SYLLABUS

Course Purpose: This course provides a graduate-level survey of the fundamental literature, concepts and controversies in the contemporary study of international relations, and it seeks to establish a foundation for more advanced study, research and understanding. While no one course can offer a comprehensive treatment of all the relevant literature and paradigms, Government 551 encompasses a body of knowledge broadly familiar to analysts and scholars. It prepares students for comprehensive exams, but more important, it prepares them for what these exams represent: the ability to participate in the scholarly discourse on international relations at a high professional level. After this course, students should be able to read any article in a leading international relations journal or attend any panel presentation at an international relations conference and understand and critique the arguments being put forth.

Required Books (All available in paperback):


Gilpin, Robert War and Change in World Politics (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1983)

Goemans, Heinz, War and Punishment

Keck, Margaret, and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders

Katzenstein, Peter, The Culture of National Security (Columbia, 1996)

Keck, Margaret, and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders (Cornell, 1998)


Keohane, Robert, Neorealism and its Critics (Columbia)

Lake, David, and Robert Powell, eds., Strategic Choice in International Relations

Lynn-Jones, Brown, and Miller, eds. The Perils of Anarchy (MIT, 1995)

Spruyt, Hendrick, The Sovereign State and its Competitors

Waltz, Kenneth, Theory of International Politics
Course Requirements:

1. Required reading (as indicated on syllabus). Reserve Readings will be distributed through a box by the graduate student mailboxes. Students are responsible for not keeping these readings out too long so that others may use them.

2. Active participation in class discussion.

3. Three short essays of no more than 2000 words each. These are to be analytical critiques of the ideas and approaches in the week’s required reading, and any summarization of the readings should be extremely brief. Often, you will find it useful to address the reading and discussion questions I will provide one week before each session, but this is not a Procrustean requirement and you may want to raise and address additional or different issues. Essays should not simply summarize the readings and they need not address all of the assigned reading. They should, however, provide your own assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the approach(es) or author(s).

    When you write an essay, you should put enough copies for all the students in the reserve reading boxes, and one copy for me in my mailbox, by 4:00 p.m. on the Monday before class. We will decide which students will address which weeks in our first or second session; subsequent changes can be made if necessary so long as students mutually agree to a switch.

4. Two class presentations. Two of your three essays will provide the basis for a class presentation of approximately 7 minutes. **This can briefly summarize your paper but should not just reiterate it, as we will have read your paper.** The oral presentation should put your paper in context, relating it and the week’s readings to other readings in the field and raising specific questions for discussion. We will schedule these presentations in our first or second sessions.

Grading:

- 30% - mastery of reading as evident through contributions to discussion.
- 10% - class presentations
- 60% - three essays

Course Schedule

Sept.  7  Theory: What is it Good For? What is Good Theory?

Sept. 14  The Anarchy Problem, Hard Core Waltzian Neorealism, and its Critics

Sept. 21  Neorealism’s Outer Belt, and its Critics

Sept. 28  Neorealism vs. Neoliberalism I: Regimes and International Organizations

Oct.  5   Neorealism vs. Neoliberalism II: The Interdemocratic Peace Debate

Oct.  12  Rational Choice Theories and International Relations

Oct.  19  Constructivism I: Critique and Counter-Critique

Oct.  26  Constructivism II: The Empirical Agenda

Nov.  2   State-Level Theories

Nov.  9   International Political Economy
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Organizational Theories</td>
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<td>Nov. 23</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>Nov. 30</td>
<td>Psychological Theories</td>
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<td>Dec. 7</td>
<td>Rethinking Sovereignty: Pressures from Above (International Institutions), Below (Non-state Actors) and All Over (Globalization)</td>
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**READINGS MARKED BY AN ASTERISK WILL BE PUT ON RESERVE**

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<tr>
<th>Sept. 7</th>
<th>Theory: What is it Good For? What is Good Theory?</th>
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<tr>
<td>* Keohane, King, and Verba, <em>Designing Social Inquiry</em> pp. 99-114, on reserve.</td>
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<td>* Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, “Appraising Progress in International Relations Theory: How not to be Lakatos Intolerant,” draft paper.</td>
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<th>Sept. 14</th>
<th>The Anarchy Problem, Hard Core Waltzian Neorealism and its Critics</th>
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<tr>
<td>Waltz, Chaps. 5-6, (in <em>Neorealism and its Critics</em>).</td>
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<td>Buzan, Jones, and Little, pp. 1-65.</td>
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<th>Sept. 21</th>
<th>Neorealism’s Outer Belt, and its Critics</th>
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<td>Gilpin, Chpts. 1,2,5,6.</td>
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Sept. 28 Neorealism vs. Neoliberalism I: Regimes and International Organizations

Baldwin, "Neoliberalism, Neorealism and World Politics," Baldwin, 3-25.


* Krasner, Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables."

* Kratochwil & Ruggie, "International Organization: A State of the Art on the Art of the State."


Oct. 5 Neorealism vs. Neoliberalism II: The Interdemocratic Peace Debate


Snyder, *From Voting to Violence*, pp. TBD.

Oct. 12 Rational Choice Theories and International Relations

Lake and Powell, *Strategic Choice*, chapters 1, 2, 3, pp. 3-114.


Oct. 19 Constructivism I: Critique and Counter-Critique

* Keohane, “International Institutions: Two Approaches.”


* Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It.”

Buzan, Jones, and Little pp. 102-113.

* David Dessler, “What’s at Stake in the Agent-Structure Debate.”


Oct. 26 Constructivism II: The Empirical Agenda

Peter Katzenstein, ed., The Culture of National Security, pages 1-75, 453-497, 498-537 [students should also choose one empirical chapter from Katzenstein’s book to read (chapters 3 to 11), and they should write a few notes for our discussion on whether the empirical work achieves the objectives laid out by Katzenstein and Checkel]


Nov. 2 State-Level Theories


Goemans, War and Punishment, pp. TBD.


Nov. 9 International Political Economy

* George Crane and Abla Amawi, The Theoretical Evolution of International Relations, chapter 1, pp. 3-33.

* Ronald Rogowski, Commerce and Coalitions pages TBD.

Nov. 16 Organizational Theories
* Andrew Bennett, paper on organizational politics and U.S. military strategy in the Persian Gulf War.

Nov. 30 Psychological Theories


Dec. 7 Rethinking Sovereignty: Pressures from Above (International Institutions), Below (Non-state Actors) and All Over (Globalization)

Keck and Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders, pages TBD.
* William Wohlforth, “Reality Check: Revising Theories of International Politics in

Hendrick Spruyt, *The Sovereign State*, pages TBD.

Risse-Kappen, Milner, Rosenau in Multilateralism book (also essays by Strange, Stavenhagen)

Spruyt, *The Sovereign State*

Robert Cox book (reviewed in APSR June 1998)

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL READINGS

The following additional readings are not required for the course, but they may prove helpful in your work and in your preparation for the comprehensive exam. I will occasionally give brief summaries of some of these works or indicate which are the most useful for the comprehensive exam.

I) Systemic Theories


Kristin Muller/Lord Georgetown Dissertation (adds a systemic variable of economic structure/vulnerability).

Schweller in *International Security* Summer 1994 (also in *Perils of Anarchy*) – bringing the revisionist state back in.

Grieco on Realism in Doyle and Ikenberry book.


 Walt ISQ cites on off-def literature

 Sean Lynn Jones in Security Studies on the Offense-Defense Balance

 Bull *Anarchical Society*

 Hopf, APSR June 1991


 Liberman article in Int’l Security

 Glazer in IS (also in Perils of Anarchy) 


II) Constructivism

Onuf book

Doty, “Aporia” article

Martha Finnemore, National Interests in International Society pp. 1-33, 128-149.

Empirical works cited in Snyder syllabus (Walter, Posen, Mercer)

II) State Level Theories and Domestic-International Interactions

Van Evera, Hypotheses on Nationalism and War

Mayer, Knopf in IO on two-level games

Mercer

Gacek

Reiter

Snyder and Jervis Dominoes and Bandwagons

Sikkink: interaction of inst.s and ideas

Keohane and Goldstein


Rosecrance and Stein, Domestic Bases of Grand Strategy, chapter 1, pp. 3-21, chapters 5, 6, 7, pp. 96-178.


Charlie Kupchan The Vulnerability of Empire.


Joseph S. Nye, Jr., and Robert Keohane, "International Interdependence and Integration," and, "Realism and Complex Interdependence" (both in Viotti and Kauppi)

Milner, Resisting Protectionism (or IO autumn 1987 article).


Ikenberry, IO winter 1988, special issue on American Foreign Economic Policy.


Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*


Evans, Rueschemeyer, and Skocpol, eds., *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge, 1985).


Katzenstein, *Between Power and Plenty* (Wisconsin, 1978)

Katzenstein, *Small States in World Markets* (Cornell, 1985)


Hoffmann, *Gulliver's Troubles* chapt. 4 pp. 94-175.

Lowi, *End of Liberalism*


Walt WP April 1992 on foreign policies of revolutionary states.

Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (Cambridge, 1979)


Fareed Zakaria, "Realism and Domestic Politics," in *The Perils of Anarchy*.

Thomas Christensen, *Useful Adversaries*, Chapters 1,2, 7, pp.. 3-31, 242-261.

IV) Organizational and Bureaucratic Models


Legro in IS

Allison, Essence of Decision.

Welch in IS fall 1992 critique of Allison.


Halperin, Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy (Brookings 1974)


Steinbruner, Cybernetic Theory of Decision

Evangelista, book on US and Soviet Military innovation

Rosen, Cornell book on military innovation (or his article in IS summer 1988).


A. Bennett, APSA paper on bureaucratic politics, organizational cultures, and US decision-making in the 1991 Gulf war.


Winter 1992 IO special issue on epistemic communities.

V) Models of Individual Decision-Making


Judith Goldstein and Robert Keohane, eds., Ideas And Foreign Policy, chapter 1 pp. 3-30, chapter 9 pp. 235-264.


Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, chaps. 4, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Deborah Larson, *The Origins of Containment*


Neustadt and May, *Thinking in Time*


Nisbett and Ross, *Human Inference*

Taylor and Fiske, *Social Cognition* (correct title?)

Irving Janis, *Groupthink*.

Jack Levy APSA paper on learning theory.

VI) Cooperation, Regimes and Hegemonic Stability Theory


Snidal,"Relative Gains and the Pattern of International Cooperation," Baldwin, 170-208


Stephen Weber, chapter in Doyle and Ikenberry.

International Organization summer 1992 special issue on multilateralism, esp. Ruggie, Caparaso, Kahler articles.

Gilpin, chapt 3, 4 (hegemonic rise and decline)

Grunberg IO Autumn 1990 on Hegemonic stability theory


Lieber pp. 337-342


Rosenau critique of Keohane IO autumn 1986.

Oran Young on regime creation and enforcement

Ron Mitchell in IO on regime enforcement (environmental issues)

VI) Alliance Theories


Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power," Brown, 209-248


Snyder, "Alliance Theory: A Neorealist First Cut," in Rothstein, Evolution of Theory in IR.

VII) Interdemocratic Peace


Bruce Russett, *Controlling the Sword*


VIII) IR Theory, The End of the Cold War, and the New World Order


Other *International Security* articles: Van Evera, Jervis, Kupchan and Kupchan, Betts, Gaddis, etc.


Mueller, "The Obsolescence of Major War," Betts, 19-32

Waltz, "Emerging Structure of International Politics," Brown, 42-77

Kegley in ISQ June 1993

Deterrence and Coercion

*World Politics*, Symposium on the Rational Deterrence Debate, January 1989:

Christopher Achen and Duncan Snidal, "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies."

Alexander George and Richard Smoke, "Deterrence and Foreign Policy."

Robert Jervis, "Rational Deterrence: Theories and Evidence."

Richard Ned Lebow and Janice Gross Stein, "Rational Deterrence Theory: I Think, Therefore I Deter."


George and Smoke, *Deterrence in American Foreign Policy*

Sagan in Rotberg and Rabb on Japan and WW II

Huth, *Extended Deterrence*

Lebow, *Between Peace and War*


George, *The Limits of Coercive Diplomacy*