

Introduction to International Relations

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course examines core topics in international politics and considers various ways of thinking about international relations. We will study current events and the recent history that has shaped how states and other actors interact with each other across national borders and survey major topics in international relations. Using recent disputes from international law, international security, sovereignty, religious conflict, human rights, and international political economy, it examines both the cases and the conceptual framing that makes them possible. By the end of the class, students will be able to critique common academic and policy arguments about global affairs and will have acquired the tools to begin their own analyses.

LEARNING GOALS:

Students should complete the course with an ability to:

1. Demonstrate broad factual and causal knowledge of important current and historical issues in international relations
2. Apply contending theories from the political science literature and the policy world to analyze, compare, and evaluate events and trends in international relations
3. Assess the value of competing theories in explaining events
4. Synthesize facts and arguments across cases in order to reason critically and argue creatively, through both oral discussions in section and in a written essay.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Grades are based on the following criteria:

- **Class participation (20%):** The success of this class depends on the intensive participation of each and every student. For this reason, regular class participation and thoughtful contribution to our discussion based on a thorough analysis of the readings are crucial. Students are expected to attend all class meetings. If you must miss a class meeting because of a religious holiday, illness, or family emergency, please notify me of your planned absence. You are expected to turn in a one-page make-up essay assignment to substitute for class participation that day.
- **Weekly Quizzes (15%):** Quizzes are administered at the beginning of class every Thursday, with the exception midterm and exam weeks. These quizzes cover assigned readings for that week. They will be mostly multiple choice and fill in the blank, with one short response.
- **Pair Presentation (10%):** Over the course of the semester, students will work in groups of 2 to deliver one presentation about a current event in international relations. The pairs are strongly encouraged to meet with me to discuss potential topics they want to present, and how they plan to present it. The presentation has two parts:

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- a. Each group will select two news articles from reputable sources (The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, etc.) that are about the topic. These articles should be emailed to me at least FOUR DAYS before the presentation date, so that I can distribute them to students to read.
 - b. Each group will provide an approximately 10 minute presentation of the topic, explaining the issue at hand, why the event is important, and what course material illuminates about the issue. The group will also provide 2-3 questions for students to consider about the current event, helping extend the conversation. Each member of the group should speak during the presentation. The presentation format is up to you. Students will sign-up for presentation dates during the second meeting of class.
- **Midterm exam (25%):** We will have an in-class midterm exam. You will be given 4 questions and asked to respond to 3 of them. The midterm is scheduled for XXX. The midterm will test your understanding of key concepts and policy issues from the readings and lectures. Additionally, you are allowed – and encouraged – to study for the midterm with your fellow students. The exam itself is closed book, closed notes.
 - **Final paper (30%):** Students are expected to write two 2,500-word essays that each explores a question of relevance to the core themes and topics of the course. Three questions will be sent in advance on XXX, you may choose which two to answer. The essays are due at noon on XXX.

ASSIGNED READINGS:

Topic 1: Introductions & Realism

Part I

1. Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* (10)
2. Elmira Baysrali and Lauren Bohn, "Get In Formation," *World Policy Journal* 33(4), 2016/17. Access at:
<https://read.dukeupress.edu/world-policy-journal/article/33/4/1/30888/Editors-NoteGet-in-Formation>
3. Malcolm X, "Harvard Law School Forum," December 16, 1964. Access at:
<http://malcolmxfiles.blogspot.com/2013/07/harvard-law-school-forum-december-16.html>

Further Readings: Reflections on IR as a Discipline

- Vitalis, R. (2000). The Graceful and Generous Liberal Gesture: Making Racism Invisible in American International Relations. *Millennium*, 29(2), 331–356.
- Stanley Hoffmann, "An American Social Science: IR," *Daedalus*, 1977, 106:41-60.
- Brian Schmidt "On the History and Historiography of International Relations" from the *Handbook of International Relations* Sage Publications (2001)

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- Ole Waever, "The Sociology of a Not so International Discipline: American and European Developments in International Relations" *International Organization* 52:4 (Autumn 1998)
- Steve Smith, "The Self-Images of Discipline: A Genealogy of International Relations Theory," in Smith and Booth, *International Relations Theory Today*. (Penn State Press, 1995)
- J. A. Tickner, "What is Your Research Program? Some Feminist Answers to International Relations Methodological Questions," *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (2005), pp. 1-21.

Part II

1. Morgenthau, Hans J. Chapters 1 and 16. *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Edited by Kenneth Thompson. 4th ed. New York: Knopf, 1967. 3-14, 224-49.
2. John J. Mearsheimer, "Power and Fear in Great Power Politics," in G.O. Mazur, ed., *One Hundred Year Commemoration to the Life of Hans Morgenthau (1904-2004)* (New York: Semenenko Foundation, 2004), pp. 184-196, available at: <http://johnmearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0033x2.pdf>
3. Williams, Michael C. "Why Ideas Matter in International Relations: Hans Morgenthau, Classical Realism, and the Moral Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 58, no. 4 (2004): 633- 65.

Topic 2: Liberalism

Part I

1. Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," 1795, available at: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm>
2. Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal legacies, and Foreign Affairs," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12, 4 (Fall 1983). 205-235
3. Axelrod, Robert and Robert O. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38, no. 1 (1985): 226-54.

Part II

1. G. John Ikenberry, "Crisis of the Old Order," Ch. 1 of Ikenberry *Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order*. Princeton University Press, 2011. 1-32.
2. Christian Reus-Smit, "The Strange Death of Liberal International Theory," *European Journal of International Law*, 2001. 573–594.

Topic 3: Constructivism

Part I

1. Reus-Smit, "International Crises of Legitimacy" *International Politics*, March 2007, Volume 44, Issue 2–3, pp 157–174

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2. Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization*, 1992.

Part II

1. R. Charli Carpenter, "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-95," *International Organization*, 2003, 57:661-694.
2. Debra Thompson, "Through, Against and Beyond the Racial State: The Transnational Stratum of Race," *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 26(1), 2013. 133-155.

Topic 4: International Political Economy and Globalization

Part I

1. Adam Smith, *from Wealth of Nations*, Bk.I, Ch. 1-2. Originally published 1776. Knopf.
2. Alexander Hamilton, "The report on manufactures." 1791
3. Ian Hurd, "The World Trade Organization," Ch. 3 in *International Organizations: Politics, Law, Practice*. 109-134.

Part II

1. Dani Rodrik, *The Paradox of Globalization*, Ch. 3. 47-66
2. Branko Milanovic, Ch. 1 of *Global Inequality: A New Approach for the Age of Globalization*. 10-46
3. Altman, Roger C. 2009. Globalization in Retreat. *Foreign Affairs* 88 (4). (8p)
4. Cooper, F. (2001) 'What is the concept of globalization good for? An African historian's perspective', *African Affairs* 100: 189-213

Topic 5: International Law

Part I

1. Shirley Scott, "The Logical Structure of International Law," *International Law in World Politics*. Ch. 5.
2. Goldsmith, Jack L. and Eric A. Posner. Introduction. *The Limits of International Law*. New York: OxfordUniversity Press, 2005. 3-17.
3. Robert Howse and Ruti Teitel, "Beyond Compliance: Why International Law Really Matters," *Global Policy*. 127-135.

Part II

1. Benjamin Allen Coates, "Introduction," in Coates *Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century* (Oxford 2016). 1-15.
2. Mara Pillinger, Ian Hurd, and Michael Barnett, "How to Get Away with Cholera: The UN, Haiti, and International Law," *Perspectives on Politics*, 14(1), 2016. 70-86

Topic 6: Sovereignty

Part I

1. Stephen Krasner. "Think Again: Sovereignty." *Foreign Policy* (Summer 2009)

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2. Nicola Pratt "The Queen Boat case in Egypt: sexuality, national security and state sovereignty" *Review of International Studies* (2007) 33: 129-144.
3. Branch, J. (2012). 'Colonial reflection' and territoriality: The peripheral origins of sovereign statehood. *European Journal of International Relations*, 18(2), 277–297

*******In-class Midterm*******

Topic 7: Conflict

Part I

1. Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* 30, no. 2 (Jan. 1978): 167-214.
2. David Lake, "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory," *International Security* (46) 8-52.
3. Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72/3 (Summer 1993): 22-49.

Part II

1. Tarak Barkawi and Mark Laffey, "The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies", *Review of International Studies* 32 (24)
2. Sjoberg, Laura. *Gendering Global Conflict : toward a Feminist Theory of War*. Columbia University Press, 2013. 44-67

Topic 8: Nuclear Politics

Part I

1. Kenneth N. Waltz, "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities," *American Political Science Review* 84/3 (September 1990): 731-745.
2. Scott D. Sagan, "The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," *International Security* 18, no. 4 (Spring 1994): 66-107.
3. Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization* 53/3 (Summer 1999): 433-68.

Part II

1. Cohn, Carol. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Signs* 12.4 (1987): 687-718.
2. Jerry Brown, "A stark nuclear warning," *New York Review of Books*, July 16, 2016.

Topic 9: Religion and Politics

Part I

1. Shah, Timothy and Monica D. Toft. "Why God is Winning" *Foreign Policy* 155 (July/August 2006): 38-43.

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2. Daniel Philpott, "The religious roots of modern international relations," *World Politics* 52 (January 2000): 206-45
3. Faisal Devji, "Against Muslim Unity." *Aeon*, July 2016. <https://aeon.co/essays/the-idea-of-unifying-islam-is-a-recent-invention-and-a-bad-one>

Part II

1. Dirlik, Arif (2003) 'Modernity in Question?: Culture and Religion in an Age of Global Modernity', *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, 12: 2, pp.147-168.
2. Bosco, Robert M (2009) 'Persistent Orientalisms: The Concept of Religion in International Relations', *Journal of International Relations and Development* 12, pp. 90-111.

Topic 10: Human Rights

Part I

1. Ruti Teitel, "Introduction," Ch. 1 of *Humanity's Law* (Oxford 2011). 3-18
2. Lutz, Ellen, and Kathryn Sikkink. 2001. "[The Justice Cascade: The Evolution and Impact of Foreign Human Rights Trials in Latin America.](#)" *Chicago Journal of International Law* 2 (1): 1-33
3. Hafner-Burton, Emilie M, and Kiyoteru Tsutsui. "Justice Lost! The Failure of International Human Rights Law To Matter Where Needed Most." *Journal of Peace Research* 44.4 (2007): 407-25.

Part II

1. Merry, Sally Engle. "Measuring the World: Indicators, Human Rights, and Global Governance." *Current Anthropology* 52, no. 3 (2011): S83-95.
2. Gündoğdu, Ayten. "Borders of Personhood," in *Rightlessness in an Age of Rights: Hannah Arendt and the Contemporary Struggles of Migrants* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 90- 125.

Topic 11: Humanitarian Intervention

Part I

1. Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," *The Atlantic* (April 2001): 84-108.
2. Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age: Lessons from Somalia to Libya," *Foreign Affairs* 90/6 (November/December 2011): 48-59.
3. Benjamin A. Valentino, "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention: The Hard Truth about a Noble Notion," *Foreign Affairs* 90/6 (November/December 2011): 60-73.

Part II

1. Beate Jahn, "Humanitarian Intervention - What's in a Name?" *International Politics*, 49(1), 2012.

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2. Ian Hurd, "Is Humanitarian Intervention Legal? The Rule of Law in an Incoherent World," *Ethics and International Affairs* (20) 293-313
3. Robert Knox, "Civilizing Interventions? Race, War and International Law," *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 2013, 26(1).

Topic 12: Environmental Governance

Part I

1. Ken Conca, "The WTO and the Undermining of Global Environmental Governance." *Review of International Political Economy* 7 (3):484-94.
2. Peter Haas: "Banning CFSs: Epistemic Community Efforts to Protect Stratospheric Ozone." *International Organization* , 46, 1 Winter 1992, 187-224

Part II

1. Busby, Joshua W. "Who Cares about the Weather?: Climate Change and U.S. National Security." *Security Studies*, vol. 17, no. 3, 2008, pp. 468–504.
2. Lamy, Steven L., John S. Masker, John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. *Introduction to Global Politics*, fourth edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. Chap 10.

Topic 13: Future of International Affairs

Part I

1. John J. Mearsheimer, "The Gathering Storm: China's Challenge to US Power in Asia," *The Chinese Journal of International Politics* 3/4 (Winter 2010): 381-96.
2. Hopewell, Kristen. "Different paths to power: The rise of Brazil, India and China at the World Trade Organization." *Review of International Political Economy* 22.2 (2015): 311-338.

Part II

1. Joseph S. Nye Jr. "Will the Liberal Order Survive? The History of an Idea" *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2017.
2. Michael Mazarr, "The Once And Future Order: What Comes After Hegemony?" *Foreign Affairs*. January/February 2017.

Final Paper: Due XXX