This course is a tour d’horizon of some 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. The books vary on a variety of dimensions. There are books by senior scholars and there are revised dissertations. There are books by IR scholars, but also relevant works by others, including an economist and a philosopher. There are formal works and historical works. There are rational choice modelers represented as well as social constructivists. There are works in international political economy and ones focused on ethnic conflict and nationalism.

Requirements: Course attendance, reading, research paper


1. The turbulent world today


2. Approaches


3. Rational choice and ethnic conflict


4. Limits of rational choice


5. Modeling domestic/international links


6. The international monetary system


7. An international society


8. Modeling the international system

