

# Introduction to International Relations

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to the study of world politics and international relations -- including major theories and a broad range of issues on today's diplomatic agenda, such as nuclear proliferation, regional conflict, UN peacekeeping, human rights, the global economy and environmental protection. The purpose of the course is to develop the analytical skills necessary to understand developments in the contemporary world and to provide a basis for more advanced study in the field.

Course requirements include regular readings plus: two 5-7 page papers (each 25% of the final grade) due on October 17 and December 1; a final exam (40%); and active participation in class discussion (10%). There are no extensions for late papers, excepting legitimate and documented excuses such as an Infirmity note. Un-excused late papers will be downgraded one "notch" (i.e., A- becomes B+) for each day after the due date.

Most readings will be drawn from two texts, which are available for purchase at the Water Street Bookstore:

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, Third Edition, (Harper Collins, 1992). Selections from many of the classic works in international relations theory.

Michael T. Klare & Daniel C. Thomas, eds., *World Security: Challenges for a New Century*, Second Edition, (St. Martin's Press, 1994). Essays on contemporary global issues and policy challenges. (I earn no royalties from book sales.)

Additional required readings selected from books and journals in the field are collected in a course packet, which is available for purchase at the Political Science Department.

Note on reading: Students are expected to complete the full reading assignment before each class meeting, and to be prepared to discuss what they have read. When reading, focus on the *argument* which the author is developing; this may include a particular way of understanding the world (all politics is based on X), or a particular causal connection (X causes Y). Compare and contrast this argument with others raised in class, in the readings, and with your own, gut sense of how the world works. Also consider the argument in light of whatever empirical evidence (historical dates, political processes, economic figures, etc.) the author provides or you know from elsewhere.

## Course Assignments

Paper #1, due in class, October 17:

Evaluate the three theoretical paradigms -- Realism, Materialism and Liberalism -- in terms of their contribution to understanding the origins of World War One. First, discuss the premises of each approach, and what they say about the causes of the war. Then explain which approach you find most persuasive and why.

Paper #2, due in class, December 5:

What drives international relations in the contemporary world? Some people argue that the logic of interdependence dominates international relations, reshaping the interests that states pursue and the

means available to them. Others argue that international relations is still best understood in terms of states pursuing power in an anarchic environment. Which approach do you find most helpful, and why? Discuss with reference to the relevant theories and to four of the issues/debates discussed from October 27 through December 1.

Note: There are no "right" answers to these questions, only well and less-well argued answers.

## Course Schedule

(\* = required reading, \*\* = optional background reading)

### **THEORIES, EXPLANATIONS AND DEBATES**

#### **Sept.7: Introduction to the Study of International Relations**

#### **Sept.12: Overview of Theories and Levels of Analysis**

\* Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception*, pp.13-31.

\* Gordon Craig and Alexander George, *Force and Statecraft*, pp.3-27.

#### **Sept.15: Realism 1**

\* Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in A J, pp.7-28.

\* Robert Art, "The Four Functions of Military Force," in A-J, pp.132-145.

#### **Sept. 19: Realism 2**

\* Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma," in A-J, pp.146-169.

\* Stephen Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," in A-J, pp.70-78.

#### **Sept.22: Realism and World War One**

\* Gordon Craig and Alexander George, *Force and Statecraft*, pp.28 -49.

\* Paul M. Kennedy, "The First World War and the International Power System," *International Security* 9:1 (Summer 1984):7-30.

#### **Sept.26: Materialism 1**

\* Karl Marx excerpts, in Crane, ed., *Theoretical Evolution of International Political Economy*, pp.86-93.

\* Tony Smith, *Thinking Like a Communist*, pp.39-60.

#### **Sept.29: Materialism 2**

\* Immanuel Wallerstein, *Capitalist World Economy*, pp.1-37.

\* Susan Strange, "States, Firms and Diplomacy," in Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake, eds., *International Political Economy*, pp.61-68.

#### **Oct.3: Materialism and World War One**

\* V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism*, pp.15, 62-98.

#### **Oct.6: Liberalism 1**

\* Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," in A-J, pp.472-490.

\* Alexander George, "Adapting to Constraints on Decisionmaking," in A-J, pp.451-472.

\* Morton Halperin and Arnold Kanter, "The Bureaucratic Perspective," in A-J, pp.397-425.

#### **Oct.10: Liberalism 2**

\* Helen Milner, "A Critique of Anarchy," in A-J, pp.29-35.

\* Henry Kissinger, "Domestic Structure and Foreign Policy," *Daedalus* 95:2 (Spring 1966):503-529.

\* Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs," in A-J, pp.56-69.

#### **Oct.13: Liberalism and World War One**

\* Jack Levy, "Organizational Routines and the Causes of War," *International Studies Quarterly* 30 (1986), excerpts.

\* Michael Gordon, "Domestic Conflict and the Origins of the First World War," *Journal of Modern History* (June 1974), excerpts.

#### **Oct.17: Open discussion**

\* Paper #1 due in class.

\* No readings.

#### **Oct.20: Interdependence and International Regimes**

\* Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence*, pp.3-37.

\* Robert Keohane, "A Functional Theory of Regimes," in A-J, pp.95-101.

### **Oct.24: Interdependence and Regimes Debated**

\* Richard Rosecrance, "The Trading State--Then and Now," in A-J, pp.348-360.

\* Janice Thomson and Stephen Krasner, "Global Transactions and the Consolidation of Sovereignty," in A-J, pp.310-330.

\* Joseph Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation," in A-J, pp.51-55.

### **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

#### **Oct.27: Regional Integration**

\* Neill Nugent, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Third Edition, pp.1-37.

\* Linda Cornett and James Caporaso, "And Still It Moves! State Interests and Social Forces in the European Community," in James N. Rosenau and Ernst-Otto Czempiel, eds., *Governance without Government: Order and Change in World Politics*, pp.219-249.

#### **Oct.31: International Trade**

\* Stephen Krasner, "State Power and the Structure of International Trade," in Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake, eds., *International Political Economy*, pp.19-36.

\* Helen Milner, "Resisting the Protectionist Temptation: Industry and the Making of Trade Policy," in Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake, eds., *International Political Economy*, pp.368-387.

\* Robert Gilpin, "The Emergent International Order," in A-J, pp.331-347.

#### **Nov.3: Rich and Poor in the International Economy**

\* Stephen Krasner, "Power vs. Wealth in North-South Economic Relations," in A-J, pp.267-286.

\* Theotonio Dos Santos, "The Structure of Dependence," in George T. Crane, ed., *The Theoretical Evolution of International Political Economy*, pp.144-152.

\* Stephan Haggard and Chung-In Moon, "The South Korean State in the International Economy," in Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake, eds., *International Political Economy*, pp.47-60.

\*\* Vincent Ferraro and Melissa Rosser, "Global Debt and Third World Development," in K-T, pp.332-355.

\*\* Joseph Collins, "World Hunger: A Scarcity of Food or a Scarcity of Democracy?" in K-T, pp.356-371.

#### **Nov.7: Ethnic and Regional Conflict**

\* Donald Horowitz, "Ethnic and Nationalist Conflict," in K-T, pp.175-187.

\* Louis Kriesberg, "Regional Conflicts in the Post-Cold War Era," in K-T, pp.155-174.

\* James Gow, "Deconstructing Yugoslavia," *Survival* 33 (July/August 1991):291-311.

\*\* Yezid Sayigh, "Security in the Developing Countries," in A-J, pp.220-229.

\*\* Michael Klare, "Adding Fuel to the Fires: The Conventional Arms Trade in the 1990s" in K-T, pp.134-154.

\*\* Nicole Ball, "Demilitarizing the Third World," in K-T, pp.216-235.

#### **Nov.10: Deterrence and Nuclear Weapons**

\* Allan Krass, "The Second Nuclear Era: Nuclear Weapons in a Transformed World," in K-T, pp.85-105.

\* John Mueller, "The Obsolescence of War in the Modern Industrialized World," in A-J, pp.187-201.

\* Robert Jervis, "The Utility of Nuclear Deterrence," in A-J, pp.202-210.

\*\* McGeorge Bundy, "The Unimpressive Record of Atomic Diplomacy," in A-J, pp.211-219.

#### **Nov.15: Nuclear Proliferation**

\* Zachary S. Davis, "Nuclear Proliferation and Nonproliferation Policy in the 1990s," in K-T, pp.106-133.

\* Kenneth Waltz, "Towards Nuclear Peace," in Robert Art and Kenneth Waltz, eds., *The Use of Force*, Third Edition, pp.684-712.

#### **Nov.17: U.N. Peacekeeping**

\* Margaret Karns and Karen Mingst, "Maintaining International Peace and Security," in K-T, pp.188-215.

\* Robert Cooper and Mats Berdal, "Outside Intervention in Ethnic Conflicts," *Survival* 35 (Spring 1993):118-142.

\*\* Jonathan Dean, "A Stronger U.N. Strengthens America," *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* (March-April 1995):45-51, 53-54.

\*\* Robert Johansen, "Building World Security: The Need for Strengthened International Institutions," in K-T, pp.372-397.

**Nov.21: Human Rights**

- \* Rhonda Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics," in A-J, pp.505-524.
- \* Bilahari Kausikan, "Asia's Different Standard," and Aryeh Neier, "Asia's Unacceptable Standard," *Foreign Policy* 92 (Fall 1993):28-51.

- \*\* Jack Donnelly, "International Human Rights After the Cold War," in K-T, pp.236-255.
- \*\* Charlotte Bunch and Roxanna Carrillo, "Global Violence Against Women: The Challenge to Human Rights and Development," in K-T, pp.256-273.

**Nov.24: Thanksgiving Vacation****Nov.28: Environmental Cooperation**

- \* Jessica Tuchman Mathews, "The Environment and International Security," in K-T, pp.274-289.
- \* Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," *Science* 162 (December 1968):1243-48.
- \* Per Magnus Wijkman, "Managing the Global Commons," in A-J, pp.525-545.

- \*\* George Rathjens, "Energy and Climate Change," in A-J, pp.567-586.
- \*\* Thomas Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcity and Intergroup Insecurity," in K-T, pp.290-313.
- \*\* Dennis Pirages, "Demographic Change and Ecological Insecurity," in K-T, pp.314-331.

**Dec.I: The Future of International Relations**

- \* John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War," *The Atlantic Monthly*(August 1990):35-37, 40-42, 44-47, 50.
- \* Robert Cox, "Global Restructuring: Making Sense of the Changing International Political Economy," in Richard Stubbs and Geoffrey Underhill, eds., *Political Economy and the Changing Global Order*, pp.45-59.
- \* James M. Goldgeier and Michael McFaul, "A Tale of Two Worlds: Core and Periphery in the Post-Cold War Era," *International Organization* 46:2 (Spring 1992):467-491.

**Dec.5: Wrap-Up and Review**

- \* No readings.
- \* Paper #2 due in class.

\_\_\_\_\_: Final exam.