THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
Political Science 4300  

Fall 2014  
TuTh 2:20PM - 3:40PM  
Hitchcock Hall 0031  
Professor Randall Schweller  
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Course Description
The course introduces undergraduates to the major theoretical issues and paradigms in the field of international relations. The course is divided into three parts. In part one, three theoretical perspectives are covered: realism, liberalism, and constructivism. In parts two and three, these three perspectives are used as theoretical lenses to examine the current age of US primacy, how others are reacting to it, and what comes next.

Course Requirements: Midterm: essay exam (50% of final grade); Final: essay exam (50% of final grade).

Required Texts

Part 1: Theories of International Relations

1. ANARCHY

2. THE SECURITY DILEMMA AND THE OFFENSE-DEFENSE BALANCE

3. REALISM: CAUSES OF WAR
Edward Hallett Carr, "Realism and Idealism," in Betts.

4. BALANCE OF POWER, POLARITY, AND POWER-TRANSITION THEORY:
No readings, just lecture.

5. THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF REALISM:
No readings, just lecture.
6. INSTITUTIONAL LIBERALISM: HOW INSTITUTIONS FACILITATE COOPERATION AND PREVENT WAR

7. REPUBLICAN LIBERALISM: THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE
Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and War" or “Liberalism and World Politics,” in Betts.
Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and War," in Betts.

8. COMMERCIAL LIBERALISM: ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE AND PEACE
Geoffrey Blainey, "Paradise Is a Bazaar," in Betts.

9. SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIVISM: THE ROLE OF IDEAS, IDENTITY, AND NORMS
Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” in Betts.

MIDTERM REVIEW SESSION

MIDTERM

Part 2: The Unique Structure of Unipolarity: Reactions to U.S. Global Predominance

10. WHAT IS UNIPOLARITY AND WHAT ARE ITS CONSEQUENCES?

11. WHY STATES WILL BALANCE AGAINST US POWER

12. WHY STATES WILL NOT BALANCE AGAINST US POWER

13. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE REFORM: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS
Stewart Patrick, “Prix Fixe and a la Carte: Avoiding False Multilateral Choices,” The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 32, No. 4 (October 2009),

14. THE END OF HISTORY?
John Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War,” in Betts.

15. US GRAND STRATEGY: RETRENCHMENT OR STAY THE COURSE?

16. THE FUTURE OF US-CHINA RELATIONS: CONFLICT OR HARMONY?

17. A POST-AMERICAN WORLD: WHAT COMES NEXT?
Randall Schweller, Maxwell’s Demon and the Golden Apple: Global Discord in the New Millennium

18. FINAL REVIEW SESSION

19. FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 15, 2014  2:00pm-3:45pm

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).
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/.