

International Relations Pro-Seminar

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Course Description

This is the field seminar in international relations for graduate students in political science. In this course, the core debates in the field of international relations will be introduced and discussed. The emphasis will be on understanding the development of the field, recognizing common themes and identifying unresolved questions, as well as learning to evaluate and critique arguments.

Required Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. The following books are required and are available at the bookstore.

- Keohane, Robert O., ed. 1986. *Neorealism and its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Snyder, Jack. 2000. *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York, NY: Norton.
- Keylor, William R. 2001. *The Twentieth Century World: An International History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Gilpin, Robert. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University.
- Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, NY: Norton.
- Goldstein, Joshua. 2003. *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

We will also read selections from the following books:

- Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*.
- Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York, NY: Norton.
- Lake, David and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke. 1996. *Parity and War*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Course Goals

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Describe and apply the steps associated with social science research. (*To be evaluated in weekly papers & in final project*)
2. Distinguish the strengths and weakness of qualitative, quantitative, and formal research methods (*To be evaluated in weekly papers & in final project*)
3. Identify and describe the theoretical perspectives prevalent in the modern study of international relations. (*To be evaluated on the Midterm & in weekly papers*)
4. Evaluate the role of domestic political institutions on foreign policy behavior in various political systems. (*To be evaluated in weekly papers & in final project*)
5. Explain and apply rationalist perspectives of international relations. (*To be evaluated in weekly papers & in final project*)
6. Identify factors that aid international cooperation as well as those which impede such cooperation. (*To be evaluated in weekly papers, on the Midterm, & in final project*)

Evaluation

- **Participation** (25%) – Each student is expected to come to class fully prepared, planning to add to the class discussion. For each article/book/etc. that you read, you should be able to answer the following questions:
 - What is the research question?

- What is the author’s theoretical argument?
- What are the underlying assumptions? Are these appropriate – why or why not?
- How does the author attempt to test his or her argument?
- What conclusions does the author draw? Is the author’s evidence compelling?
- Where does this work fit with the broader literature?

I will expect you to be able to answer all of these questions thoroughly for everything we read. You will receive a midterm evaluation of your participation with your midterm exam grade.

- **Response Papers** (20%) – During the course of the semester, each student will be expected to write five (5) short papers that critiques one of the readings assigned for that week. These papers should not be summaries. Obviously, only one paper can be submitted per week, so plan accordingly. Late papers will not be accepted (so don’t ask).
- **Midterm Exam** (25%) – Students will be given 48 hours to answer two comp-style questions. The exam will be handed out in class on October 17th and **HARD COPIES** will be due by 6PM on October 19th.
- **Final Project** (30%) – This project will be completed in conjunction with your research design and data analysis courses. Further details will be provided in the future. This paper will be due during the final exam period – Saturday, December 8th, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.
- **Additional Information:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet these course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructors office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Course Outline

August 29: Course Introduction

- Keylor, William R. 2001. *The Twentieth Century World: An International History*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

I. Theories of International Relations

September 5: Realism and Neorealism

- Keohane, *Neorealism and its Critics*, ch. 1-5.
- Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, NY: Norton. Ch. 1-2, 5-6, 9.

September 12: Neoliberal Institutionalism

- Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*, pp. 3-69, 109-141.
- Axelrod, Robert and Robert Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38: 226-254.

September 19: Liberalism and Rational Choice

- Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York, NY: Norton. Ch. 1-3.
- Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review* 80: 1151-1169.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization* 51(4): 513-553.
- Lake, David and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1-2.

September 26: Constructivism

- Tannenwald, Nina. 1999. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization* 53: 433-468.
- Mercer, Jonathan. 1995. "Anarchy and Identity," *International Organization* 49: 229-52.
- Hopf, Ted. 1998. "The Promise of Constructivism in IR Theory." *International Security* 23: 171-200.
- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization* 46(2): 77-94.

October 3: Alternative Perspectives

- Feminism – Goldstein, *Gender and War*.
- Post-Modernism – Ruggie, John Gerard. 1993. “Territoriality and Beyond: Problematizing Modernity in International Relations.” *International Organization* 47: 139-174.
- Dependency – Caporaso, James. 1978. “Dependence, Dependency, and Power in the Global System: A Structural and Behavioral Analysis.” *International Organization* 32: 13-43.

II. International Conflict

October 10: Power, Preferences, and Conflict

- Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke. 1996. *Parity and War*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. Ch. 1-2.
- Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Ch. 1, 3-4.

October 17: Dyadic Conflict and Deterrence

- Bremer, Stuart. 1992. “Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate Conflict,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36: 309-341.
- Achen, Christopher and Duncan Snidal. 1989. “Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies,” *World Politics* 41 (January 1989): 143-69.
- Huth, Paul and Bruce Russett. 1984. “What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980,” *World Politics* 36: 496-526.
- Leeds, Ashley. 2003. “Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 427-439.
- Reed, William. 2000. A Unified Statistical Model of Conflict Onset and Escalation,” *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 84-93.

October 24: Bargaining and Conflict

- Fearon, James. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War,” *International Organization* 49: 379-414.
- Wagner, R. Harrison. 2000. “Bargaining and War,” *American Journal of Political Science*. 44: 469-484.
- Gartzke, Eric. 1999. “War is in the Error Term.” *International Organization* 53: 567-587.

- Walter, Barbara. 1997. "The Critical Barriers to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization* 51: 335-364.
- Werner, Suzanne. 1999. "The Precarious Nature of Peace: Resolving the Issues, Enforcing the Settlement, and Renegotiating the Terms." *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 912-934.

October 31: Domestic Politics and Conflict

- Fearon, James. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review* 88: 577-592.
- Schultz, Kenneth. 1999. "Do Democratic Institutions Inform or Constrain? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.
- Colaresi, Michael. 2004. "When Doves Cry: International Rivalry, Unreciprocated Cooperation, Leadership Turnover." *American Journal of Political Science*.
- Snyder, Jack. 2000. *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict*. New York: Norton.

III. International Cooperation

November 7: Impediments to Cooperation

- Fearon, James. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization* 52: 269-305
- Powell, Robert. 1991. "Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory." *American Political Science Review*.
- Krasner, Stephen. 1991. "Global Communications and National Power: Life on the Pareto Frontier." *World Politics* 43: 336-366.
- Downs, George, David Rocke, and Peter Barsoom. 1996. "Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation?" *International Organization* 50: 379-406.
- Simmons, Beth A. 2000. "International Law and State Behavior: Commitment and Compliance in International Monetary Affairs." *American Political Science Review* 94: 819-835.

November 14: Power and Cooperation

- Gilpin, Robert. 1987. *The Political Economy of International Relations*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University, pp. ??
- Lake, David. 1993. "Leadership, Hegemony, and the International Economy: Naked Emperor or Tattered Monarch with Potential?" *International Studies Quarterly* 37: 459-489.
- Gowa, Joanne and Edward D. Mansfield. 1993. "Power Politics and International Trade." *American Political Science Review* 87(2): 408-420.
- Crescenzi, Mark. 2003. "Economic Exit, Interdependence, and Conflict: An Empirical Analysis" *Journal of Politics* 65: 809-832.

November 28: International Institutions

- Abbott, Kenneth and Duncan Snidal. 1998. "Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1): 3-32.
- Lipson, Charles. "Why Are Some International Agreements Informal?" *International Organization* 45(4): 495-538.
- Mitchell, Ronald B. 1994. "Regime Design Matters: International Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance." *International Organization* 48:425-458.
- Smith, James M. 2000. "The Politics of Dispute Settlement Design: Explaining Legalism in Regional Trade Pacts," *International Organization* 54(1): 137-180.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 55: 761-799.

December 5: Domestic Politics and Cooperation

- Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, ch. 2.
- Putnam, Robert. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: the Logic of Two Level Games." *International Organization* 42: 427-460.
- Leeds, Ashley. 1999. "Domestic Political Institutions, Credible Commitments, and International Cooperation." *American Journal of Political Science* 43: 979-1002.