Course Description

This course introduces graduate students to important theoretical perspectives and debates in the field of international relations. We will cover works that address different levels of analysis and that span major theoretical paradigms and methodological approaches. 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 six double-spaced pages (25% each)
30% – final exam (take-home)
10% – five one-page memos on a week’s readings
10% – class participation, including contributions 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’s journal collection. 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 motivates and constrains these actors?
- At what level of analysis is the argument?
- Where does the argument fit into the theoretical landscape of IR?
- What is the relative importance of agency versus structure?
- What evidence is provided in support of the argument and is it convincing?
Academic Honesty
All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own unless collaboration is explicitly authorized. 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://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/.

Students with Disabilities
The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.
Course texts


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

August 29 – Introduction to the Course and to the Field of IR

Jack Snyder. 2004. One World, Rival Theories. Foreign Policy (Nov./Dec.)

September 5 – No Class; Labor Day

September 12 – Levels of Analysis and Classical Realism

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

Classical Realism:
Hans Morgenthau. 1948. Politics among Nations, chs. 1, 3, 11, 14

September 19 – Structural Realism and Anarchy

**September 26 – Extensions and Applications of Realism**

Randall Schweller. 1994. Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In, **IS** 19(1).

**October 3 – Neoliberal Institutionalism**


**October 10 – The Constructivist Challenge to Neo...ism**

Alexander Wendt. 1999. **Social Theory of International Politics**, ch. 3, 5-7
Ian Hurd. 1999. Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics, **IO** 53(2): 379-408.

**Paper #1 due Friday, October 14th**

**October 17 – Constructivism: Culture, Norms and Identity**

October 24 – Liberalism Revisited: Domestic Politics and IR

Christopher Gelpi and Michael Griesdorf. 2001. Winners or Losers? Democracies in International Crises. APSR 95(3).

October 31 – Non-State Actors and Private Authority


November 7 – Delegation and Supranationalism

November 14 – Power, Hierarchy and Networks


Paper #2 due Friday, November 18th

November 21 – The Profession

Everything you wanted to know about being an IR academic

November 28 – Theoretical Paradigms: Islands, Competitors or Synthesis?


December 5 – No Class

December 12 – Final Exam
The final exam will be sent out on December 12th (Monday). The exam questions will be emailed to you at 9 a.m. and must be returned by 5 p.m. the same day.