

Syllabus – Spring 2008
The Harvard Kennedy School

International Relations: Theory and Practice
IGA-101

Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 1:10pm – 2:30pm
Location: Land (Belfer Building, 4th floor)
The first day of class is Wednesday, September 10th.

Professor Stephen M. Walt

Office: Belfer 510B

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30-4:00

(please sign up on sheet outside B-510)

Course Assistant: Martin Gonzalez
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Objectives: This course provides an introduction to some of the major theoretical perspectives for studying how states and peoples behave and interact. Students will learn new ways of thinking about international relations, increase their ability to evaluate these competing ideas, and apply different perspectives to concrete policy issues.

Outline: The first part of the course will examine a number of different theoretical approaches. We will explore the realist, liberal, and constructivist paradigms, as well as other theories drawn from different intellectual traditions. Throughout the course, we will examine policy documents and contemporary events through the analytical “lenses” of these different perspectives, and draw out the policy implications of these alternative worldviews. During the last half of the course, we will examine a number of specific policy realms—nuclear weapons, the role of non-state actors, East conflict, and the likely evolution of several regions.

Course Requirements: The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures and class discussions. There will usually be a formal in-class lecture Monday, followed by a group discussion of the readings and issues raised in each lecture on Wednesday. Students are expected to complete **all** of the required reading prior to each class and to attend and participate fully in the discussions.

Grades will be based 20% on class participation (including a group assignment), 30% on a short policy memorandum, and 50% on a take-home final. Additional details about each assignment will be provided in class.

Course Materials: The following books are available for purchase at the Coop Bookstore:

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, & Patricia Owens, eds., *The Globalization of World Politics* (Oxford University Press, 2008).
- Mearsheimer, John J. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W.W. Norton, 2001).

Most of the other materials will be available on-line and easily accessible via the course webpage; materials that are not available online will be available for purchase from the Course Materials Office.

Class Schedule and Assignments

September 10: Organizational Meeting: Theory and Policy in World Politics

Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, "Introduction," (pp. 1-13). **[TEXT]**
(Students with little background in the field will benefit from reading pp. 14-89 as well.)

Walt, Stephen M., "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy*, No. 110 (Spring 1998). **[ONLINE]**

Walt, Stephen M., "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science* (2005), 23-48. **[PACKET]**

September 15, 17: Realism (I)

Mearsheimer, John J., *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W.W. Norton, 2001), chapters 2, 3, 5, plus chapter 6, 7, or 8. **[TEXT]**

Dunne, Timothy and Brian C. Schmidt, "Realism," in Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 90-107. **[TEXT]**

Rice, C. "Promoting the National Interest," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 79, no. 1 (January/February 2000). **[ONLINE]**

The National Security Strategy of the United States of America (White House, 2002). **[ONLINE]**

Rice, C. "The New American Realism," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, no. 4 (July/August 2008). **[ONLINE]**

Policy issue: What is the "National Interest?"

September 22, 24: Realism (II): Applications and Critiques

Walt, Stephen M., "The Enduring Relevance of the Realist Tradition," in Katznelson and Milner, eds., *Political Science: State of the Discipline III* (W.W. Norton, 2003). **[ONLINE & PACKET]**

Posen, Barry R., "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," *Survival* (1991), 35(1). **[PACKET]**

Marc Trachtenberg, "The Question of Realism: A Historian's View," *Security Studies*, Vol. 13, no. 1 (Fall 2003). **[ONLINE]**

James Traub, "Taunting the Bear," *New York Times*, August 10, 2008. **[ONLINE]**

Ariel Cohen, "The Russia-Georgia War: A Challenge for the U.S. and the World," *Heritage Foundation*, August 11, 2008. **[ONLINE]**

William Pfaff, "Why Georgia Does Not Belong in NATO," August 13, 2008. **[ONLINE]**

Policy Issue: Russia versus Georgia, 2008

September 29, October 1: Liberalism (I): Democracy

Dunne, Timothy, "Liberalism," in Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, 108-123. **[TEXT]**

Halperin, M., Joseph Siegle, and Michael Weinstein, *The Democracy Advantage*, pp.1-25. **[PACKET & ONLINE]**

Gat, Azar, "The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2007). **[ONLINE]**

Bush, President George, "Address at 2nd Inaugural," January 20, 2005. **[ONLINE]**

Lieven, A. and J. Hulsman, "The Folly of Exporting Democracy," excerpt from *Ethical Realism: A Vision for America's Role in the World*, (September 2006). **[ONLINE]**

Policy issue: Democracy Promotion

October 6, 8, 15 (no class Oct. 13) Liberalism (II): Interdependence and Institutions

Lamy, S. "Contemporary Mainstream Approaches: Neo-Realism and Neo-Liberalism," and Little, R. "International Regimes," in Baylis, Smith and Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 126-141, 296-311. **[TEXT]**

Mansfield, E.D. and B. Pollins, "Interdependence and Conflict: An Introduction," from Mansfield and Pollins, eds., *Economic Interdependence and International Conflict: New Perspectives on an Enduring Debate* (Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 1-28. **[PACKET]**

Mearsheimer, J. J., "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol.19, no. 3 (1994-95). **[ONLINE]**

Mearsheimer, J. J., and Z. Brzezinski, "Clash of the Titans," *Foreign Policy*, No. 146 (January/February 2005). **[ONLINE]**

Policy issue: The Rise of China

October 20, 22: Social Constructivism, Norms, and Identities {1st paper assigned Oct. 20}

Barnett, M. "Social Constructivism," in Baylis, Smith, & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 162-73. **[TEXT]**

Sikkink, K. and M. Finnemore, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998). **[ONLINE]**

Thomas, Ward. "Norms and Security: The Case of International Assassination," *International Security*, Vol. 25, no. 1 (Summer 2000). **[ONLINE]**

Breuilly, J. "Nationalism," in Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 404-417. **[TEXT]**

Bellamy, A. and N. Wheeler, "Humanitarian Intervention in World Politics" in Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization and World Politics*, pp. 522-41. **[TEXT]**

Policy issue: Humanitarian Intervention

October 27, 29: Transnational and Non-State Actors: {1st paper due Oct. 27}

Willems, Peter, "Transnational Actors and International Organizations in World Politics," in Baylis, Smith, & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, 330-349. **[TEXT]**

Shain, Yossi, "Ethnic Diasporas and U.S. Foreign Policy," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 109, no. 5 (1994-95). **[ONLINE]**

Naim, Moises. "The Five Wars of Globalization," *Foreign Policy*, No. 134 (January-February 2003). **[ONLINE]**

Kiras, J. "Terrorism and Globalization," in Baylis, Smith, and Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 372-85. **[TEXT]**

"Dying to Lose: Explaining the Decline in Global Terrorism," *Human Security Brief 2007*, pp. 8-22. **[ONLINE]**

Policy Issue: International Terrorism

November 3, 5: Information, Misperception and Miscalculation

Rosati, J. "The Power of Human Cognition in the Study of World Politics," *International Studies Review*, 2, no. 3 (Fall 2000), pp. 48-75. **[ONLINE]**

Kahneman, D. and J. Renshon. "Why Hawks Win," *Foreign Policy* 154 (Jan. 2007), 34-38. **[ONLINE]**

Van Evera, Stephen, "Why States Believe Foolish Ideas," (draft ms. MIT, 2002). **[ONLINE & PACKET]**

Mearsheimer, J. J., "Lying in International Politics," (draft ms., Univ. of Chicago, 2006). **[PACKET]**

Kaufmann, C., "The Marketplace of Ideas and the War in Iraq," *International Security*, vol. 29(1) (Summer 2004). **[ONLINE]**

Naim, Moises, "The YouTube Effect," *Foreign Policy* 158 (January-February 2007). **[ONLINE]**

Policy issue: Preemptive and Preventive War

November 10, 12: Weapons of Mass Destruction

Howlett, Darryl, "Nuclear Proliferation," in Baylis and Smith, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 415-39. **[TEXT]**

Posen, Barry R., "We Can Live with a Nuclear Iran," *MIT Audit of the Conventional Wisdom* (March 2006). **[ONLINE]**

Miller, Steven E., "Proliferation Gamesmanship: Iran and the Politics of Nuclear Confrontation," *Syracuse Law Review*, 57, no. 3 (2007). **[ONLINE]**

American Foreign Policy Council, "Confronting Iran: U.S. Options" (August 2007). **[ONLINE]**

Leverett, Flynt, "Dealing with Tehran: Assessing U.S. Diplomatic Options with Iran," New America Foundation, 2006. **[ONLINE]**

Policy issue: Iran's nuclear program.

November 17: Discussion of Group Project

November 19: No class period; time reserved for group meetings

November 24, 26: Class Presentations of Group Project

December 1, 3, 8: The Future of Global Politics

Vogler, J. "Environmental Issues," in Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 350-69.
[TEXT]

Huntington, Samuel, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993).
[ONLINE]

Rodrik, Dani, "How Far Will International Economic Integration Go?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* (Winter 2000). **[ONLINE]**

Mueller, John. "The Obsolescence of Major War," *Security Dialogue* 21, no. 3 (1990). **[ONLINE]**

Mearsheimer, J.J., *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chap. 10. **[TEXT]**

Zakaria, F. "The Rise of the Rest," *Newsweek*, May 12, 2008. **[ONLINE]**

A take-home final examination will be handed out on December 8.