

**Northwestern University
Dept. of Political Science**

International Relations Theory, 340

Spring 2013

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Monday 12:30-3:20
Burdick Room, Scott Hall

This is a seminar that examines theoretical and conceptual issues in international politics. Theories of international politics aim to give order and meaning to the world by highlighting key concepts or forces or relationships. This class examines various ways that the complexity of international relations has been simplified by different theoretical approaches. Ideas such as sovereignty, power, interests, states, norms, anarchy, and law are central to the class, since these are some of the ideas that are most often used to make sense of world politics. and different ways that scholars have sought to explain the forces that influence world politics. The class provides an opportunity to explore these ideas and to consider different attempts to explain and understand international relations.

Class Structure and Assignments

Participation	30%
Response memos	6X5 = 30%
Final exam	40%

Each week you are responsible for the doing the readings and for providing a brief written response to them. You are also expected to fully participate in the seminar discussion, and to arrive in class with ideas or questions that you wish to raise.

The response memo should be less than a page long and should provide some of your reactions to the readings of the week. For each set of readings in the syllabus, there are some suggested themes which you may choose to use as prompts for your response. Your response memo should be emailed to me by noon on Sunday. These are graded. Late memos will not be accepted.

Required Texts

G. John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Mark Mazower, *Governing the World*. Penguin, 2013.

Schedule of Classes and Readings

Monday/Tuesday April 1st -- no class

Monday April 8. -- Theories, Concepts and IR

Scott Burchill and Andrew Linklater (2005). "Introduction," Ch. 1. of Burchill *et al.* *Theories of International Relations*, 3rd ed. Palgrave.

Kenneth N. Waltz (1979). "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power," in Waltz *Theory of International Politics*. Wiley.

Hedley Bull (1977). Ch.1 and Ch.2 of *The Anarchical Society*. Columbia University Press.

themes:

- what is theory for
- compare Waltz and Bull on the meaning of 'anarchy'
- thinking historically and conceptually about international politics

Monday April 15th -- Power

Charli Carpenter (2003). "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95," *International Organization*, 57(4).

John J. Mearsheimer (2001). "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," Ch. 2 of Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. Norton.

Siba Grovogui (2002). "Regimes of Sovereignty: International Morality and the African Condition," *European Journal of International Relations*, 8(3): 315-338.

themes:

- what is power? who has power? how is power exercised?
- how is the world identified by Mearsheimer different than the world identified by Grovogui?

Monday April 22nd -- Hierarchy (memo 1)

Nico Krisch (2005). "International Law in Times of Hegemony: Unequal Power and the Shaping of the International Legal Order," *European Journal of International Law*, 16(3):369-408.

Alexander Wendt (1992). "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, 46(2):391-425.

John Gaventa (1982). *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Chapter 1.

themes:

- what are the implications of real-world hierarchy for the idea of anarchy?
- how might one think about the relationship between anarchy and power, or anarchy and hierarchy?

Monday April 29th -- Michael Zürn, "Authority and Legitimacy in a Postnational Context" (memo 2)

readings to be announced.

Monday May 6th -- Governing the World (memo 3)

Mark Mazower, *Governing the World*. Chs. 7, 8, 9.

G. John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan*. Chs. 2, 3.

themes:

- who governs, how and with what instruments?

Monday May 13th -- Science (memo 4)

Martin Packer (2011). "What is Science?" Ch. 1, and "Calls for an Interpretive Social Science," Ch. 6 of Packer, *The Science of Qualitative Research*. Cambridge University Press.

Paul Feyerabend (2010). Ch. 4 and 5 in Feyerabend, *Against Method*. 4th ed. Verso.

Jonathan Mercer (2005). "Rationality and Psychology in International Politics," *International Organization*, 59(1).

Charles Taylor (1999). "... To follow a rule," in Richard Shusterman *Bourdieu: A Critical Reader*. Blackwell.

themes:

- can/should IR be approached scientifically?
 - what does this mean?
- what is the relationship between science and social inquiry?

Monday May 20th -- 'isms (memo 5)

William Wohlforth, "Realism." In Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Ian Hurd, "Constructivism." In Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Benno Teschke, "Marxism." In Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Arthur Stein, "Neoliberal Institutionalism." In Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

themes:

- how to understand the isms, as ways of thinking and in relation to each other?

Monday May 27th -- no class

Monday June 3rd -- Images of the Future: World State, World Government, ...?
(memo 6)

Alexander Wendt (2003). "Why a World State is Inevitable," *European Journal of International Relations Theory*, 9(4):491-542.

Philip G. Cerny (2010). "Institutional Bricolage and Global Governmentality: From Infrastructure to Superstructure," Ch. 9 of Cerny, *Rethinking World Politics: A Theory of Transnational Neopluralism*. Oxford University Press.