." *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.

January 22: Liberalism and Neoliberalism

- Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80 (4): 1151-69. (Available on JSTOR)
- Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph Nye. 1977. *Power and Interdependence*. New York: Longman. Chapter 2. (on ecampus)
- Zacher, Mark W. and Richard A. Matthew. 1995. "Liberal International Theory: Common Threads, Divergent Strands." In Charles W. Kegley, ed. *Controversies in International Relations Theory*. New York: St. Martin's Press. (on ecampus)
- Axelrod, Robert and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38 (1): 226-254. (on JSTOR)

January 29: Constructivism

- Alexander Wendt. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. ALL.

February 5: The English School

- Hedley Bull. 1977. *The Anarchical Society*. New York: Columbia University Press. ALL.
- March, James G. and Johan P. Olsen. 1998. "The Institutional Dynamics of International Political Orders." *International Organization* 52 (4): 943-969.

February 12: Global Governance

- Dingwerth, Klaus and Philipp Pattberg. 2006. "Global Governance as a Perspective on World Politics." *Global Governance* 12 (2): 185-203.
- Simmons, Beth and Lisa Martin. 2006. "International Organizations and Institutions." In Carlsnaes et al's *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks: Sage. (on ecampus)
- Drezner, Daniel. 2007. *All Politics is Global*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.
- Lake, David. 2010. "Rightful Rules: Authority, Order, and the Foundations of Global Governance." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (3): 587-613.

February 19: No class, ISA meeting in New Orleans, work on your research designs!

February 26: International Laws and Norms

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 54(4): 887-917.

Lipson, Charles. 1991. "Why Are Some International Agreements Informal?" *International Organization* 45 (4): 495-538.

Abbot, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. 2000. "Hard and Soft Law in International Governance." *International Organization* 54 (3): 421-456.

Chayes, Abram and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. "On Compliance." *International Organization* 47 (2): 175-205.

March 5: Post-Positivism

Viotti, Paul R. and Mark V. Kauppi. 1999. *International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism, Globalism, and Beyond*, 3rd edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. Chapter 4 (on ecampus)

Lapid, Yosef. 1989. "The Third Debate: On the Prospects of International Theory in a Post-Positivist Era." *International Studies Quarterly* 33(3): 235-254. (on JSTOR)

Smith, Steve. 2003. "Alternative and Critical Perspectives." In *Critical Perspectives in International Studies*, edited by Frank P. Harvey and Michael Brecher. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (on ecampus)

Cox, Michael. 2003. "The Continuing Story of Another Death Foretold: Radical Theory and the New International Relations." In *Critical Perspectives in International Studies*, edited by Frank P. Harvey and Michael Brecher. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (on ecampus)

Ackerly, Brooke, Jacqui True and Maria Stern, eds. *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 and 4 (on ecampus)

March 12: Gender and International Relations

Tickner, J. Ann. 2001. *Gendering World Politics*. NY: Columbia University Press. ALL

Mary Caprioli (2000) "Gendered Conflict," *Journal of Peace Research* 37,1:51-68. (on JSTOR)

Engle, Karen. 2005. "Feminism and Its (Dis)contents: Criminalizing Wartime Rape in Bosnia and Herzegovina." *The American Journal of International Law*. 99 (4): 778-816. (on JSTOR)

March 20: Rational Choice

David Lake and Robert Powell, eds. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Chapters 1 and 2. (on ecampus)

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Expectations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414. (Available on JSTOR)

Stephen Walt. 1999. "Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies." *International Security* 23: 5-48. (Available on JSTOR)
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 1981. *The War Trap*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. Chapters 1 and 2 (on ecampus)

March 27: Spring Break

April 2: Domestic Politics and International Relations

Graham Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63: 689-718(Available on JSTOR)
Krasner, Stephen D. 1972. "Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)" *Foreign Policy* 7: 159-79. (Available on JSTOR)
Hermann, Margaret G. and Charles F. Hermann. 1989. "Who Makes Foreign Policy Decisions and How: An Empirical Inquiry." *International Studies Quarterly* 33:361-387. (Available on JSTOR)
Robert Putnam 1988 "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42: 427-60. (Available on JSTOR)
Peter Gourevitch 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32(4): 881-912 (Available on JSTOR)

April 9: International Political Economy

Gilpin, Robert. 2001. *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected chapters.

April 16: Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, work on your research designs... Final Exam emailed to you.

April 23: Final Exams Due

April 30: Research Design Presentations

May 7: Research Design Due