

GOVT 155

Introduction to International Relations Theory

Monday & Wednesday
PAC 125
8:30am - 9:50am

David W. Kearn, Jr.
PAC 324
Office Hours: M-W 10am-Noon
Or by Appointment

This course is designed to serve as an introductory survey of International Relations (IR) Theory. We will examine a number of theoretical approaches that offer diverse perspectives on the major questions of world politics such as the causes and consequences of war and the maintenance of peace, international cooperation, and stability and change. Specifically, we will attempt to understand and weigh the relative influence of various factors, such as power, economics and trade, international institutions, national interest, and culture and identity on the behavior of nation-states. We will also evaluate the utility of applying different levels of analysis (focusing on the international system, on the unit- or state-level, or on small groups or individuals within the state) to understanding international outcomes. After developing a solid understanding of these theoretical approaches, we will turn to address not only the larger, traditional issues that have been the focus of past theoretical inquiry, but also new and emerging “non-traditional” challenges to international relations that may be with us for the foreseeable future.

This course will have a very strong theoretical component. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings *before* class and we will deconstruct and disentangle the important theoretical issues through a combination of lecture and discussion. As the course progresses, we will build upon our theoretical core to investigate and analyze interesting historical cases and current events. Students will be expected to contribute to an informed discussion, and are also encouraged to keep up with ongoing events around the world. Wherever possible, we will try to tie real world events back to our theoretical investigations and vice versa.

Course Requirements:

1. *Class Participation*: Informed and thoughtful participation is a requirement in this course and will count toward 15% of your grade. Attendance is a necessary but not sufficient component of participation; taking part in discussion and debate in mandatory.
2. *Three Short Response Papers*: Students will be responsible for turning in three short (5-page max.) response papers. As you will see on the syllabus, there will be nine (9) possible opportunities to turn in response papers. The assignments will be provided the previous week and will consist of a set of (relatively straightforward) focused questions. Students can choose to answer one (1) of the first five (1-5) topics, and

then one (1) of the next three (6, 7, 8) and all students will be asked to respond to the final assignment (9). (30%)

3. *Mid-Term Examination*: There will be an in-class mid-term (accounting for 25%) given in class.
4. *Final Examination*: A final examination will be handed out before the last class and due on **Thursday, December 20, 2007 by 5pm**. It will count for 30% of your grade.

Late examinations will be severely penalized.

There is one book assigned for this class, which can be purchased at the University bookstore:

- Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics, Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 8th Edition (New York: Longman, 2006).

The remaining readings (*) will be available on-line of the course's Blackboard Page.

Readings marked with (**) are from Art and Jervis International Politics Fourth Edition.

First Class Meeting: Introductions, Expectations, Etc. 09/05

What is Theory? 09/10

- Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998) pp. 29-46.*
- Kenneth M. Waltz, "Laws and Theories," from Robert O. Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics (New York: Columbia University Press), pp. 27-46.*

I. Systemic Approaches

Classical Realism: Human Nature and Power 09/12

- Hans J. Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism" in A & J.
- Hans J. Morgenthau, "The Future of Diplomacy" in A & J.

Structural Realism: Anarchy and Uncertainty 09/17

- Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in A & J.
- John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" in A & J.
- John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19:3 (Winter 1994/95), pp. 5-49. [Read only 5-15 for now] *

The Security Dilemma & Defensive Realism 09/19

- Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma" in A & J.
- Stephen M. Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning" in A & J.
- Stephen Van Evera, "Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War," reprinted in the Robert J. Art and Kenneth N. Waltz (eds.), The Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics, Fifth Editions (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1999).*

First Response Paper Due at Beginning of Class.

Cooperation Under Anarchy 09/24

- Kenneth A. Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics” in A&J.
- Robert O. Keohane, “Hegemony in the World Political Economy” in A & J.
- Adam Roberts, “The United Nations and International Security” in A & J.
- Robert O. Keohane, “A Functional Theory of Regimes.”**

International Institutions 09/26

- Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions” in A & J.
- Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, “The Promise of Institutional Theory,” *International Security* 20:1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51.*
- Joseph M Grieco, “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation.”**
- Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” read pp.14-37.

Second Response Paper Due at Beginning of Class.

Social Constructivism, Culture and Critical Theory 10/01

- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It” in A & J.
- Samuel P. Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations?” in A & J.
- Alexander Wendt, “Constructing International Politics,” *International Security* 20:1 (Summer, 1995), pp. 71-81.*
- J. Ann Tickner, “A Critique of Morgenthau’s Principles of Political Realism,” in A&J.
- Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” pp. 37-47.*

International Norms and International Law 10/03

- Rhoda E. Howard and Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights in World Politics,” in A & J.
- Stanley Hoffmann, “The Uses and Limits of International Law,” in A & J.
- Stephen R. Ratner, “International Law: The Trials of Global Norms,” in A & J.
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activists Networks” in A& J.

Third Response Paper Due at Beginning of Class.

II. State or Unit Level Approaches

Unit-Level Forces 10/08

- Richard Rosecrance and Arthur Stein, “Beyond Realism: The Study of Grand Strategy,” in Rosecrance and Stein, (eds.), The Domestic Bases of Grand Strategy, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1991) Chapter 1.*
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, “Complex Interdependence and the Role of Force,” **
- Richard Rosecrance, “The Trading State—Then and Now,”**

The Democratic or Liberal Peace 10/10

- Michael W. Doyle “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in A & J.

- John M. Owen, “How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace,” *International Security* 19:2 (Fall 1994), reprinted in Michael Brown et al (eds.), Debating the Democratic Peace (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996). Read only pages 116-133.*
- Francis Fukuyama, “Liberal Democracy as a Global Phenomenon,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 24:4 (December 1991), pp. 659-664.*

Fourth Response Paper Due at Beginning of Class.

Fall Break

No class on 10/15

*****In-Class Mid-Term Examination**

10/17

III. Small Group or Individual Approaches

Bureaucratic Politics

10/22

- Graham T. Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” &
- Stephen D. Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland), [both readings from G. John Ikenberry (ed.), American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays, Fourth Edition (New York: Longman, 2002), pp.396-440, & 441-453.*

Individual Psychological Explanations

10/24

- Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception,” &
- Philip E. Tetlock and Charles B. McGuire, Jr., “Cognitive Perspectives on Foreign Policy,” in Ikenberry (ed.) American Foreign Policy, pp. 466-488, & 488-506.*

Fifth Response Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

IV. Major Issues in International Relations

International Security & The Use of Military Force

10/29

- Robert J. Art, “The Four Functions of Force” in A& J.
- Thomas C. Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence” in A & J.
- Robert J. Art, “Coercive Diplomacy,” in A& J.

The Influence of Nuclear Weapons

10/31

- Robert J. Art, “The Fungibility of Force,” in A & J.
- Scott D. Sagan, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia,” in A & J.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Stability in South Asia,” in A & J.

Sixth Response Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

International Political Economy

11/05

- Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy,” in A& J.
- Bruce R. Scott, “The Great Divide in the Global Village,” in A & J.
- Jeffrey Frankel, “The Globalization of the International Economy,” in A & J.
- Dani Rodrik, “Trading in Illusions,” in A & J.
- Immanuel Wallerstein, “Three Paths of National Development in Sixteenth-Century Europe,” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 7:2 (1972), pp. 95-101.*

The Implications of Globalization 11/07

- Martin Wolf, “Will Globalization Survive?” in A & J.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Globalization and Governance,” in A & J.
- John Micklethwait and Adrain Wooldridge “Why the Globalization Backlash is Stupid” in A& J.
- Moses Naim, “The Five Wars of Globalization,” in A & J.

Seventh Response Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

V. Existing and Emerging Challenges in International Relations

Global Terrorism 11/12

- Bruce Hoffman, “What Is Terrorism?” in A & J.
- Robert A. Pape, “The Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in A & J.
- Fareed Zakaria, “Why Do They Hate Us?” in A & J.
- F. Gregory Gause III, “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?” in A & J.

Failed States and Intrastate Conflict 11/14

- Robert I. Rotberg, “Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators,” in A & J.
- Chaim Kaufmann, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars,” in A & J.
- James Dobbins, “Nation-Building by the UN and the U.S.,” in A & J.
- James L. Payne, “Deconstructing Nation Building,” in A & J.

Eighth Response Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

Environmental Challenges 11/19

- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” in A & J.
- Thomas Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as a Cause of Acute Conflict” in A & J.
- John Browne, “Beyond Kyoto,” in A & J.
- Ruth Greenspan Bell, “What to Do About Climate Change,” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2006).*

Thanksgiving Break.

No class on 11/21

VI. Unipolar Politics and the Future of International Relations

United States Hegemony? 11/26

- Samuel P. Huntington, “Why International Primacy Matters,”**
- Charles Krauthammer, “The Unipolar Moment Revisited,” *The National Interest* (Winter 2002/2003), pp. 5-17.
- Josef Joffe, “How America Does It,” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 1997).*
- Robert Jervis, “Explaining the Bush Doctrine,” in A & J.

Implications of US Hegemony 11/28

- Stephen M. Walt. "Taming American Power," in A & J.
- Robert Jervis, "The Era of Leading Power Peace," in A & J.
- Andrew Moravcsik, "Europe without Illusions," in A & J.

The Iraq War and its Implications 12/03

- Robert Kagan and William Kristol, "The Right War for the Right Reasons," *Weekly Standard* (February 23, 2004), re-printed in Gary Rosen (ed.), The Right War? The Conservative Debate on Iraq (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), pp. 18-35.*
- Michael Scott Doran, "Palestine, Iraq, and American Strategy," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2003).*
- Fouad Ajami, "Iraq and the Arab's Future," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2003).
- Stephen M. Walt and John J. Mearsheimer, "An Unnecessary War (U.S.-Iraq Conflict)," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2003).
- Mark Strauss, "Think Again: Attacking Iraq," *Foreign Policy* (March/April 2002).*

Looking Forward: Pressing Problems 12/05

- "What to Do in Iraq: A Roundtable," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2006).*
- Bruce Reidel, "Al Qaeda Strikes Back," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2007).*
- Richard N. Haass, "The New Middle East," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2006).*
- Scott Straus, "Darfur and the Genocide Debate," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2005).*
- Michael T. Osterholm, "Unprepared for a Pandemic," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2007).

Ninth Response Paper Due at the Beginning of Class.

Last Class, Looking Forward: Long-term Challenges 12/10

- Richard K. Betts and Thomas J. Christensen, "The Rise of China: Getting the Questions Right," in A & J.
- Kent Calder, "China and Japan's Simmering Rivalry," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2006).*
- C. Raja Mohan, "India and the Balance of Power," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2006).*
- Victor Cha, "Korea's Place in the Axis," *Foreign Affairs*, 81:3 (May-June 2002), p.79-85.*
- Kenneth Pollack and Ray Takeyh, "Taking on Tehran," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2005).*
- William Drozdiak, "The North Atlantic Drift," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2005).*
- Dmitri Trenin, "Russia Leaves the West," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2006).

******Take-home Final Examination Due by 5pm on Thursday December 20.******