Government 2710
Field Seminar on International Relations

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Tentative syllabus as of August 22, 2022 – contents may change

This course offers a PhD-level introductory overview of the field of international relations. The primary purpose is to understand and evaluate the main theories, arguments, claims, and conjectures made by scholars in the field (plus learn a bit about how the field has evolved). What are the main ways in which scholars organize and assess knowledge in the field? In addition, the course is designed to assist in preparation for the Government Department’s general examinations in international relations. Enrollment is normally limited to Government Department PhD students. Auditing is not permitted.

Time and Place

This seminar will meet on Tuesdays from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m. in CGIS K401

Requirements and Grading

1. Active and prepared participation in class discussions, and discussion leadership (twice in the term, paired with another student). Discussion questions should be e-mailed to Professors Chaudoin and Kertzer by 5:00 pm on the day before the assigned class.

2. A review essay of at least three recent books with implications for international relations theory with a view to submission to an academic journal. The review should revolve around some shared theme across the books and should provide a springboard for exploring a theoretical issue or empirical puzzle that interests you. Examples of review essays can be found in Perspectives on Politics, International Organization, and World Politics, among other journals in the field. More details about a review essay will be provided later in the semester. The review essay should be no more than 25-30 pages double-spaced and is due by email to both professors by November 1 (40%).

For each week there are two categories of readings.

1. **Required readings.** These are the specific subject of discussion in class, although there may be weeks in which we will prioritize specific readings in advance. All readings will be available on the course webpage: [https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/107985](https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/107985)

2. **Recommended readings.** These are a mix of both older and more recent readings on the topic for the week. Some contain the origins of various debates that are ongoing in the field. Others are more recent readings that delve more deeply into the topic, or provide more recent empirical data. You can consult these as you explore topics that interest you. If IR is your major area of interest you should eventually become familiar with these works.

3. While this course does not emphasize game theoretical approaches to IR, for those of you who have no background in game theory or formal modeling, you might useful to read over the next couple of weeks a primer written by Michael Hiscox for Gov 2710 “A Brief Introduction to Game Theoretic Analysis”. It can be found under “Files” on the course web page.

### Overview

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Week 1: Introduction and development of the field


Peter Marcus Kristensen, “Revisiting the “American Social Science” – Mapping the Geography of International Relations”, International Studies Perspectives 16:3 (2015), 246-269.


Recommended:


Randolph B Persaud, “Ideology, socialization and hegemony in Disciplinary International Relations”, International Affairs 98:1 (January 2022), pp. 105-123.


Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan "Why is there no Non-Western International Relations Theory? Ten years on" *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 17:3 (2017), 341-370.


Nicolas Guilhot (Ed.), *The Invention of International Relations Theory: Realism, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the 1954 Conference on Theory* (Columbia University Press, 2011)


Buzan, Barry, and Richard Little, "Why International Relations Has Failed as an


Stanley Hoffmann, “An American Social Science: International Relations”, *Daedalus* 106:3 (1977) pp. 41-60


Frederick Dunn, “The Present Course of International Relations Research” *World Politics* 2:1 (October 1949) pp. 80-95


**Students should also be familiar with the major classics on interstate relations and strategy from a variety of historical times and spaces:**


Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan 1651 (New York: Penguin Classics 1977) chapters 13 through 17,


Week 2: Structural theories of IR


Recommended:


John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of World Politics* (Norton 2001)


Week 3: Rationalist theories of IR


Recommended:


John Vasquez The War Puzzle Revisited (Cambridge University Press, 2009) Chps 1-6, 9-11, skim Appendix I and II.


Andrew H. Kydd, Trust and Mistrust in International Relations (Princeton:


Powell, Robert. *In the Shadow of Power*. (Princeton University Press, 1999). Chapters 3 (pp. 82-110) and 4.


Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Cornell, 1999), Ch. 6. (pp. 117-192).


Week 4: Psychological and social theories of IR


**Recommended (Psychological):**


Richard K. Herrmann, “How Attachments to the Nation Shape Beliefs About the


John R. Hibbing, “Ten Misconceptions Concerning Neurobiology and Politics” *Perspectives on Politics* 11(2) (June 2013) pp. 475-489


**Recommended (Social):**


David M. McCourt, "Practice Theory and Relationalism as the New Constructivism", *International Studies Quarterly* 60:3 (2016), 475-485.


Ron Hassner, “To Halve and to Hold: Conflicts Over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility”  *Security Studies* 12, no. 4 (summer 2003): 1–33


Samuel P. Huntington  *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (Simon and Shuster, 2002)


Alexander Wendt, ”Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of


Week 5: Gender and Race in IR


Naima Green-Riley and Andrew Leber, “Whose War is it Anyway? Explaining the Black-White Gap in Support for the Use of Force Abroad”, *Security Studies* (Conditionally Accepted)

Recommended


*Conference Issue: Racialized Realities in World Politics Millennium* 45:3 (June 2017)


Valerie M. Hudson, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Mary Caprioli, and Chad F. Emmett, *Sex and World Peace* (Columbia University Press 2014)


J. Ann Tickner, Laura Sjoberg eds., Feminism and International Relations: Conversations about the Past, Present, and Future (Routledge 2011).


Joshua S. Goldstein, *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa* (Cambridge University Press, 2001)


Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland, *Gender and International Relations* (Indiana University Press 1991)


Week 6: Regime Type and Conflict


Recommended:


Christopher Gelpi and Joseph M. Grieco, “Competency Costs in Foreign Affairs: Presidential Performance in International Conflicts and Domestic Legislative


**Week 7: Leaders and Decision-Making**


**Recommended:**


Stephen G. Walker and Mark Schafer ”The Operational Codes of Bill Clinton and Tony Blair” (Paper prepared for APSA conference, Washington DC, 2000)

M Tessler et al, ”Further Tests of the Women and Peace Hypothesis: Evidence from Cross-National Survey Research in the Middle East” *International Studies Quarterly* 43:3 (September 1999) pp.519-531


James G. Richter, Khrushchev’s *Double Bind: International Pressures and Domestic Coalition Politics*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994), chapter 1

Donald Sylvan et al, ”Case-Based, Model-Based, and Explanation-Based Styles of Reasoning in Foreign Policy” *International Studies Quarterly* 38 (1994) pp.61-90

Yuen Foong Khong *Analogies at War.* (Princeton University Press 1992)


Week 8: Intrastate Conflict

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War” *American Political Science Review* 97, 1 (February 2003): 75-90


Recommended:


Benjamin T. Jones and Eleonora Mattiacci, A Manifesto in 140 Characters or Fewer: Social Media as a Tool of Rebel Diplomacy”, *British Journal of Political Science*, Forthcoming.


Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stepan. *Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic


Week 9: Trade and Economic Interests


**Recommended:**


Week 10: Money, Finance and Immigration


**Recommended:**

David Stasavage, "What We Can Learn From the Early History of Sovereign Debt," 59 *Explorations in Economic History* 1 (2016)


Quan Li and Adam Resnick, “Reversal of fortunes: Democratic institutions and foreign direct investment inflows to developing countries”, *International Organization* 75:1 (2003), p. 175-211.

J. Lawrence Broz, “Political System Transparency and Monetary Commitment


Week 11: International Institutions I – the Origins and Effects of Institutionalized Cooperation


Recommended:


Xinyun Dai *International Institutions and National Policies* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)


Week 12: International Institutions II – Design and Compliance


Recommended:


Amitav Acharya and Alastair Iain Johnston eds., Crafting Cooperation: Regional Institutions in Comparative Perspective Cambridge University Press, 2007


Potential books for book review:


Amitav Acharya, *Constructing Global Order: Agency and Change in World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)


Austin Carson, *Secret Wars: Covert Conflict in International Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2018).


Ron E. Hassner, *Religion on the Battlefield* (Cornell University Press, 2016)


Alexander Lanoszka, Atomic Assurance: The Alliance Politics of Nuclear Proliferation (Cornell University Press, 2018)

Richard Ned Lebow, National Identities and International Relations (Cambridge University Press, 2016)


Jon R. Lindsay, Information Technology and Military Power (Cornell University Press, 2020)


Danielle L. Lupton, Reputation for Resolve: How Leaders Signal Determination in International Politics (Cornell University Press, 2020)


Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark, *All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation* (Cornell University Press, 2021)


