
PS 239
Selected Topics in International Relations:
Where is the World Headed?

Syllabus v. 1.0
Spring 2014
Bunche 2150

This course is a tour d'horizon of recent work in international relations. Each week we will discuss, in depth, one book. We will talk about where the book fits in the field, where it attempts to take the field, we will assess the logic of the argument, the nature of the empirical work, its implications, etc. We will also discuss authorial choices, how the books are organized, how accessible they are, and what makes them good or bad books.

The books vary on a variety of dimensions. They evince a variety of methods and orientations. There are books by senior scholars and there are revised dissertations. There are works in international political economy and security.

Requirements: Course attendance, reading, in-class presentations, and a paper.

Meetings and Readings:

- Mar. 31, 2014 Introduction
- Apr. 7, 2014 Owen, John M., IV. 2010. *The Clash of Ideas in World Politics: Transnational Networks, States, and Regime Change, 1510-2010*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- Apr. 14, 2014 Simmons, Beth A. 2009. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Apr. 21, 2014 Stone, Randall W. 2011. *Controlling Institutions: International Organizations and the Global Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Apr. 28, 2014 Baum, Matthew and Tim J. Groeling. 2010. *War Stories: The Causes and Consequences of Public Views of War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- May 5, 2014 Lake, David A. 2009. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.
- May 12, 2014 Class to be rescheduled. Reading to be determined. A possibility:
Shapiro, Jacob N. 2013. *The Terrorist's Dilemma : Managing Violent Covert Organizations*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.
- May 19, 2014 No class.
- May 26, 2014 Memorial Day Holiday
- June 2, 2014 Pinker, Steven. 2011. *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*. New York: Viking.
- June 9, 2014 Exam week makeup session. Reading to be determined. A strong possibility:
Narang, Vipin. 2014. *Nuclear strategy in the modern era: Regional powers and international conflict*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.