

PSC 544 International Relations Theory

Course Syllabus Spring 2012

Classroom: 502 Park Hall
Class schedule: Tuesday 12:30-3:20 p.m.
Office hours: TR 11a.m.-noon

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Course description

This advanced graduate seminar in international relations provides an in-depth coverage of past and recent developments in international relations theory. We will examine general approaches to international relations (realism, neorealism, neoliberalism, critical theories) and their variants, major disciplinary debates, topics and controversies in the areas of conflict and cooperation, and evaluation of the scientific progress in the field. The readings include both the classic and recent literature with different theoretical and methodological orientations. The course format fits an advanced seminar that expects active participation and discussion from all students.

Reading materials

All required readings for the course consist of selected book chapters and journal articles. If not available through the UB electronic journal holdings (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/ft.html>), they can be accessed on UBLearn for this course (marked with *UBLearn in the schedule below). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all materials.

Course Requirements

Final grades will be based on three components: class participation (20%), two short papers (30%), and a final exam (50%).

- **Class participation:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week according to the topic covered. For this part of the grade, students will be expected to perform consistently well both when participating on a voluntary basis as well as when called upon to discuss the readings. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.
- **Two short papers:** Beyond regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, each student is expected to make two brief (10-15 minute) in-class presentations on the weekly topics, followed by a discussion guided by the presenter, which should be based on a short paper to be e-mailed to me by 4 p.m. one day before the scheduled class for that topic. Any papers attempted to be submitted after 4 pm will automatically default into F grade. These papers and presentations should highlight the principle points of all the week's readings, provide the points of comparisons across the readings (similarities, differences, etc.), and critically evaluate their strengths and weaknesses. They should not be simple summaries of the readings or annotated bibliographies; suggestions on how to analytically and critically evaluate the readings will be detailed in an additional handout. The papers

should be approximately 6 pages double-spaced; the 7th page should list the total of five talking points for discussions that are clearly grounded in the specific readings (that is, they need to refer to specific pages from the readings, but without using up space with quotes). As for their in-class presentations, they are meant to help focus the class discussion on the week's topic readings. Each short paper/presentation will count for 15% of the overall course grade, for a total of 30%.

- **Final exam:** The take-home final exam is similar in format to the comprehensive exams in international relations, although it will be shorter and with an extended time of one week. It will be distributed in class on April 24 and will be due by 4 p.m. on May 1. Although both hard copy and electronic versions are preferable, an electronic version is required and must reach me by e-mail by the deadline. The final exam will count toward 50% of the final grade.

Written assignments (short papers & final exam) should follow the Chicago Style Manual: http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

Excused Absences and Deadline Extensions

This is a graduate-level seminar, and students are expected to be regularly prepared for and attend all classes. If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me at least one day before the absence and provide full documentation no later than by the end of the second working day after the absence. The deadline extensions for short papers and the exam will not be granted, except ONLY in documented cases of serious illness. Otherwise, the failures to submit short review papers and the exam by the deadline will be graded F. The same applies for a failure to present a short paper and guide the discussion in class as scheduled. I will not grant an Incomplete grade for the course.

Plagiarism Statement

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another person. In accordance with the definition, a student is committing plagiarism if s/he copies the work of another person and turn it in as his/her own, even if s/he should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism and any case of scholastic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade F for the course. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and general academic dishonesty issues, please consult the UB pages and policy on these issues as a starting point, such as: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>, http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/policies/academic_integrity.pdf, and <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/plagiarism.html>.

Students with Disabilities Policy

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester.

Copyright Statement

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

Scholarly Journals

Students should be familiar with the primary journals in international relations:

International Studies Quarterly

Journal of Conflict Resolution

International Organization

specialized in the conflict area, additionally:

International Security

Conflict Management and Peace Science

International Interactions

Journal of Peace Research

Security Studies

and articles on international politics in more general journals in the discipline:

American Political Science Review

American Journal of Political Science

Journal of Politics

World Politics

British Journal of Political Science

All these journals should be perused regularly and, if unfamiliar with some of them, a good start would be to read those articles that are relevant for the topics in this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week 1: January 17

COURSE INTRODUCTION

No readings.

Week 2: January 24

SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATIONS & RESEARCH PROGRESS

- Diesing, Paul. 1991. "Popper and His Followers" and "Kuhn and Stegmuller." In *How Does Social Science Work? Reflections on Practice*, Paul Diesing. Puttsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, Chs. 2, 3: Part I on Kuhn (pp. 29-65). *UBLearns
- Ball, Terence. 1976. "From Paradigms to Research Programs: Toward a Post-Kuhnian Political Science." *American Journal of Political Science* 20 (1): 151-177.
- Elman, Colin, and Miriam Fendius Elman. 2002. "How Not to Be Lakatos Intolerant: Appraising Progress in IR Research." *International Studies Quarterly* 22 (2): 231-262.
- Jackson, Patrick Thaddeus, and Daniel H. Nexon. 2009. "Paradigmatic Faults in International-Relations Theory." *International Studies Quarterly* 53 (4): 907-930.

PART I: RESEARCH PROGRAMMES/PARADIGMS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week 3: January 31

NEOREALISM VS. NEOLIBERALISM: THE DEBATE

- Baldwin, David A. 1993. "Neoliberalism, Neorealism, and World Politics." In *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate*, edited by David A. Baldwin. New York: Columbia UP, pp. 3-25. *UBLearns
- Grieco, Joseph M. 1988. "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism." *International Organization* 42 (3): 485-507.
- Jervis, Robert. 1999. "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate." *International Security* 24 (1): 42-63
- Milner Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17 (1): 67-85.
- (Optional reading: Anon. n.d. A Medieval Sociology of International Relations. Online source: <http://www.gotterdammerung.org/humor/medieval-ir.html>)

Week 4: February 7

CLASSICAL, STRUCTURAL & NEOCLASSICAL REALISM(S)

- Morgenthau, Hans Joachim. 1960 [1948]. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. Chs 1, 11-12 (pp. 3-15, 167-197). *UBLearns
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1986. "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond." In *Neorealism and Its Critics*, edited by Robert O. Keohane. New York: Columbia UP, pp. 158-203. *UBLearns

- Schweller, Randall L. 2004. "Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing." *International Security* 29 (2): 159-201.
- Rose, Gideon. 1998. "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy." *World Politics* 51 (1): 144-172.

Week 5: February 14**LIBERALISM & NEOLIBERALISM**

- Zacher, Mark W., and Richard A. Matthew. 1995. "Liberal International Theory: Common Threads, Divergent Strands." In *Controversies in International Relations Theory: Realism and the Neoliberal Challenge*, ed. Charles W. Kegley Jr. New York: St. Martin's Press, 107-150.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1989. "Neoliberal Institutionalism: A Perspective on World Politics." In *International Institutions and State Power*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 1-20.
*UBLearns
- Mearsheimer, John J. 1994/95. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19 (3): 5-49.
- Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. "The Promise of Institutional Theory." *International Security* 20 (1): 39-51.

Week 6: February 21**BEYOND THE 'MAINSTREAM' DEBATES**

- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It." *International Organization* 46 (2): 391-425.
- Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.
- Tickner, J. Ann. 1997. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements between Feminists and IR Theorists" *International Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 611-632.
- Berenskoetter, Felix. 2011. "Reclaiming the Vision Thing: Constructivists as Students of the Future." *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (3): 647-668.
- Lepgold, Joseph. 1998. "Is Anyone Listening? International Relations Theory and the Problem of Policy Relevance." *Political Science Quarterly* 113 (1): 43-62.
- (Optional reading: Morningstar, Chip. 1993. "How To Deconstruct Almost Anything: My Postmodern Adventure." Online source: www.fudco.com/chip/deconstr.html)

PART II: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT**Week 7: February 28****INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT: STRUCTURAL ANARCHY & HIERARCHY**

- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1964. "The Stability of a Bipolar World." *Daedalus* 93 (3): 881-909.
- Deutsch, Karl W., and J. David Singer. 1964. "Multipolar Systems and International Stability." *World Politics* 16 (3): 390-406.
- Organski, A. F. K., and Jacek Kugler. 1980. *The War Ledger*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch. 1 (pp. 13-63). *UBLearns

- Rasler, Karen, and William R. Thompson. 2000. "Global War and the Political Economy of Structural Change." In *Handbook of War Studies II*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (pp. 301-31). *UBLeans
- Rosecrance, Richard. 1987. "Long Cycle Theory and International Relations." *International Organization* 41 (2): 283-301.

Week 8: March 6**BARGAINING APPROACHES TO CONFLICT**

- Schelling, Thomas C. 1956. "An Essay on Bargaining." *American Economic Review* 46 (3): 281-306.
- Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.
- Morrow, James D. 1999. "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics." In *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 77-114. *UBLeans
- Wittman, Donald. 2009. "Bargaining in the Shadow of War: When Is a Peaceful Resolution Most Likely?" *American Journal of Political Science* 53 (3): 588-602.
- Werner, Suzanne. 1999. "The Precarious Nature of Peace: Resolving the Issues, Enforcing the Settlement, and Renegotiating the Terms." *American Journal of Political Science* 43 (3): 912-934.

Week 9: March 13**NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK****Week 10: March 20****DOMESTIC CONTEXT**

- Doyle, Michael. 1983. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (3): 205-235 (entire article); and "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part 2." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (4): 349-353 only (not the entire article).
- Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 624-638.
- Morgan, T. Clifton, and Sally Howard Campbell. 1991. "Domestic Structure, Decisional Constraints, and War: So Why Kant Democracies Fight?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 35 (2): 187-211.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation for the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-808.
- Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2007. "The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited)." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (2): 397-414.

PART III: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Week 11: March 27**INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT: REGIMES & INSTITUTIONS**

- Krasner, Stephen D. 1982. "Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables." *International Organization* 36 (2): 185-205.
- Stein, Arthur. 1982. "Coordination and Collaboration: Regimes in an Anarchic World." *International Organization* 36 (2): 299-324.
- Ruggie, John Gerard. 1982. "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order." *International Organization* 36 (2): 379-415.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 55 (4): 761-99.
- Huth, Paul, Sarah Croco, and Ben Appel. 2011. "Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes?" *American Political Science Review* 105 (2): 415-36.

Week 12: April 13**BARGAINING APPROACHES TO COOPERATION**

- Milner, Helen. 1992. "International Theories of Cooperation among Nations: Strengths and Weaknesses." *World Politics* 44 (3): 466-496.
- Axelrod, Robert, and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38 (1): 226-254.
- Morrow, James D. 1994. "Modeling the Forms of International Cooperation: Distribution versus Information." *International Organization* 48 (3): 387-423.
- Fearon, James D. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization* 52 (2): 269-305.
- Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. "Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?" *International Organization* 50 (3): 379-406.

Week 13: April 10**DOMESTIC CONTEXT**

- Gaubatz, Kurt Taylor. 1996. "Democratic States and Commitment in International Relations." *International Organization* 50 (1): 109-139.
- Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42 (3): 427-460.
- Kahler, Miles. 1993. "Bargaining with the IMF: Two-Level Strategies and Developing Countries." In *Double-Edged Diplomacy: International Bargaining and Domestic Politics*, edited by Peter B. Evans, Harold K. Jacobson, and Robert D. Putnam. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 363-394. *UBLeans
- Dai, Xinyuan. 2005. "Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism." *International Organization* 59 (2): 363-398.
- Chapman, Terrence L. 2007. "International Security Institutions, Domestic Politics, and Institutional Legitimacy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51 (1): 134-66.

Week 14: April 17**A (SMALL) SAMPLE OF RECENT THEORETICAL ADVANCES**

- Fiammenghi, Davide. 2011. "The Security Curve and the Structure of International Politics: A Neorealist Synthesis." *International Security* 35 (4): 126-54. [structural realism]
- Sechser, Todd. 2010. "Goliath's Curse: Coercive Threats and Asymmetric Power." *International Organization* 64 (4): 627-60. [bargaining theory]
- Clare, Joe. 2010. "Ideological Fractionalization and the International Conflict Behavior of Parliamentary Democracies." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (4): 965-87. [domestic institutions & conflict]
- Schneider, Christina J. 2011. "Weak States and Institutionalized Bargaining Power in International Organizations." *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (2): 331-55. [international institutions]
- Lake, David A. 2010. "Rightful Rules: Authority, Order, and the Foundations of Global Governance." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (3): 587-613. [new conceptual frontiers]

Week 15: April 24**STUDENT READING SELECTIONS**

Each student will select and present in class one article published in the past 2-3 years in the listed journals on p. 3 of this syllabus. The article needs to be related *directly* to one or more topics in this course and its selection justified on the grounds of its theoretical relevance and research contribution to the select body of literature covered in this course. I have to be notified about the article selection by April 10 at the latest. An article proposal has to be accompanied by a *brief paragraph* justifying the selection (*your* view – not the author's abstract - on what kind of contribution it makes to which specific topic(s) in this course, and how).

Take-home exam will be given in class on April 24 — it is due by May 1 at 4 p.m.

~Have a Good Summer~