

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Study of International Relations

Instructor:

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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the theory and practice of international relations, with an emphasis on the American school. This course has two broad purposes. First, it explores the most recent theoretical developments in the American IR literature, beginning with the 1980's debates between neo-realism and neo-liberalism and moving onto more contemporary constructivist, neo-Marxist, postmodernist, and feminist challenges to these dominant paradigms. Second, the class aims to familiarize students with the research traditions that undergird these competing theories. These include the game theoretic, large-N quantitative analysis, and comparative case study methodologies—all of which are based on the “positivist” research tradition. In contrast, much of the recent neo-Marxist, postmodernist, and feminist approaches utilize methodologies such as text analysis, which is associated with the post-positivist research tradition. However, as a workshop on the theory and methodology of the IR paradigms in the United States, this course will emphasize empirical methods of conducting political science in the positivist tradition. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify the basic assumptions underlying contemporary IR theories, show how these assumptions are used to generate empirically-falsifiable hypotheses, and critically evaluate the research design with which the authors test their hypotheses.

Since the course addresses both theoretical *and* methodological questions in IR, we will pay close attention to the assumptions and research tradition upon which each theoretical approach is based. To get at the relationship between social science theory and so-called social facts, we will first engage in epistemological questions including: “How do we know what we know?” “Under what conditions is a theory falsified?” and “When can a theory be replaced by a new paradigm?” It is hoped that the course will give students a sense for how international relations theory is relevant to practical issues such as nuclear weapons proliferation, democracy promotion, and the mediation of violent conflicts. This in turn will assist in IR theory-building as well as the construction of policy on the domestic and international level.

Requirements

- (1) Seminar Participation (20%). This consists of two parts.
 - A. Presentation (10%). Students will be expected to give a 15-20 minute presentation on one of the seminar readings. For the presentation, students should identify the research question or “puzzle” addressed by the author (if there is one); review the ontological and theoretical assumptions the author uses in developing his or her explanation for the puzzle; and evaluate the research design (if any) that the author uses to “test” this hypothesis. What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the author’s approach and how could the research design be improved? Finally, what conclusions can be drawn from this analysis that relate to current debates in the field?
 - B. Questions and Class Participation (10%). For each seminar, students will be asked to email or hand-deliver 2-3 questions about the readings by 9 p.m. the night before the seminar. Questions should not be too general and should address what the student finds most puzzling, provocative or controversial in the readings. Attendance is mandatory, and students will be expected to come to seminars prepared to discuss the readings for that day.
- (2) Midterm Exam (40%). This is a **take-home** essay exam designed to test students’ general understanding of the major issues and debates in IR covered in the first half of the class. In addition to demonstrating their comprehension of the various approaches in international relations, students will also be asked to apply one or more of these theoretical frameworks to a concrete “problem” in international politics.
- (3) Final Exam (40%). This is an **in-class** essay exam designed to test students’ command of the theoretical approaches and contemporary debates in international relations covered throughout the entire course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction:

Seminar 1: A Retrospective of International Relations Theory: World War II to Present

Peter J. Katzenstein, Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner. Autumn 1998. “International Organization and the Study of World Politics,” *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 645-685.

Seminar 2: Epistemologies, Ontologies and Methodologies

David J. Singer. 1961. "The Level-of Analysis Problem in International Relations," in Klaus Knorr and Sidney Verba (eds.) *The International System: Theoretical Essays*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, pp. 77-92.

Arend Lijphart. September 1971. "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 65, No. 3, pp. 682-693.

Recommended:

Przeworski, Adam and Henry Teune. 1982. *The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry*. Malabar, FL: R.E. Krieger Publishing, pp. 17-46.

Gary King, Robert O. Keohane, and Sydney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Imre Lakatos. 1970 "Falsification and The Methodology of Scientific Research Programs," in Lakatos and Musgrave (eds.) *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 91-138.

James D. Fearon. January 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2, pp. 169-195.

POSITIVISM

Week 2. The Neo-Realist Paradigm

Seminar 3: Foundations of Neo-Realism

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, pp. 79-128.

Recommended:

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1954. *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 159-186.

Robert Gilpin. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Seminar 4: Neo-Realism (continued)

Kenneth N. Waltz. Summer 2000. "Structural Realism after the Cold War," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 5-41.

Recommended:

Stephen D. Krasner. April 1991. "Global Communications and National Power: Life on the Pareto Frontier," *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 336-366.

Week 3. The Neo-liberal Paradigm: Regimes and Institutions

Seminar 5: Foundations of Neo-Liberalism

Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, Chapters 3, 6, 11.

Recommended:

Robert Axelrod. 1981. "The Emergence of Cooperation among Egoists", *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 75, No. 2, pp.306-318.

Joseph M. Grieco. Summer 1988. "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Internationalism," *International Organization*, pp. 485-507.

Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons. Autumn 1998. "Theories and Empirical Studies of International Institutions," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 729-757.

Andreas Hansclever, Peter Mayer, and Volker Rittberger. January 2000. "Integrating Theories of International Regimes," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 3-33.

Seminar 6: The "Neo-Neo" Debate—Yesterday and Today

Robert Powell. Spring 1994. "Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neo-Realist-Neo-Liberal Debate," *International Organization*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 313-344.

Recommended:

Robert Jervis. Summer 1999. "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1, pp. 42-63.

John J. Mearsheimer. Summer 1995. "A Realist Reply," *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 82-93. [And responses.]

David A. Baldwin (ed.).1993. *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Week 4. First and Second Levels of Analysis in International Politics

Seminar 7: Psychology and Leadership Theories

Jack Levy. June 1992. "An Introduction to Prospect Theory," *Political Psychology*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 171-186.

Recommended:

Barbara Farnham. March 1990. "Political Cognition and Decision-Making," *Political Psychology*, Vol. 11, No. 1, pp. 83-111.

Seminar 8: The Theory of Two-level Games

Robert D. Putnam. Summer 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization*, Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 427-460.

Recommended:

Peter Gourevitch. Autumn 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 32, No. 4, pp. 881-911.

Week 5. Neo-Classical Liberalism: Challenging Neo-realists on their own Turf

Seminar 9: Democratic Peace Theory

Michael Doyle. December 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 80, No. 4, pp. 1151-1169.

John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett. October 1999. "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 1, pp. 1-37.

Recommended:

John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett. 2001. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. Norton, pp. 15-196; 271-305.

Midterms Passed Out

Seminar 10: Neo-Classical Liberalism and International Security

"Transnational Civil Society and Advocacy in World Politics," *World Politics*, Vol. 55, No. 4, pp. 579-606.

Recommended:

Andrew Moravcsik. Autumn 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 4, pp. 513-553.

Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. 2000. *Power and Interdependence*, Third Edition. Addison-Wesley, pp. 3-52.

Jack Snyder. 1991. *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Week 6. Neo-Classical Realism and Rational Choice

Midterms Due

Seminar 11: The Realist Rebuttal

William C. Wohlforth. Winter 1994/5. "Realism and the End of the Cold War," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 91-129.

Gideon Rose. October 1998. "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy," *World Politics*, Vol. 51, No. 1, pp. 144-172.

Recommended:

Stephen G. Brooks. Summer 1997. "Dueling Realisms," *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 3, pp. 445-477.

Jeffrey W. Legro and Andrew Moravcsik. Fall 1999. "Is Anybody Still A Realist?" *International Security* Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 5-55.

Randall Schweller and David Priess. May 1997. "A Tale of Two Realisms: Expanding the Institutions Debate," *Mershon International Studies Review*, Vol. 41, No. 1, pp. 1-32.

Stephen D. Krasner. Spring 1994. "International Political Economy: Abiding Discord," *Review of International Political Economy*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp. 13-19.

Susan Strange. Summer 1994. "Wake up, Krasner! The World has Changed," *Review of International Political Economy*, Vol. 1, No. 2, pp. 209-219.

Seminar 12: The Rational Choice Approach: Expected Utility Theory and Individual Rationality

James D. Fearon. Summer 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 3, pp. 379-411.

Recommended:

Bruce Beuno de Mesquita. October 1990. "Pride of Place: The Origins of German Hegemony," *World Politics*, Vol. 43, pp. 28-52.

James D. Fearon. Spring 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 2, pp. 269-305.

Week 7. Globalization and Other Theories of Change

Seminar 15: Globalization and IR Theory

Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. 2000. "Introduction" in Joseph S. Nye and John D. Donahue (eds.) *Governance in a Globalizing World*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 1-41.

Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder (eds.) 2004. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., Chapter 9.

Recommended

John Rawls. 1999. *The Law of Peoples*. Cambridge, MS: Harvard University Press, Introduction and Chapters 1-4.

William C. Clark. 2000. "Environmental Globalization," in Joseph S. Nye and John D. Donahue (eds.) *Governance in a Globalizing World*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp. 86-108.

Robert C. North. 1990. *War, Peace, Survival: Global Politics and Conceptual Synthesis*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, Chapter 9.

Seminar 14: Evolutionary Theories of International Relations

Phillip G. Cerny. 1995. "Globalization and the Changing Logic of Collective Action," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 4, pp. 595-625

George Modelski. 1996. "Evolutionary Paradigm for Global Politics," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 40, pp. 321-342.

Recommended

Nazli Choucri. 2000. "Introduction: Cyber Politics in International Relations," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 21, No. 3, pp. 243-264.

Claudio Cioffi-Revilla. 1996. "Origins and Evolutions of War and Politics," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 40, pp. 1-22.

Robert Gilpin. 1996. "Economic Evolution of National Systems," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 40, pp. 411-431.

George Modelski. 1987. *Long Cycles in World Politics*. Houndsmills: Macmillan.

POST-POSITIVISM

Week 8. Constructivist Approaches to International Relations

Seminar 15: The Constructivist Critique

Alexander Wendt. Spring 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 391-425.

Recommended:

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

John Gerard Ruggie. Autumn 1998. "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4, pp. 855-885.

Seminar 16: Constructivist Applications and Extensions

Nina Tannenwald. Summer 1999. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization*, Vol. 53, No. 3, pp. 433-468.

John W. Meyer, et. al. July 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 103, No. 1, pp. 144-181.

Recommended:

Peter J. Katzenstein (ed.) 1996. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*. Columbia University Press.

Jeffrey T. Checkel. Summer 2001. "Why Comply? Social Learning and European Identity Change," *International Organization*, Vol. 55, No. 3, pp. 553-588.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink. Autumn 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization*, Vol. 54, No. 4, pp. 887-917.

Week 9. Feminist Theories, Language and Symbols in International Relations

Seminar 17: Feminist Theories of International Relations

Carol Cohn. 1989. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," in Diana Russell (ed.) *Exposing Nuclear Phallacies*, Elmsford, NY: Pergamon, pp. 127-159.

Marysia Zalewski. 1995. "Well, What is the feminist perspective on Bosnia?" *International Affairs*, Vol. 71, No. 2, pp. 339-356.

Recommended:

J. Ann Tickner. December 1997. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 41, No. 4, pp. 611-632.

V. Spike Peterson. 1992. *Gendered States: Feminist (Re)Visions of International Relations Theory*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Mark Tessler, Jodi Nachtwey and Audra Grant. September 1999. "Further Tests of the Women and Peace Hypothesis: Evidence from Cross-National Survey Research in the Middle East," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 43, No. 3, pp. 519-531.

Cynthia Enloe. 1989. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making feminist Sense of International Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Carol Cohn and Cynthia Weber. Autumn 1999. "Missions, Men and Masculinities," *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 435-451.

Seminar 18: Language and Rhetoric

Edward Comor. September 2001. "The Role of Communication in Global Civil Society," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No. 3, pp. 389-408.

Roland Paris. Fall 2002. "Kosovo and the Metaphor War," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 117, No. 3, pp. 423-450.

Recommended:

Frank Schimmelfennig. Winter 2001. "The Community Trap: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action, and the Eastern Enlargement of the EU," *International Organization*, Vol. 55, No. 1, pp. 47-80.

Alastair Johnston. December 2001. "Treating International Institutions as Social Environments," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No. 4, pp. 487-516.

Week 10. Postmodern and Neo-Marxist Approaches

Seminar 19: Postmodern Theories

Jutta Weldes and Diana Saco. Summer 1996. "Making State Action Possible: The United States and the Discursive Construction of 'The Cuban Problem,' 1960-1994," *Millennium*, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 361-395.

Recommended:

Richard K. Ashley. 1986. "The Poverty of Neorealism," Robert O. Keohane (ed.) *Neorealism and Its Critics*. Columbia University Press, pp. 255-300.

James Der Derian. 1997. "Post-Theory: The Eternal Return of Ethics in International Relations," in Michael W. Doyle and G. John Ikenberry (eds.), *New Thinking in International Relations Theory*. Boulder, C.O.: Westview, pp. 54-76.

Robert Cox. 1993. "Gramsci, Hegemony, and International Relations: An Essay in Method," in Stephen Gill (ed.) *Gramsci, Historical Materialism, and International Relations*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 49-66.

Seminar 20: Neo-Marxist Theories

William I. Robinson. 1996. *Promoting Polyarchy: Globalization, US Intervention, and Hegemony*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 13-72.

Recommended:

Immanuel Wallerstein. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 16, pp. 387-415.

A. Claire Cutler. March 1999. "Locating 'Authority' in the Global Political Economy," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 43, No. 1, pp. 59-81.

Week 11. Wrap-up and Conclusion

Seminar 21: The Future of IR Theory

Fred Halliday, "The Future of International Relations: Fears and Hopes," in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski (eds.) 1996. *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 318-339.

Seminar 22 (Optional): Review for Final Exam

