

**INTL 6200 Preseminar in International Relations**  
**Fall 2009**  
**Professor Douglas Stinnett**

**Office Hours**

323 Candler Hall  
Office Hours: Tues. 2:00-4:00  
Phone: 542-9810

**Class**

Thur. 3:30-6:00  
Location: Candler 115  
Email: [stinnett@uga.edu](mailto:stinnett@uga.edu)

**Course Description and Objectives**

This course is a graduate seminar that introduces the field of international relations. The central focus of the course will be to cover the main bodies of international relations theory. To do this, we will concentrate on classic readings from the field, but we will also address some recent scholarship. Our primary goal is to get a good grip on a host of theoretical ideas, but we will also place a lot of emphasis on the application of these ideas to specific issues and problems in international politics. This course will function as a both gateway to further graduate study of more specialize topics and as a basis for conducting your own research in international relations.

**Course Material**

We have three required books for the course:

- Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1954. *Man, the State, and War*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Most of our readings are articles available on the web. These articles can all be found in PDF format by doing a search of the title using Google Scholar.

The rest of the readings are selections from books. These will be available on reserve at the library. Course reserves are listed on the UGA library webpage: <http://www.libs.uga.edu>. From the library homepage, click on the "Course Reserves" under the heading "Resources." Some reserve readings will be available electronically; the password to access them is: intl6200. The remainder of the reserves will be held in hardcopy form and can be checked out for 2 hour periods.

**Requirements and Grade Breakdown**

*Class Participation (20% of the final grade)*

Each class meeting will be conducted as an open-ended discussion. Class participation is important for any graduate course. You are expected to actively contribute to the discussion during each class meeting. To do this, you must come to class prepared to discuss that week's readings. I recommend that you take written notes on each reading while you are doing them. Jot down the central thesis or question and the main points or concepts introduced in the reading. Also, write down anything that you find confusing, or anything that you find objectionable.

*Leading Class Discussion (10% of the final grade)*

Each week, two students will be responsible for leading class discussion. You will be expected to set the agenda for that day, get the discussion started, ask relevant questions, and direct the conversation. Note that you should *not* spend a lot of time summarizing or describing each reading. Assume that everyone has done the reading and get right to the discussion of the central ideas. Guide the class toward an interesting evaluation of the ideas contained the readings. What are the strengths of the readings? What are the major flaws? Do not treat each reading as an isolated subject of discussion; try to think about

integrating the readings. How do they relate to each other? Where do they agree? Where do they disagree? The two students responsible for guiding discussion should divide that week's readings in half.

*Reading Summaries (5% each, 20% of the final grade)*

Over the course of the semester, you will write four short papers that summarize and evaluate one reading of your choice. Each summary should be 1½ to 2 pages in length. Each paper should start with one paragraph that identifies the central question or thesis of the reading and summarizes main argument. The bulk of the paper should list a series of evaluative comments or critiques of the reading. Each paper should be turned in the day that the reading is discussed. You may *not* do a summary paper on the day that you are leading class discussion.

*Evaluative Essays (50% of the final grade)*

Over the course of the semester, I will distribute 2 to 3 essay topics. These essays will be analytical essays that require the evaluation and comparison of multiple readings. Each essay answer will be approximately 6 to 8 pages in length.

**Caveats**

This course is an introductory survey, so not every important reading is listed on the syllabus. Understanding of any topic will require further reading, especial when preparing for exams or conducting your own research. This syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

International relations theory is dominated by debates and contending viewpoints. In addition, it is a relatively young field of inquiry that is still developing. To fully cover the field, we will read a lot of different perspectives. Put simply, some of the scholarship that we cover may, in fact, be flawed or incorrect. The presence of any particular reading on the syllabus is not an endorsement of its ideas.

The vast majority of the readings we will tackle are centered on trying to understand how the world works, *not* specifying how the world *should* work. Thus, nothing we will read should be interpreted as a statement of how states (or individuals) should behave.

**Topical Outline and Readings**

**Aug 20                      Intro Day**

**Aug 27                      Introduction to IR Theory**

- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chapter 1
- Snyder, Jack. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy*, No. 145 (Nov. - Dec., 2004), pp. 52-62

**Sept 3                      Realist and Neorealist Foundations**

- Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. Chapter 2. **Reserve**
- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chapters 4-5
- Mearsheimer, John. 1990. "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War." *International Security* Vol. 15 (1): pp. 5-56.

**Sept 10                      Implications of Realism: Balancing, Alliances, and the Security Dilemma**

- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chapters 6-8
- Walt, Stephen. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power." *International Security* Vol. 9 (4): pp. 3-18.
- Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* Vol. 30 (2): pp. 167-214.

- Kaufmann, Chaim. 1995. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* Vol. 20 (4): pp. 136-175.

*Recommended*

- Christensen, Thomas, and Jack Snyder. 1990. "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity" *International Organization* 44:137-168.

**Sept 17 Introduction to Rational Choice and Game Theory**

- Gates, Scott and Brian D. Humes. 1997. *Games, Information, and Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 1-2. **Reserve**
- Snidal, Duncan. 1985. "The Game Theory of International Politics." *World Politics* Vol. 38 (1): pp. 25-57
- Jervis, Robert. 1988. "Realism, Game theory, and Cooperation." *World Politics* 40(3): pp. 317-349.

**Sept 24 The Liberal Challenge to Realism**

- Legro, Jeffrey W. and Andrew Moravcsik. 1999. "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* Vol. 24 (2): pp. 5-55
- Duedney, Daniel and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. "The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order." *Review of International Studies* 25: pp. 179-196.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics." *International Organization* 51 (4): 513-553.
- Axelrod, Robert and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38 (1): 226-254.

**Oct 1 Neoliberal Institutionalism and Cooperation**

- Keohane, Chapters 1, 3-6.
- Grieco, Joseph. 1988. Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism. *International Organization* 42 (3):485-507.

*Recommended*

- Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "The Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 55 (4).

**Oct 8 Constructivism, Ideas, and Norms**

- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46: pp. 391-425.
- Goldstein, Judith, and Robert O. Keohane. 1993. "Ideas and Foreign Policy: An Analytical Framework." in *Ideas and Foreign Policy: Beliefs, Institutions, and Political Change*, edited by Judith Goldstein and Robert O. Keohane. Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press. **Reserve**
- Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52 (4): pp. 887-917.
- Kelley, Judith. 2008. "Assessing the Complex Evolution of Norms: The Rise of International Election Monitoring." *International Organization* 62 (2): pp. 221-256.

*Recommended*

- Ruggie, John G. 1998. "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge." *International Organization* 52 (4): pp. 855-885.

**Oct 15**            **Topic: The Causes of War**

- Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State, and War*.

**Oct 22**            **Topic: Deterrence and Bargaining**

- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapters 2-3. **Reserve**.
- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (Summer): 379-414.
- Sagan, Scott. 2003. "Nuclear Instability in South Asia." in *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*. New York: W.W. Norton. **Reserve**
- Waltz, Kenneth. 2003. "Nuclear Stability in South Asia." in *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons*. New York: W.W. Norton. **Reserve**
- Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. 2003. "An Unnecessary War." *Foreign Policy* 134: 50-59.

**Oct 29**            **Psychological and Cognitive Approaches**

- Jervis, Robert. 1968. "Hypotheses on Misperception." *World Politics* 20: pp. 454-479.
- Levy, Jack S. 1993. "Prospect Theory and International Relations: Theoretical Applications and Analytical Problems." *Political Psychology* 13:283-310.
- Janis, Irving L. 1982. *Groupthink: Psychological Studies of Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. **Reserve**
- Van Evera, Stephen. 1984. "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* 9(1).

Recommended

- Berejikian, Jeffrey D. 2002. "A Cognitive Theory of Deterrence." *Journal of Peace Research* 39 (2): 165-183.
- Mercer, Jonathan. 2005. "Rationality and Psychology in International Politics." *International Organization* 59:77-106.
- Herbert Simon. "Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science" *American Political Science Review* 79:2 1985 (online)
- Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*.

**Nov 5**            **Domestic Politics**

- Russett, Bruce and Zeev Maoz. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): pp. 624-638.
- Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 42(3):427-461.
- Sagan, Scott D. 1996-1997 "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons?: Three Models in Search of a Bomb." *International Security* Vol. 21 (Winter): pp. 54-86.
- Gourevitch, Peter. 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32(4):881-912.

Recommended

- Allison, Graham and Philip Zelikow. 1999. *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*. New York: Longman.
- Fearon, James. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88 (3): pp. 577-592.

**Nov 12**            **Topic: International Political Economy**

- Michael J. Hiscox. 2001. "Class Versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade." *International Organization* 55 (Winter): 1-46.
- Michael A. Bailey, Judith Goldstein, and Barry R. Weingast. 1997. "The Institutional Roots of American Trade Policy." *World Politics* April: 309-338.
- Jock A. Finlayson and Mark W. Zacher. 1981. "The GATT and the Regulation of Trade Barriers: Regime Dynamics and Functions," *International Organization* 35(Autumn): 561-602.
- Joanne Gowa and Edward D. Mansfield. 1993 "Power Politics and International Trade." *American Political Science Review* 87 (June): 408-420.

**Nov 19            Topic: International Law and Compliance**

- Abbott, Kenneth, Robert Keohane, Andrew Moravcsik, Anne-Marie Slaughter, and Duncan Snidal. 2000. "The Concept of Legalization." *International Organization* 54 (3): 401-419.
- Chayes, Abram and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. "On Compliance." *International Organization* 47(2): 175-205.
- Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter Barsoom. 1996. "Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation?" *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406.
- Mitchell, Ronald. 1994. "Regime Design Matters: Intentional Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance." *International Organization* 48 (3): 425-458.

Recommended

- Abbott, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal. 2000. "Hard and Soft Law in International Governance." *International Organization* 54 (3): 421-456.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 2000. "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe." *International Organization* 54 (Spring): 217-252.

**Nov 26            No Class: Thanksgiving Break**

**Dec 3              Evaluating and Applying International Relations Theory**

- Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman. 2003. *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapters 1-2. **Reserve**
- Snyder, Jack. 2003. "Is and Ought: Evaluating Empirical Aspects of Normative Research." in *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*. Edited by Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. **Reserve**
- Walt, Stephen M. 2005. "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations." *Annual Review of Political Science*." Number 8.