Course Description

This course provides an in-depth examination of International Relations Theory (I.R. Theory) as it has evolved over the past century. International Relations is an inherently interdisciplinary field that seeks to answer fundamental questions regarding war and peace, security and political economy, and conflict and cooperation in global politics. As such, many schools of thought have developed over the years -- the two mainstream schools being Realism and Liberalism. This class, however, will not be restricted to conventional I.R. theory alone, but rather will start from the most mainstream perspectives, and thereafter move on to look at alternative approaches to I.R. theory – from Neo-Marxism, to Feminism, to Constructivism.

The class operates on a seminar format, meaning that it is entirely discussion-based. You are expected to have read the assigned readings before each class, and come to the session with questions, ideas, and topics to discuss. The readings comprise a core set of landmark works in the field including Thucydides, Morgenthau, Carr, Waltz, Keohane, Nye, Marx, Tickner, Enloe, Finnemore, and Keck and Sikkink, among many others.

Required Texts


Edward Hallett Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* (Harper 1939 [and multiple later editions])


**Class Requirements**

- Active and constructive participation in class discussions (25%);
- Two 5-page papers providing a critical analysis of one week’s readings (10% each);
- 5 page critical book review of one additional major text in I.R. theory;
- 10 page research paper in applied I.R. theory (25%);
- Final exam (30%).

**Schedule of Readings and Discussion Topics**

**Aug. 21**

*International Relations Theory*

**Aug. 28**

*Idealism and Realism*

- Wilson, “Fourteen Points” (e-article)
- Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis*, chs. 1-7 & 14

**Sep. 4**

*Power and Morality: Realism v. Liberalism*

- Morgenthau, “The moral blindness of scientific man” (A&J: 7-16)
- Hoffmann, “Liberalism and international affairs” (handout)
- Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue” (e-article)

**Sep. 11**

*Neorealism*

Sep. 18  
**Liberalism and Neoliberalism**

- Bull, *The Anarchical Society*, ch. 2 (handout)  
- Keohane and Nye, “Complex interdependence and the role of force” (A&J: 231-245)  
- Doyle, “Kant, Liberal legacies, and foreign affairs” (A&J: 95-103)  

Sep. 25  
**I.R. Theory and the Question of the U.S. War on Iraq**

- Walt and Mearsheimer, “Keeping Saddam in a box” (e-articles)  
- Layne, “The cost of empire”  
- Keohane, “Iraq’s hard-won lessons for the future”  
- McConnell, “Realists rebuffed”  
- Wallerstein, “Mr. Bush’s War”  
+ Other readings TBA

Oct. 2  
**Marxism and Neo-Marxism**

- Marx, *The Communist Manifesto* (e-article)  
- Wallerstein, *The Modern World System* (e-article)  
- Cox, “Social forces, states and world orders: Beyond international relations theory” (in Keohane, *Neorealism and its Critics*, ch. 8)

Oct. 9  
**Feminist I. R. Theory, 1**

- Tickner, *Gender in International Relations*

Fall Break: Oct. 11th – 14th

Oct. 16  
**Feminist I. R. Theory, 2**

- Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*

Oct. 23  
**Constructivism**

- Wendt, “Anarchy is what states make of it” (A&J: 73-80)  
- Finnemore, *National Interests and International Society*
Oct. 30
International Security, Conflict, and the Use of Force

Art, “The four functions of force” (A&J: 153-165)
Thomas, “Third world security” (A&J: 263-273)

Nov. 6
WMD, Deterrence, and Terrorism

Jervis, “The utility of nuclear deterrence” (A&J: 221-229)
Waltz, “Peace, stability, and nuclear weapons” (A&J: 448-462)
Falkenrath et. al., “The non-state NBC threat” (A&J: 463-468)

Nov. 13
Issues in International Political Economy

Gilpin, “The nature of political economy” (A&J: 281-297)
Keohane, “Hegemony in the world political economy” (A&J: 298-309)
Rosecrance, “The trading state – then and now” (A&J: 344-353)

Nov. 20
No Class Meeting

Research papers due: Friday, Nov. 16th – by noon in my office mailbox.

Thanksgiving Holiday: Wednesday, Nov. 21st -- Sunday, Nov. 26th

Nov. 27
International Relations and U.S. Policy, Part I

Clarke, Against all Enemies, pp. 1-154

Dec. 4
International Relations and U.S. Policy, Part I

Critical book reviews due

Clarke, Against all Enemies, pp. 155-291

Final Exam: Tuesday, December 11th, 6:15 p.m.
Additional Readings and Key Works in I. R. Theory:

Key collections of essays:

- David Baldwin, ed., *Neorealism and Neoliberalism* (Columbia U Pr 1993)
- Michael Doyle and John Ikenberry, eds., *New Thinking in International Relations Theory* (Westview Pr 1997)
- Peter Katzenstein, Robert Keohane, and Stephen Krasner, eds., *Exploration and Contestation in the Study of World Politics* (MIT Pr 2002)

Further reading in Neorealism and International Security:

- Glenn H. Snyder, *Alliance Politics* (Cornell U Pr 1998)
- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (Columbia U Pr 1959)

Further reading in Neoliberalism and International Political Economy:


Further reading in Marxist I.R. theory:

- Robert Cox, *Production, Power, and World Order* (Columbia U Pr 1987)
Further reading in Feminist I.R. theory:

Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland, eds., *Gender and International Relations* (Indiana U Pr 1991)
Spike Peterson, *Gendered States: Feminist (Re)visions of International Relations Theory* (Lynne Rienner 1992)

Further reading in Constructivism:

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Columbia U Pr 1998)
Marc Lynch, *State Interests and Public Spheres: The International Politics of Jordan’s Identity* (Columbia U Pr 1999)
John Ruggie, *Constructing the World Polity* (Routledge 1998)
Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge U Pr)