

**THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**Graduate Seminar**  
**Winter 2009**

Political Science 745  
Winter 2009  
Thursday 3:30-6:18  
Derby Hall 2078

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3:30-5:00

Course Description

This course introduces graduate students to important theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of international relations. We will cover works that address different levels of analysis—from the international system to domestic politics to individual leaders—and that span major theoretical paradigms, including Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism. We will discuss intellectual history as well as cutting-edge contributions to the field. Class sessions will be conducted in a seminar format, though I will offer occasional, brief lectures to introduce new topics or situate debates.

Course Requirements

The final grade will be based on the following components:

50% – two short papers, not to exceed 5 double-spaced pages (25% each)

30% – final exam (take-home)

20% – class participation, including attendance, contribution to discussion, and presentations

More details on the papers and exam will be provided as the course proceeds.

Readings

Readings are available in the course texts, online through Carmen, and/or online through the library (OSCAR). The required books are available at SBX. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings before the relevant class session.

For each reading, we will summarize the argument, discuss its contribution to IR, and probe the argument and evidence for strengths and weaknesses. The following questions can be used to guide your reading of each piece and will shape our discussion:

- What is the question or puzzle?
- What is the argument?
- What are the explicit or implicit assumptions?
- Who are the relevant actors?
- What are their preferences and interests and where do they come from?
- At what level of analysis is the argument?
- Where does the argument fit into the theoretical landscape of IR and who would disagree?
- What is the relative importance of agency versus structure?
- What evidence is provided in support of the argument and is it convincing?

## **Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

## **Disability Services**

**Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.**

Course texts*Required:*

Robert Keohane. 1984. After Hegemony. Princeton University Press.

Kenneth Waltz. 1979. Theory of International Politics. McGraw-Hill.

(*or* Keohane, ed. 1986. Neorealism and Its Critics. Columbia University Press)

Alexander Wendt. 1999. Social Theory of International Politics. Cambridge University Press.

*Suggested* (these edited volumes contain many of the course readings):

David Baldwin, ed. 1993. Neorealism and Neoliberalism.

Michael Brown, et al, eds. 1995. The Perils of Anarchy.

Peter Katzenstein, ed. 1996. The Culture of National Security. Columbia University Press.

Detlef Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias, eds. 2004. Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations. University of Michigan Press.

IO=*International Organization*; IS=*International Security*; WP=*World Politics*; EJIR=*European Journal of International Relations*; ISQ=*Int'l Studies Quarterly*; APSR=*Amer. Poli. Sci. Review*

**January 8 – Introduction: Theory, Methods and Levels**

Organization and requirements of the course. What is international relations as a field? What makes a good IR theory? What are the main methodologies and the tradeoffs among them?

*Methods:*

Andrew Bennett. 2004. Case Study Methods: Design, Use, and Comparative Advantages. In Sprinz and Wolinsky-Nahmias, eds., Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations, pp. 19-55. University of Michigan Press.

Bear Braumoeller and Anne Sartori. 2004. The Promise and Perils of Statistics in International Relations. In Sprinz and Wolinsky-Nahmias, eds., Models, Numbers and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations, pp. 129-51. University of Michigan Press.

Duncan Snidal. 2002. Rational Choice and International Relations. In Carlsnaes, Risse and Simmons, eds., Handbook of International Relations, pp. 73-94. Sage Publications.

Emanuel Adler. 2002. Constructivism and International Relations. In Carlsnaes, Risse and Simmons, eds., Handbook of International Relations, pp. 95-118. Sage Publications.

*Levels of Analysis:*

Kenneth Waltz. 1959. Man, the State, and War, pp. 16-41, 80-5, 159-65.

J. David Singer. 1961. The Level of Analysis Problem in International Relations. WP 14 (1): 77-92.

Robert Jervis. 1976. Perception and Misperception in International Politics, ch. 1.

Alexander Wendt. 1999. Social Theory of Int'l Politics, chs. 1, 4.

## January 15 – Realism: Classical and Structural

### *Classical Realism:*

- Thucydides. 431 BC. The Melian Dialogue, in The History of the Peloponnesian War.  
 (<http://www.wellesley.edu/ClassicalStudies/CLCV102/Thucydides--MelianDialogue.html>)  
 E.H. Carr. 1939. The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939, chs. 1, 5.  
 Hans Morgenthau. 1948. Politics among Nations, chs. 1-3.

### *Structural Realism and Anarchy:*

- Waltz. 1979. Theory of International Politics, chs. 4-6 (reprinted in Keohane, ed. 1986.  
Neorealism and Its Critics, chs. 3-5).  
 Robert Jervis. 1978. Cooperation under the Security Dilemma, WP 30(2): 167-214.  
 John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, chapters. 1-2.

## January 22 – Extensions and Applications of Realism

- Stephen Krasner. 1976. State Power and the Structure of International Trade. WP 28(3): 317-43.  
 Stephen Walt. 1985. Alliance Formation and the Balance of Power, IS 9(4).  
 Randall Schweller. 1994. Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In, IS  
 19(1).  
 Charles Glaser. 1994/5. Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help. IS 19(3).  
 James Fearon. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War, IO 49(3): 379-414.  
 Randall Schweller. 2006. Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of  
 Underbalancing. IS 29(2):159-201.

## January 29 – Neoliberalism: Cooperation and Regime Theory

- Robert Axelrod. 1984. The Evolution of Cooperation, chs. 1, 4.  
 Kenneth Oye. 1985. Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies, WP 38:  
 1-24.  
 Robert Keohane. 1984. After Hegemony, chs. 3-6.  
 Joseph Grieco. 1988. Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation, IO 42: 485-507.

## February 5 – Institutional Variation: Power and Interests

- Arthur Stein. 1982. Coordination and Collaboration: Regimes in an Anarchic World, IO 36: 294-  
 324.  
 Stephen Krasner. 1991. Global Communications and National Power: Life on the Pareto  
 Frontier, WP 43: 336-66.  
 James Fearon. 1998. Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation. IO 52(2): 269-  
 305.  
 G. John Ikenberry. 1998-99. Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American  
 Postwar Order. IS 23(3): 43-78.  
 Kenneth Abbott and Duncan Snidal. 2000. Hard and Soft Law in International Governance. IO  
 54(3): 421-56.

## February 12 – The Constructivist Challenge to Neo...ism

- Alexander Wendt. 1992. Anarchy Is What States Make of It, IO 46: 391-425.
- John Ruggie. 1998. What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge, IO 52(4): 855-85.
- Ted Hopf. 1998. The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory, IS 23(1): 171-200.
- Alexander Wendt. 1999. Social Theory of Int'l Politics, ch. 3.
- Ian Hurd. 1999. Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics, IO 53(2): 379-408.
- Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. 2005. Power in International Relations. IO 59(1): 39-75.

## February 19 – Constructivism: Norms, Identities and Communication

- Richard Price & Nina Tannenwald. 1996. Norms and Deterrence: The Nuclear and Chemical Weapons Taboo. In Katzenstein, ed., The Culture of National Security, pp. 114-52.
- Finnemore & Sikkink. 1998. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change, IO 52(4)
- Alastair Iain Johnston. 2001. Treating International Institutions as Social Environments. ISQ 45(4): 487-516.
- Thomas Risse. 2000. "Let's Argue: Communicative Action in World Politics. IO 54: 1-39.
- Jennifer Mitzen. 2005. Reading Habermas in Anarchy: Multilateral Diplomacy and Global Public Spheres. APSR 99(3): 401-17.
- Darren Hawkins. 2004. Explaining Costly International Institutions: Persuasion and Enforceable Human Rights Norms. ISQ 48(4): 779-804.

## February 26 – Liberalism Revisited: Domestic Politics and the Democratic Peace

- Robert Putnam. 1988. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games, IO 42: 427-61.
- Andrew Moravcsik. 1997. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics, IO 51:513-53.
- Helen Milner. 2006. Why Multilateralism? Foreign Aid and Domestic Principal-Agent Problems. In Hawkins, et al., Delegation and Agency in International Organizations, pp. 107-139. Cambridge University Press.
- Bruce Russett. 1993. Grasping the Democratic Peace, chs. 1-2.
- Christopher Layne. 1994. Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace, IS 19(2): 5-49.
- Erik Gartzke. 2007. The Capitalist Peace. American Journal of Political Science 51(1): 166-91.

## March 5 – Transnational and Supranational Actors

- Michael Barnett & Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. IO 53(4): 699-732.
- Peter Haas. 1992. Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination, IO 46: 1-35.
- Kal Raustiala. 1997. States, NGOs, and International Environmental Institutions. ISQ 41(4): 719-40.

Margaret Keck & Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction. *Activists Beyond Borders*, chap. 1.

Richard Price. 1998. Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines, *IO* 52(3): 613-44.

Emanuel Adler. 2008. The Spread of Security Communities: Communities of Practice, Self-Restraint, and NATO's Post-Cold War Transformation. *EJIR* 14(2): 195-230.

### **March 12 – Theoretical Paradigms: Islands or Synthesis?**

Peter Katzenstein and Rudra Sil. 2008. Eclectic Theorizing in the Study and Practice of International Relations. In Reus-Smit and Snidal, eds., *Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 109-30. Oxford University Press.

James Fearon & Alexander Wendt. 2002. Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View, in Carlsnaes, Risse & Simmons, eds., *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 52-72.

Jonathan Mercer. 2005. Rationality and Psychology in International Politics. *IO* 59(1): 39-75.