

POL 3080 APPROACHES TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall Semester 2015

Department of Political Science

University of Cincinnati

Class meets:
Mon, Wed, Fri
10:10 am– 11:05 am
Swift Hall 716

Instructor: Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov
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Email: Ivan.Ivanov@uc.edu
Office Hours: Mon, Wed and Fri 11:30–1:30pm
Location: 1121 Crosley Tower

* Please, contact me by email and I should be able to respond you within 24 hrs.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course surveys contemporary literature on the various approaches to the study of International Relations (IR) with special emphasis on theory, conceptualization and methodology. This course is structured to presents contending theoretical frameworks that focus on the impact of participating and non-participating individuals, domestic sources, and the international system. We will examine traditional IR theories such as realism, liberalism, as well as novel approaches such as constructivism.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This is a core course in international politics. Students are expected to become familiar with major theoretical arguments and develop different analytical skills. To succeed students should be able to identify central concepts such as relative and absolute gains, rationality, anarchy, etc as well as different components of each theory, as well as their primary assumptions, variables and explanatory models. At the end of this course, our students should be able to comprehend specific explanations of IR within the context of broader theoretical debates in International Relations. Furthermore, a student of IR should become familiar with arguments in favor or against the relevance of variables such as military, economic power and strategy, democracy, economic interdependence, etc and based on these skills, our students should be able to develop their own design, conduct independent research and justify it. Lastly, students should be able to relate policies and contemporary cases to theoretical models and present persuasive arguments based on the strengths and weaknesses of the various experiences.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Course Requirements:	% of final grade	Due Date
Two in-class exams	2x20% (each)	10/2 and 11/14
Take-home final paper	35%	12/12 @ 6 pm EST
In-class participation and attendance	15%	Attendance will be taken
Debate(s)	10% per entry	Check tentative schedule

GRADING SCALE:

93% - 100%	A	73% - 76%	C
90% - 92%	A-	70% - 72%	C-
87% - 89%	B+	67% - 69%	D+
83% - 86%	B	63% - 66%	D
80% - 82%	B-	60% - 62%	D-
77% - 79%	C+	59% - 0%	F

Please note that grades represent **NON-NEGOTIABLE** assessments of a student's comprehension of course material.

POLICIES AND CAVEATS:

If a student has a disability that affects their performance in class, please notify me **at the beginning of the semester** in order to accommodate any and all needs and interests. Also, for advice and assistance one may contact the University's Disability Services Office, located in 210 University Pavilion, or phone: (513) 556-6823, or email: disabisv@ucmail.uc.edu.

Students are expected to attend class. One's attendance will be recorded at each class meeting and as stated above can affect a student's grade. In the case of extraordinary circumstances (medical or family), I need to be **informed PRIOR** to quizzes, exams, test, debates, etc. about a student's impending absence; email is recommended. Proper documentation should be provided when that student returns to class. Absences due to illness or injury will not be excused retroactively, unless students follow the aforementioned procedures. If you have questions – PLEASE ASK. Even though I do not necessarily require a medical note, I expect you to contact me in advance (preferably by email) and inform me if you are not feeling well.

Student who misses a total of **FOURTEEN** (14 or 1/3 of all class meetings) or more class meetings will receive a class participation grade of zero (0), and may also have their overall course grade reduced. A student who has a total of **TWENTY** (20) or more (i.e. half of all class meetings) unexcused absences will receive a course grade of F.

I do NOT plan to makeup quizzes, or examinations; missing any quiz or exam without prior permission, may result in a zero on those course requirements. So be cautious and talk to me. Make-up quizzes or examinations will only be arranged in extreme cases; please be sure to let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend the scheduled time(s). Debates will not be rescheduled or made-up.

ARTICLE DISCUSSION AND DEBATES:

Note: in-class participation and debates are important components of this course and combine for a total of ¼ (25%) of the class's overall grade.

ARTICLE DISCUSSION – Reading Guide for Article Discussions is available on Blackboard, under "Assignments." There are a total of three (3) articles.

The purpose of the readings' and articles' discussions is to have students familiarize with original pieces of IR research and presentation of different arguments within the field of International Relations. The articles' discussion dates are posted below and class structure is organized accordingly. Students are expected to lead these class discussion(s) and my involvement will be limited. Be prepared.

DEBATES – Information on Debates is available on Blackboard, under “Assignments.” There will be a total of seven (7) debates.

Each debate will last about 55 minutes, essentially an entire class period as posted on our calendar below. Students will be assigned to teams in advance and per debate, there will be two (2) opposing teams, essentially a total of 14 teams. Per debate and prior to each team's presentation, I will introduce respective topics for the benefit of the audience (non-participating debate students, possible visitors and possible debate moderators). Each team's participating members (panelist) will then present 3-4 minute summary that contributes to their team's overall presentation. I will facilitate the time keeping, as I will enforce each team's adherence to rigorous time-tables in their presentation(s) and will deduct points for poorly prepared, ill-timed presentations.

Remember there will be a team grade and individual panelist grade. The intent is for each team's panelist to convey the concepts of their supporting material – appropriately, in a timely manner and to work collectively in conveying their team's position. Teams should organize to complete their combined presentation(s) in 15 minutes overall. We should allow for 20-25 minutes of teams/audience discussion after presentations. Please observe these rules. As those of us who have witnessed or taken part in debates understand, it is the moderator's job to keep all on task, but it is the panelist's preparedness that makes it a valuable experience. Your cooperation as teammates is essential; supporting one another in both team and individual pursuit is critical. Please, be prepared.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The University of Cincinnati rules stipulate that all work submitted is expected to be original. A definition of plagiarism can be found in the Student Code of Conduct available online at: https://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct/academic-misconduct.html. Students should review the Student Code of Conduct and be aware that plagiarism is defined as:

Submitting another's published or unpublished work in whole, in part or in paraphrase, as one's own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, quotation marks, citations, or bibliographical reference.

Submitting as one's own original work, material obtained from an individual or agency without reference to the person or agency as the source of the material.

Submitting as one's own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.¹

Unless otherwise specified, *each student is responsible for completing and submitting his or her own work*. However, I do encourage students to exchange ideas and/or work together on course assignment.

Electronic devices can be used in the classroom **for academic purposes only and with discretion**. These include but are not limited to taking notes, searching for and using reliable online resources, checking assigned readings and others that can help students participate in class discussion. However, students are NOT allowed to engage in non-academic activities during class time (e.g. social media, personal messages and others). All electronic devices should be **completely muted** (no vibrate) during class time. Students who fail to comply with this rule will be dismissed; I may choose to penalize them by taking points off their final grade. Those who systemically disobey the rule may be asked to withdraw from class. **Please, understand the proper use of technology in the classroom.**

REQUIRED TEXT:

(1) *Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR*

Phillip Williams, Donald Goldstein and Jay Shafritz (WG&S), Belmont, CA:
Thomson Wadsworth, 2006; Call # JZ 1242.C53

RECOMMENDED TEXT:

(2) *Theories of International Relations: Discipline and Diversity (3rd Edition)*

Tim Dunne, Milya Kurki and Steve Smith (eds.):
Oxford University Press, 2013; Call # JZ 1305.I565

(3) There are additional required readings; check Blackboard under "Additional Literature" for full articles, or available links will be under "Web Resources." When electronic versions of readings are not available, paper copies will be distributed in class or course pack will be available.

CLASS POWER POINTS:

Power Points are available on Blackboard, under "Course Documents."

WEEK # / SCHEDULE:

WEEK #1

I. Introduction to Course / Introduction to International Relations (IR) Theories

¹ The University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct; also available on the Internet:
http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html, accessed 08/25/2015.

Why study International Relations theories? Defining and conceptualizing International Relations theories: ontology and epistemology; methods and scope; levels of analysis; testing theories.

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 402-12

(Jack Snyder, "One World Rival Theories")

International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity; pp. 14-35

(Kurki and Wright, "International Relations and Social Science")

Kenneth Waltz (1997), "Evaluating Theories,"

The American Political Science Review, Vol. 91, no. 4, pp. 913-917

WEEK #2

POWER AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: VARIATIONS OF REALISM

Classical Realism

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 57-63

(Hans Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 281-285

(Hans Morgenthau, "The Balance of Power")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 53-57

(E. H. Carr, "The Realist Critique and the Limitations of Realism")

International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity; pp. 59-76

(Richard Ned Lebow, "Classical Realism")

Hans Morgenthau (1948), Chapters 1, 2 and 3, pp. 3-37 (recommended)

VIDEO: "Conversations with History: late Kenneth Waltz at UC, Berkeley, February 10, 2003:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9eV5gPIPZg>

WEEK #3

VARIATIONS OF REALISM: DEFENSIVE REALISM/ NEO-REALISM

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 63-73

(Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neo-realist Theory")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 98-108

(Waltz, "The Stability of a Bipolar World" and

Deutsch and Singer, "Multi-polar Power Systems and International Stability")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 260-263

(Waltz, "International Conflict and International Anarchy: the Third Image")

Kenneth Waltz, "The Emerging Structure of International Politics,"

International Security, Vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 44-79 (recommended)

WEEK # 4

VARIATIONS OF REALISM: OFFENSIVE REALISM

John J. Mearsheimer, "The Tragedy of Great Power Politics,"
W.W. Norton (2001); Chapters 1, 2 & 3, pp. 1-82 (strongly recommended)
International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity; pp. 77-93
(John Mearsheimer, "Structural Realism")

MONDAY Midterm Exam I

WEEK #5

LIBERALISM AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity; pp. 114-131

(Jennifer Sterling-Folker, "Neoliberalism")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp.331-336

(Robert Axelrod, "The Evolution of Cooperation")

FRIDAY Debate #1:

Does Human Nature affect the course of International Relations?

For the purpose of the debate:

E. H. Carr, "Twenty Years' Crisis," *1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*, Palgrave, (1981), selected chapters

Inis Claude, Jr., *Power and International Relations*, New York, Random House (1962), selected chapters

WEEK #6

LIBERALISM: GLOBALIZATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 122-127

(Keohane and Nye, "The Characteristics of Complex Interdependence")

Keohane, "Power and Interdependence," pp. 4-22

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 320-331

(Robert Keohane, "Cooperation and International Regimes")

Article Discussion: Waltz – Globalization and Neo-liberalism

Critique: Kenneth Waltz, Globalization and Governance; *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 32, no. 4 (December 1999), pp. 693-700

FRIDAY Midterm Exam#1

WEEK #7

LIBERALISM: INSTITUTIONALISM, COOPERATION AND THEIR CRITIQUE

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 221-244

(Barnett and Finnemore, "The Politics, Power and Pathologies International Organizations")

Kenneth Oye, "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies," *World Politics*, Vol. 38, no. 1 (Oct. 1985), pp. 1-24

Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons, "Theories and Empirical Studies of International Institutions," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998), pp. 729-757

Article Discussion: John Mearsheimer "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol. 19, no. 3 (Winter, 1994-1995), pp. 5-49

FRIDAY Debate #2:

Do international institutions make difference in international politics?

WEEK #8

LIBERALISM: DEMOCRATIC PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC VICTORY THEORY

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR, pp. 19-33

(Doyle, "Kant's Perpetual Peace")

Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *APSR*, Vol. 80, no. 4 (December 1986), pp. 1151-1169.

Critique: Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (Autumn 1994), pp. 5-49

WEEK #9

OTHER SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Marxism and *Dependencia* in International Politics

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 73-76

(Hobson, "The Economic Taproots of Imperialism")

International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity; pp. 153-70

(M. Rupert, "Marxism")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 81-90

(Theotonio Dos Santos, "The Structure of Dependence")

FRIDAY Debate #3:

Are democracies less likely to fight wars?

WEEK #10

OTHER SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Domestic and Bureaucratic Sources of International Politics

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 178-209

(Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis")

Graham Allison "The Essence of Decision," Chapter 3 (Organizational Process), pp. 67-100 and Chapter 4 (Governmental / Bureaucratic Model), pp. 144-184 (recommended)

FRIDAY Debate #4:

Does regime type influence the outcome of international conflicts?

WEEK #11

INDIVIDUAL SOURCES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception,"

World Politics Vol. 20, no. 3 (April 1968), pp. 454-479

James D. Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War,"

International Organization Vol. 49, no. 3 (Summer 1995), 379-414

Jack L Snyder, "Rationality at the Brink: The Role of Cognitive Processes in Failures of Deterrence," *World Politics* Vol. 30, no. 3 (April 1978), 345-365

FRIDAY Debate #5:

Are Foreign Policy decision-makers rational?

WEEK #12

THE ENGLISH SCHOOL

International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity, pp. 132-152
(Tim Dunne, "The English School")

FRIDAY Midterm Exam II

WEEK #13

US HEGEMONY: Conceptualization and Approaches to Hegemony

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 700-715

(Brooks and Wolforth, "American Primacy in Perspective" and

Joseph Nye, "Limits of American Power")

WEDNESDAY Debate #6:

Is U.S. power beneficial to world politics?

FRIDAY Debate #7:

Is U.S. leadership sustainable: economic development and hegemonic influence?

For the purposes of the debates:

Christopher Layne, "The Peace of Illusions, Cornell University Press"

Chapter 7, pp. 234-258

J. John Ikenberry "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order," *International Security*, Vol. 23, no. 3 (Winter, 1998-1999), pp. 43-78

WEEK #14

CONSTRUCTIVISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 391-401

(John Mearsheimer, "Critique of Critical Theory")

Fireke and Joergensen (2001), Chapter 1, pp. 3-10 (recommended)

International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity, pp. 187-204

(K. M. Fierke, "Constructivism")

WEEK #15

THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Terrorism, Civilizations and Strategies to Respond to the New Threats

Article Discussion #3:

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 352-73 (Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It")

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 538-546

(Thomas Barnett, "The Pentagon's New Map")

Also check out his blog: <http://www.thomaspmbarnett.com/weblog/>

Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in IR; pp. 581-600

(Sam Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?")

International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity, pp. 266-86

(Robyn Eckersley, "Green Theory")

SELECTED LITERATURE

Hans Morgenthau (1948), *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, Alfred Knopf, New York

Kenneth Waltz (1997), "Evaluating Theories," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 91, no. 4, pp. 913-917

_____ (1979), *Theory of International Politics*, New York: McGraw-Hill

_____ (1999), "Globalization and Governance," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 32, no. 4, pp. 693-700

John Mearsheimer (2001), *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, WW Norton and Co

- Robert Keohane (1977), *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition*, Little Brown and Company
- Michael Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *APSR*, Vol. 80, no. 4 (December 1986), pp. 1151-1169
- _____, Bruce Russett, Christopher Layne, David Spiro, "The Democratic Peace" (in correspondence), *International Security* Vol. 19, no. 4, (December 1986), pp. 164-84
- Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (Autumn 1994), pp. 5-49
- Lisa Martin and Robert Keohane, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security*, Vol. 20, no. 1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51
- Christopher Layne, *The Peace of Illusions*, Cornell University Press, Chapter 7, pp. 234-258
- Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," *World Politics* Vol. 20, no. 3 (April 1968), pp. 454-479
- Graham Allison, "Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications," *World Politics* Vol. 24 (Supplement: Theory and Policy of International Relations), (Spring 1972), pp. 40-79
- _____, *The Essence of Decision*, Little Brown and Co, Boston, MA
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization*, Vol. 46, (Spring 1992), pp. 391-426
- _____, *Social Theory of International Politics*, New York: New York University Press (1995)
- Fireke and Joergensen (2001), *Constructing International Relations: The Next Generation*; Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, c2001
- David Lake, "Fair Fights: Valuating Theories of Democracy and Victory," *International Security*, Vol. 28, no. 1 (Summer 2003), pp. 154-167
- Michael Desch, "Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters," *International Security*, Vol. 27, no. 2 (Fall 2002), pp. 5-47
- J. John Ikenberry, "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order," *International Security*, Vol. 23, no. 3 (Winter, 1998-1999), pp. 43-78
- James D. Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, no. 3 (Summer 1995), 379-414
- Jack L Snyder, "Rationality at the Brink: the Role of Cognitive Processes in Failures of Deterrence," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, no. 3 (April 1978), 345-365
- Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons, "Theories and Empirical Studies of International Institutions," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998): 729-757

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE²

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week One	8/24 Course content and requirements	8/26 Introduction to IR Theories	8/28 Understanding IR Theories: ontology and epistemology
Week Two	8/31 Three Variations of Realism: Classical, Defensive and Offensive	9/2 Classical (Human Nature) Realism	9/4 Defensive Realism (DR): (Part 1)
Week Three	9/7 No classes: Labor Day	9/9 DR: P2 (also see video w/ Ken Waltz)	9/11 Offensive Realism (Part 1)
Week Four	9/14 Offensive Realism (Part 2)	9/16 Conclusions about realism	9/ 18 Neo-liberalism: core premises
Week Five	9/21 Globalization and Interdependence (Part 1)	9/23 Globalization and Interdependence (Part 2)	9/25 DEBATE #1: Human Nature and International Relations?
Week Six	9/28 Article Discussion #1 Waltz: Globalization and Governance	9/30 International Institutionalism (Part 1)	10/2 MIDTERM EXAM I
Week Seven	10/5 International Institutionalism (Part 2): Celeste Wallander's Article	10/7 Article Discussion #2 Mearsheimer: critique of Int'l Institutions	10/9 DEBATE #2: Do international institutions make difference in international politics?
Week Eight	10/12 Democratic Peace Theory (DPT)	10/14 Democratic Victory Theory (DVT)	10/16 No classes: Fall Reading Day
Week Nine	10/19 Marxism in International Politics	10/21 <i>Dependencia</i> in International Politics	10/ 23 DEBATE #3: Are democracies less likely to fight wars?
Week Ten	10/26 Domestic and Bureaucratic Sources of International Politics	10/28 Organizational Sources of International Politics	10/30 DEBATE #4: Does regime type influence the outcome of international conflicts?
Week Eleven	11/2 Individual and psychological sources of foreign policy	11/4 Perceptions and Misperceptions in IR	11/6 DEBATE #5: Are FP decision-makers rational?
Week Twelve	11/9 The English School	11/11 No classes: Veterans' Day	11/14 Midterm Exam II
Week Thirteen	11/16 Explaining US hegemony	11/18 DEBATE #6: Is U.S. power beneficial to world politics?	11/20 DEBATE #7: Is U.S. leadership sustainable: economic development and hegemonic influence?
Week Fourteen	11/23 Constructivism and International Politics	11/25 Constructivism in int'l institutions, norms and security	11/27 No classes: Thanksgiving Break
Week Fifteen	11/30 Article Discussion #3 Social Construction of Int'l Politics: Anarchy is What States Out of It	12/2 Issues of terrorism, asymmetric warfare and IR theory	12/4 Contemporary issues of IR theory: Q&A; review and conclusion

² This syllabus and tentative schedule are subject to change. I reserve the right to add supplementary readings if necessary.