INTERNATIONAL THEORY

Political Science 550
Winter 2012

Instructor
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Lecture
T/R 3:00 – 4:18
Hitchcock 35

Course Description
‘International theory’ is concerned with theoretical reflection on the factual, ethical, and/or legal aspects of international politics, or international relations (IR) theory, international political theory, and international legal theory respectively. In this course we will focus predominantly on the first, but with growing emphasis on the second and third as the course progresses. Part I deals with the traditional problem of international life, of maintaining order and peace among the Great Powers in a condition of anarchy. Part II calls the assumption of anarchy into question by looking at hierarchical structures in the international system, organized around the North-South axis. Part III addresses the simultaneous rise of the individual and global problems in world politics, and the ethical challenges of system governance that this creates. Throughout, an effort will be made to illustrate the relevance of theoretical debates for the real world, but in the end this is a course about ideas not information, and students will be evaluated accordingly.

Requirements
There are no books for this class, only articles and chapters available on Carmen. Students are responsible for all readings on the syllabus except those designated as optional. There will be three in-class closed-book exams, two midterms and a final, with review sheets distributed before each. Attendance in lecture is strongly recommended, and class participation there is welcome and encouraged, but not required. In addition, students are expected to attend one discussion section each week, and will be given credit for this toward their final grade.
Grade Schedule

Midterm I: 30%
Midterm II: 30%
Final Exam: 30%
Section: 10%

CALENDAR

T Jan 3: Course Introduction

ANARCHY

R Jan 5: The Problem of Order in Great Power Politics


T Jan 10: Realism and the Balance of Power


R Jan 12: Power Transitions and Hegemonic War


T Jan 17: Liberalism and the Democratic Peace


R Jan 19: Neo-Liberal Institutionalism


T Jan 24: Constructivism and the Power of Ideas


R Jan 26: Midterm I

**HIERARCHY**

T Jan 31: The Four Faces of Power, and Then Some


R Feb 2: Military Preponderance and the NPT


T Feb 7: Power and Development


One more reading TBA

R Feb 9: Civilization and Otherness


T Feb 14: American Empire, or Liberal?


R Feb 16: Midterm II

GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

T Feb 21: Human Security, Cosmopolitanism and the UN


R Feb 23: Democratic Deficits and Global Civil Society


T Feb 28: Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect


R Mar 1: Terrorism, Counter-Terrorism, and International Law


Two other readings TBA

T Mar 6: Global Warming

“Overview” and “International Action” (2011), in Climate Change 101: Understanding and Responding to Global Climate Change, Pew Center on Global Climate Change.

R Mar 8: Why a World State is Inevitable


Optional:


T Mar 13: Final Exam, 1:30-3:18

Required Statement on Academic Misconduct

I expect all of your work in this course to be your own. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university’s Committee on Academic Misconduct, which investigates or establishes procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of wrongdoing wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

If you need an accommodation based on a disability, contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in developing accommodation strategies. It is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; (http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu).