

**International Relations Theory
Political Science 440
Northwestern University
Fall 2008**

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Office Hours: Monday 12:00-2:00

Course Description

This course provides a graduate-level survey of the fundamental literature, concepts and controversies in contemporary International Relations. The course will *begin* to prepare students for comprehensive exams, but also introduce students to what is, for better or worse, a profession.

The amount of reading is, frankly, punishing. This syllabus represents a decision to sacrifice depth for breadth, and to train students in the essential professional task of efficient and effective critical reading. The assignments will require considerable additional reading.

Many weeks will include at least one review article. Inclusion of these articles is not designed as a substitute for reading original work, but rather as examples of excellent criticism. Students will demonstrate their understanding of this unique form of scholarship by writing their own review essays.

After an introduction, the course begins with in-depth study of three foundational books in the field. We will refer to these three books throughout the remainder of the course, which introduces additional work under loose weekly themes. Based on the interests of the class, the weekly readings and themes may change (with plenty of notice given). In the final week we will discuss what an IR research program (if such a thing exists) looks like.

Course Requirements

Reading and Participation (33%): Mastery of the reading demonstrated through constructive participation in seminar is essential.

In addition to participation, grades will be based on two written assignments. They are designed to help graduate students prepare for exams, master elements of IR as a profession, and lay out a path for future study that will hopefully culminate in a dissertation proposal.

Syllabus proposal (33%): Students will develop a syllabus on a focused topic in IR to be taught at either the undergraduate or graduate level. The syllabus should include a quarter's worth of

readings, appropriate assignments, and a two-page summary for the professor on the logic underpinning these decisions.

Literature review (33%): Students will write an 8,000-word review article on a topic of their choosing. Grade will be based on both the analysis of the reviewed work but also the strength of the student's original argument within the review.

Students should meet with the professor within the first four weeks of the course to discuss the written assignments (topical overlap among the two is allowed, encouraged and may in fact be essential for one's sanity).

Readings

There are three required books for the class. They have been ordered and delivered to the Norris Bookstore.

Waltz, Kenneth Neal. *Theory of International Politics*. Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co., 1979.

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

Wendt, Alexander. *Social Theory of International Politics*, Cambridge Studies in International Relations; Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Course Topics and Plan

29 Sept.: **What is International Relations Theory?**

It may be helpful to skim the 'Epistemology, problems of' and 'Ontology' entries in *The Oxford Companion to Philosophy*, Ted Honderich (ed.) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995. ([link](#))

Waltz. *Theory of International Politics*, Chapter 1

Katzenstein, Peter J., Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner. "International Organization and the Study of World Politics." *International Organization* 53, no. 4 (Autumn 1998): 645-685

Ole Waever, 'The Sociology of Not So International a Discipline: American and European Developments in International Relations,' *International Organization* 52:4 (1998) 687-727.

Tickner, J. A. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements between Feminists and IR

Theorists." *International Studies Quarterly* 41, no. 4 (1997): 611-32.

6 Oct.: ***Theory of International Politics***

Waltz. *Theory of International Politics*, Entire book.

Mearsheimer, John J. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: Norton, 2001. 1-54.

Cox, Robert W. "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory." *Millennium - Journal of International Studies* 10, no. 2 (1981): 126-55.

13 Oct.: ***After Hegemony***

Keohane, Robert O. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1984. Ch 1-7, 11.

Downs, George W., David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. "Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?" *International Organization* 50, no. 3 (1996): 379-406.

Mearsheimer, John J. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1995): 5-49.

20 Oct.: ***Social Theory of International Politics***

Wendt, *Social Theory*. Entire book

Copeland, Dale. "The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism (a Review Essay)." *International Security* 25 (2000).

27 Oct.: ***Beyond the Unitary Actor Assumption***

Gourevitch, Peter. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32, no. 4 (1978): 881-912.

Putnam, Robert D. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42, no. 3 (1988): 427-60.

Moravcsik, Andrew. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of Politics." *International Organization* 51, no. 4 (1997): 512-53.

Sagan, S. D. "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb." *International Security* 21, no. 3 (1997): 54-86. (SKIM)

Snyder, Jack L. *Myths of Empire : Domestic Politics and International Ambition*, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1991. 1-64 (SKIM)

Zakaria, Fareed. "Realism and Domestic Politics: A Review Essay." *International Security* 17, no. 1 (1992): 177-98.

Ashley, Richard. "The geopolitics of geopolitical space," *Alternatives*, 12 (1987): 403-434.

3 Nov.: **Power and Anarchy**

Krasner, Stephen D. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." *World Politics* 28, no. 3 (1976).

Barnett, M. and R. Duvall. "Power in International Politics." *International Organization* 59, no. 1 (2005): 39-75.

Rose, Gideon. "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy." *World Politics* 51, no. 1 (1998): 44-72.

Hall, R. B. "Moral Authority as a Power Resource." *International Organization* 51, no. 4 (1997): 591-&.

Milner, Helen V. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17, no. 1 (1991): 67-86.

Powell, Robert. "Review: Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate." *International Organization* 48, no. 2 (1994): 313-44.

Lake, D. A. "Anarchy, Hierarchy, and the Variety of International Relations." *International Organization* 50, no. 1 (1996): 1-&.

10 Nov.: **The State**

Spruyt, Hendrik. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors: An Analysis of Systems Change*, Princeton Studies in International History and Politics. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1994. Selections

Krasner, S. D. "Compromising Westphalia." *International Security* 20, no. 3 (1996): 115-51.

Reus-Smit, Christian. "The Constitutional Structure of International Society and the Nature of Fundamental Institutions." *International Organization* 51, no. 4 (1997): 555-89.

Cederman, L. E. "Emergent Polarity - Analyzing State Formation and Power-Politics." *International Studies Quarterly* 38, no. 4 (1994): 501-33.

Buzan, Barry. *People, States & Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*. Second ed. New York: European Consortium for Political Research Press, 2008. Chapter 2(?) "National Security and the Nature of the State"

17 Nov.: **The State (continued): Identity**

Schweller, Randall L. "Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In." *International Security* 19, no. 1 (1994): 72-107.

Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52, no. 4 (1998): 887-917.

Campbell, David. *Writing Security*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota Press, 1998. Selections

Price, Richard, and Christian Reus-Smit. "'Dangerous Liasons? Critical International Theory and Constructivism'." *European Journal of International Relations* 4, no. 3 (1998): 259-94.

Fearon, James, and Alexander Wendt. "Rationalism V. Constructivism: A Skeptical View." In *Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons. London: Sage, 2002.

24 Nov.: **Information, Uncertainty and Communication**

Jervis, Robert. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (1978).

Robert Jervis. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), Chapters 3, 8-9.

Glaser, Charles L. "Realist as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help." *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994): 50-90.

Fearon, James. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (1995): 379-414.

Goldstein, Judith, and Robert O. Keohane. *Ideas and Foreign Policy: Beliefs, Institutions, and Political Change*, Cornell Studies in Political Economy. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Risse, Thomas. "Let's Argue!: Communicative Action in World Politics." *International Organization* 54, no. 1 (2000): 1-39.

1 Dec.: **Democratic Peace (A Research Program?)**

Doyle, Michael W. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80, no. 4 (1986): 1151-63.

Ray, James Lee. "A Lakatosian View of the Democratic Peace Research Program: Does It Falsify Realism (or Neorealism)?" In *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*, edited by Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman. Cambridge: MIT, 2003.

Schultz, K. A. "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53, no. 2 (1999): 233-66.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *The American Political Science Review* 93, no. 4 (1999): 791-807.

Owen, J. M. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19, no. 2 (1994): 87-125.

Rosato, Sebastian. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 4 (2003): 586-602. (optional)

Doyle, M. W. "Three Pillars of the Liberal Peace." *American Political Science Review* 99, no. 3 (2005): 463-66. (optional)

Wednesday, December 10th, 5:00 PM: Syllabus and Lit Review Due