POL 7080 Proseminar in International Relations Theory
Fall Semester 2014
Department of Political Science
University of Cincinnati

Meeting time: Fridays 2:30-5:20pm
Location: Rieveschel 616D (except 8/29)
Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov
Phone: 513-556-3318
EMAIL: Ivan.Ivanov@uc.edu*

Office Hours:
Mon and Wed 1:00-3:30 pm
or by appointment
Location: 1121 Crosley Tower

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

POL 7080 is an advanced proseminar in IR theory aimed at developing skills and foundation necessary to examine critically and theoretically international relations. It is a reading intensive seminar, which surveys core theoretical pieces of international relations literature with particular emphasis on traditional theories such as realism, liberalism, and novel approaches such as constructivism. This seminar has two objectives: First, to develop the skills and foundation necessary to examine critically and theoretically various aspects of international relations from an academic perspective; Second, to prepare graduate students for the comprehensive exam in international relations theory. Master’s students should recognize that this course is an excellent preparation for the literature review section of their theses or exams.

The syllabus contains two main sections:
A) Section One provides the weekly reading assignments. Students are required to complete these readings prior to each seminar and prepare notes with points for discussion. The seminar sessions in 7080 will be used to discuss and critique substantive arguments based on the selected readings from the required texts. The students are expected to focus on specific readings rather than conduct a broad survey of literature. In this manner, they develop critical analytical skills that they can then use later as they survey the broader literature outlined in Section Two.
B) Section Two represents the literature expected to be commonly understood for the purposes of comprehensive exams and/or literature reviews in IR theory. This extensive reading list is provided by the department and the students will be expected to know this literature when they sit for the comprehensive exams. You need to set aside time weekly to begin moving through this literature. This additional reading should inform the critical analyses of the assigned work and should find its way into our seminar discussions. It is highly recommended that students create peer review groups to share the workload of preparing in depth reviews. We will discuss the strategy in the seminar.

POL 7080 as well as other IR graduate courses (6000- and 7000-level courses) share similar learning objectives:

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1 This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to add supplementary readings if necessary.
1. Students should familiarize with the IR literature – concepts, authors, theories, debates.
2. Students should be able to compare and critically analyze and evaluate theories/approaches.
3. Students should develop skills for teaching, critical thinking and moderation in the field (i.e. be able to serve as a successful instructor, discussant or moderator).
4. Students should advance their own research agenda: develop a research design which you can turn into a dissertation proposal or a research article.
5. Students should professionalize within the discipline, including the sources and venues of IR literature (e.g. academic journals). Learn the path to successful publications; get to know the IR/CP field.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Requirements</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Critical Analysis Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>9/19; 10/17; 11/17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12/14 @ 11:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in the peer review process</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>throughout the quarter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar input and discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>throughout the quarter</td>
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Students should prepare a critical analysis outline for each week’s readings (one per assigned reading, 1 page single-spaced and a total of 3-4 pages a week). Each outline should contain 5 components listed below. Once we finish each of the main approaches in the course (realism, neo-liberalism and constructivism), students will need to submit an essay that includes: (1) a brief introduction; (2) outlines with critical analysis; (3) a brief conclusion. Every book, article or edited volume’s chapter should be analyzed separately within a single-page outline (more than 1 page is allowed for a book-length manuscripts). We will discuss how to prepare these analyses during our first meeting; each critical analysis should follow a similar template that includes:

1. Author/ Title
2. Main Assumptions, Definitions and Concepts
3. Relevant Theoretical Framework
4. Central Argument/Conclusion
5. Critical Analysis (strengths and weaknesses of the argument)

**Seminar input and discussion:** students are required to participate actively in seminar discussions. Additionally students will need to serve once as seminar leaders (2 students per topic). Seminar leaders should take 15-20 min to introduce the topic, highlight strengths and weaknesses of the arguments across assigned readings and pose central questions for discussion. Visual materials (e.g. PowerPoint and/or handouts are welcome but these should be very short and concise). Leaders’ time management is essential for the success of seminar discussions.

**Book review:** all students enrolled in 7080 will be required to review a recently published (2-3 years) scholarly book on a topic related to their own research interests and the seminar’s content. Doctoral students are also required to contact an academic journal
in their area of interest and arrange for the reviewed book to be published in this journal. The process of writing a book review and submitting it for publications takes 2-3 months. I would encourage you to select a book and/or journal and to contact the journal’s editor within the first 2-3 weeks. Once they receive the book they have several weeks to complete the review and submit it to the journal. Once completed, a copy of the book review should be posted on Blackboard; students should also prepare a brief (3-5 min) oral report/presentation in class. If you have problems with academic journals or selecting, please let me know so I can discuss this issue with you.

**Final exam/assignment:** there are two options: (1) write a paper that reviews critically and analyses literature on a topic of their interest related to IR theory (basically a lit review paper); (2) write a research paper on an IR theory topic of their interest related to MA thesis/paper. As the centerpiece of this course, each student will write a 15-20 page original research paper as the culmination of a semester-long individual research project. In order to facilitate completion of the paper in a timely fashion, students will complete a series of small assignments outlined in a separate “research project milestones” document posted to Bb and discussed in class. Students are advised to meet individually with the instructor after week 7 and are required to prepare a 10-15 min presentation to the class (weeks 12-15) as a part of panel. The presentations on the panel will be followed by questions and recommendations by the assigned peers. The instructor will later provide feedback. While you are encouraged to incorporate into the final paper previous works that you have done for other classes (such as research design, graduate thesis coursework, honors/research course, capstone, project, etc), the paper submitted for this class should be unique and cannot be used in its entirety for the purpose of completing requirements for other courses. Feel free to build the book review assignment into your final paper.

**Peer review process:** to facilitate better feedback, each paper will be assigned two reviewers among seminar participants. They will review the project proposal/prospectus (3-5 pages double-spaced which should be sent to discussants in advance). Upon the completion of the panel presentations, the reviewers will ask questions and offer feedback and recommendations how to improve the quality of the paper. Further details will be provided in class.

**MA professional paper or thesis:** Master Students (MA and 4+1 programs) can use the 7080 final paper as a lit review and/or foundation for their final project (MA paper or thesis). However, they should be aware of several pitfalls and plan accordingly: (1) the expectations for the MA paper/thesis are much more rigorous than the 7080 final paper—they include original research and (possibly) primary data; (2) the structure of the MA paper/thesis usually follows the format of academic articles published in the leading journals in the field. For details please consult with the Graduate Handbook or grad director. Therefore, students should plan ahead the topic of the MA paper/thesis and discuss it faculty advisor(s) who could serve as readers. MA theses/papers can take 3-6 months to write and 1-2 additional months to go through several rounds of revisions before they are being accepted by the committee. Faculty members have the right to decline a request to serve as a reader. In these cases, students should find another faculty member (could be from another department as long as they are approved by the grad
director). Students should plan ahead and submit their work for review at least two months before the expected graduation date. The fact that an MA student has applied for graduation does not constitute responsibility or commitment by faculty readers to accept their work. The department maintains high academic standards and will not accept subpar work.

**Readings (Part 1):**

The following books are required for purchase:

1) Kenneth Waltz, *Theories of International Politics* (McGraw Hill, 1979)
3) Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Selected chapter from the following books have been made available via Blackboard. The books are available on 2 hr hold in the Langsam Library:

**Weekly Seminar Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics for discussion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the field and debates</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kenneth Waltz, “Evaluating Theories,” <em>The American Political Science Review</em> 91 no. 4, (December, 1997), 913-917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Varieties of realism</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Morgenthau, <em>Politics Among Nations</em>, Chapters 1-4, 3-44 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Waltz, <em>Theory of International Politics</em>, Chapters 1, 3, and 6 (skim thru the rest of the book)</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Offensive Realism</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
<td>Mearsheimer, <em>The Tragedy</em>, the whole book</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td><strong>Critical Analysis Paper 1 due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Neo-liberalism and its critique</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Baldwin, <em>Neorealism and Neoliberalism</em>, Ch. 1, 1-28 (Blackboard).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keohane, <em>After Hegemony</em>, Chapters 1, 4 and 6 (Blackboard).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ikenberry, <em>After Victory</em>, Chapters 1, and 6 (Blackboard).</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Anarchy, Hierarchy and International Cooperation</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
<td>Baldwin, ch. 6, 143-170 (Milner)</td>
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<td>Baldwin, Ch. 2, 29-60 (Blackboard).</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Final Papers: first cut discussion</strong></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Issues of Neoliberalism and Neorealism</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Gilpin, <em>War and Change</em>, Chapters 1, 2 and epilogue (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Baldwin, ch. 8, 209-233 (Powell) absolute vs. relative gains</td>
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<td>Baldwin, ch. 12, 301-338 (Grieco): the limits of neoliberalism</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>NB: Class on 10/10 cancelled due to Fall Reading Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td><strong>Critical Analysis Paper 2 due</strong></td>
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<td>10/17</td>
<td>Constructivism</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wendt, <em>Four Sociologies in Int’l Politics and Part 1</em>, 1-190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Constructivism (part 2) and Activism</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td><strong>Book reviews: presentations</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wendt, <em>Part 2</em>, 193-419</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Keck and Sikkink, <em>Activists beyond Borders</em>, pp. 1-38 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Power and National Security</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
<td>Katzenstein (ed), <em>The Culture of National Security</em>, Ch. 1, 1-32; Ch. 2, 33-75; Ch. 5, 153-185 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Joseph Nye, <em>Soft Power</em>, 1-32 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td><strong>Critical Analysis Paper 3 due</strong></td>
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<td>11/7</td>
<td>Internal Variables and IR Theory</td>
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<td>Snyder, <em>Myths of Empire</em>, Ch. 1 and 2, 1-65 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Skocpol, <em>States and Social Revolutions</em>, 3-43 (Blackboard)</td>
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<td>Reiter &amp; Stam, <em>Democracies at War</em>, 1-57 (Blackboard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Presentations: panel 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Presentations: panel 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Presentations: panel 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Presentations: panel 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>NO classes on 11/28: Thanksgiving break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Presentations: panel 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Concluding remarks</td>
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Final papers due during 12/14 @11:59 pm. Please, contact the instructor if unable to complete the assignment on time.
**READINGS (PART 2): SURVEY OF IR THEORY**

The following readings are required for those who are going to sit for comprehensive exams:

I. **Analytical Distinction**

II. **Classical Realism**
   Hoffman, Stanley, “Rousseau on war and peace,” *American Political Science Review* 57, no. 2 (June 1963)
   Thucydides. 1951. *The Peloponnesian War*. Crawley Translation. New York: The Modern Library.(other editions are fine substitutes; read up through Melian Dialouge)

III. **Structural Realism**


IV. **Anarchy and Polarity**


V. **Alliance Patterns and Balance of Power**

American Historical Review. 1992 (97, 3) special issue on Balance of Power
Bearce, David, Kristen Flanagan, and Katharine Floros, “Alliances, Internal Information, and Military Conflict among Member-States,” International Organization 60, no. 3 (Summer 2006), 595-625.

VI. Question of Stability
Van Evera, Stephen, “Primed for Peace” International Security 15, no.3 (Winter 1990/1991),7-58 or

VII. Liberalism and Institutions
Stephen Haggard and Beth Simmons, “Theories of International Regimes,” International Organization 41 (Summer 1987), 491-518.


More on Relative and Absolute Gains


VIII. The Internal Structure of States: Democracy and War

Doyle, Michael, “Liberalism and World Politics,” American Political Science Review 80, no.4 (December 1986), 1151-1169.


Chan, Steve, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall...Are Freer Countries more pacific?” Journal of Conflict Resolution 28, no.4 (December 1984), 617-648.

X. Constructivism


**XI. Decline or Resurgence in Great Power Politics**

Nye, J., *Bound to Lead*
Nye, J. *Soft Power*
Nye, J. *The future of power*
Kennedy, P., *The Rise and Fall of Great Powers*

The concept of hegemony and dynamics of hegemonic systems is an emerging literature of note and should be examined in contemporary issues of core academic journals, such as *International Security, International Organization, World Politics, Security Studies, Foreign Affairs*.

Core IR texts to which you should be able to speak, critically and substantively as you sit for exams


Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Reinhart & Co, multiple editions)


Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies* (Yale University Press, 1968)

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979).


John Ikenberry, ed., *America Unrivalled* (Cornell, 2002).


Stephen D. Krasner, ed. *International Regimes* (Cornell, 1983).


Hans Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations*, early editions


