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Government 388  
Kelly M. Greenhill  
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Spring 2006  
kgreenhill@wesleyan.edu  
M,W 2:40-4:00pm, Fisk 101  
lp, or by appt.

Professor  
Office and phone: PAC 409; 5-  
2499  
Email:  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11a-  
1p, or by appt.

### **International Relations: Theory and Practice**

Course Description: This upper-division course on theories of international relations focuses on the analysis of how states interact in the international system. We shall discuss contending paradigms and theories—new and old—to explain conflict and cooperation. We shall examine these competing approaches in the context of both historical and contemporary issues in world politics in order to better grasp—and to grapple with—the fact that alternative theoretical visions lead to different policy conclusions. These differences can matter profoundly: good theories can help political actors make better policy decisions, while misguided ones can precipitate disasters. The ultimate goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough understanding of the principal conceptual approaches to international politics and thus enhance their ability to understand and evaluate important real-world problems as well as how to deal with them.

Required Readings: The following books are available for purchase at Broad Street Books.

Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, translated by Rex Warner (Penguin Classics, 1954; revised 1972).

John T. Rourke (ed.), *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics* (Mc-Graw-Hill/Duskin, 2005).

Most of the journal articles are available electronically through Olin Library's e-journals and databases. All other readings will be available on electronic reserve or distributed in class.

Course Requirements: Class will be conducted as a seminar. This means that during each meeting I will do some conceptual stage setting and, as necessary, raise questions and guide our conversation. However, I will do relatively little lecturing.

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Thus, if you are not comfortable speaking up in class and/or actively engaging in class discussions and debates, you should NOT take this course.

Students will be expected to complete the following tasks:

1. Attendance/Participation (30% of grade). As stated above, you are expected to do the readings, attend class, and avidly and consistently participate in class discussions.
2. Discussion Questions (20% of the grade). Depending upon the number of students in class, 2-3 times over the course of the semester, you will be expected to formulate discussion questions to help guide the day's discussion. These questions will be due no later than noon on the day BEFORE the relevant class meeting.
3. Research Paper (50%): The paper will be graded based upon clarity of presentation, organization, and analytical quality. Your paper should support its claims with evidence from class lectures and readings and should be correct in terms of grammar, punctuation and spelling. Papers deficient in these respects will be penalized. Both a rough draft and a final draft of the paper will be due—first draft due on April 12; final draft (tentatively) due on May 15—and both will be graded. (The paper assignment will be distributed and discussed during our first class meeting.)

Late papers will be accepted and incompletes will be granted only in the event of significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious illness, death in the family). *Under no condition will extensions will be granted due to the stresses of academic life* (e.g., demands in other classes, extracurricular activities, etc.). Also, you will be expected to arrive for each class on time and to stay for the duration of the class—please do not plan to leave early unless you are ill. *Students who miss class meetings without a valid excuse will be dropped from the course.*

#### Course Schedule:

January 25: Course Introduction

Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998).

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"Issue 5. Do China's Armaments and Intentions Pose a Long-Term Threat?" in  
*Taking Sides*.

January 30 and February 1: Classical Realism

Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, Book I; Book II, Chapters 1-65 only; Book III, Chapters 36-84 only; and Book V; (also *highly recommended*: Book VII).

[Excerpt from] Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, Chapters 13-15 only; available at:

<http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html>

*Review or read, if you have not done so previously—books on reserve @ Olin:*

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, Chapters 1-3, 8, 11-14.

E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Year's Crisis*, especially Chapters 3-5.

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, especially Chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7.

February 6 and 8: Methodology and Explanation in IR Theory

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell University Press, 1997), Chapter 1.

Gary King, Robert Keohane and Sidney Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (Princeton University Press, 1994), pp. 7-12, 75-87.

Jon Elster, *Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), Chapter 1.

David Collier and James Mahoney, "Insights and Pitfalls: Selection Bias in Qualitative Research," *World Politics*, vol. 49, no. 1 (October, 1996), pp. 56-91.

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"Issue 15. Would World Affairs Be More Peaceful if Women Dominated Politics?"  
in *Taking Sides*.

February 13: Anarchy and Balance of Power

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*,  
"Chapter 5: Political Structures"  
and "Chapter 6: Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power."

Paul Schroeder, "Historical Reality vs. Neo-realist Theory," *International Security*,  
vol. 19, no. 1 (Summer, 1994), pp. 108-148.

Stephen Walt, *The Origins of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1990), Chapter 2.

Kenneth N. Waltz, "Structural Realism after the Cold War," *International Security*  
vol. 25, no. 1 (Summer 2000), pp. 5-41.

"Issue 4. Should the United States Continue to Encourage a United Europe?" in  
*Taking Sides*.

February 15: No class

February 20 and 22: Balance of Power and the Security Dilemma

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W. W. Norton, 2003),  
Chapter 2: Anarchy and the Struggle for Power."

Thomas Christensen and Jack Snyder, *Chain-Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity*, *International Organization*, vol. 44, no. 2 (Spring 1990).

Randall Schweller, "Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In," *International Security*, vol. 19, no. 1 (Summer 1994).

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Paul Schroeder, "Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory," *International Security*, vol. 19, no. 1 (Summer 1994).

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, vol. 30, no. 2 (January 1978)

Dan Reiter, "Exploding the Powder Keg Myth: Preemptive Wars Almost Never Happen," *International Security* (Fall, 1995).

"Issue 3. Will the 'Bush Doctrine' Promote a More Secure World?" in *Taking Sides*.

February 27 and March 1: Liberalism and the Democratic Peace

Michael Doyle, "Chapter Seven: Commercial Pacifism: Smith and Schumpeter," in *Ways of War and Peace* (W.W. Norton, 1997), pp. 230-51.

Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in *Political Writings*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought.); available at: <http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm> or <http://www.constitution.org/kant/perpeace.htm>

John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace,"; and David Spiro, "The Insignificance of the Liberal Peace," *International Security*, vol. 19, no. 2 (Autumn 1994).

Sebastian Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 97, no. 4 (November 2003).

"Issue 9, Is Free Economic Interchange Beneficial?"; and review "Issue 4. Should the United States Continue to Encourage a United Europe?" in *Taking Sides*.

March 6 and 8: Institutions

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John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, vol. 19, no. 3 (Winter 1994/95), pp. 5-49.

Responses to Mearsheimer by Keohane and Martin, and Wendt; and  
Mearsheimer's reply in *International Security*, vol. 20, no. 1 (Summer 1995)

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapter Five, "Strategies for Survival," pp. 138-67.

[Excerpt from] David Lake, "Beyond Anarchy: The Importance of Security Institutions," *International Security*, vol. 26, no. 1 (Summer 2001), pp. 129-160.

Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton University Press, 1984), Chapters 4 and 6.

Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes, "On Compliance," *International Organization* 47:2 (Spring 1993), pp.175-205.

Arthur Stein, "Cooperation and Collaboration: Regimes in an Anarchic World," *International Organization*, vol. 36, no. 2 (Spring 1982).

Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation* (Basic Books, 1985), Chapters. 2 and 4.

"Issue 17: Do International Financial Organizations Require Radical Reform?"; and  
"Issue 18: Should the United States Ratify the International Criminal Court?" in  
*Taking Sides*.

March 27 and 29: Decision-Making, Perceptions and Misperceptions

Robert Jervis, "Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and the Intentions of the Adversary" in  
*Perception and Misperception in International Politics*.

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Irving Janus, *Groupthink*, "Chapter 1: Why So Many Miscalculations?" and "Chapter 2: A Perfect Failure"

Robert Jervis, "Political Implications of Prospect Theory," in Barbara Farnham, ed.

*Avoiding Losses/Taking Risks: Prospect Theory and International Conflict*. Ann Arbor:

University of Michigan, 1994. pp. 23-40.

Margaret Hermann and Joe Hagan, "International Decision-Making: Leadership

Matters," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998), pp. 124-137.

Viewing of the film *Thirteen Days* (on March 27, class will run until 5:15pm)

April 3 and 5: Norms and Culture

Ronald L. Jepperson, Alexander Wendt, and Peter J. Katzenstein, "Chapter 2:

Norms, Identity, and Culture in National Security," Chapter 2 in *The Culture of National Security*.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and

Political Change," *International Organization*, vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998), pp. 887-917.

Judith Goldstein and Robert Keohane, *Ideas and Foreign Policy*, Chapters 1 and 6.

Michael Desch, "Culture Clash: Assessing the Importance of Ideas in Security

Studies," *International Security*, vol. 23, no. 1 (Summer 1998).

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, Chapters 6 and 7.

Dale Copeland, "The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism," *International*

*Security*, vol. 25, no. 2 (Fall 2000).

"Issue 13. Are Military Means the Best Way to Defeat

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Terrorism?"; and Issue 14. Is  
Government-Ordered Assassination Sometimes Acceptable?"  
in *Taking Sides*.

April 10: (Neo-) Imperialism

Michael Doyle, *Empires* (Princeton University Press, 1986),  
Chapter 1.

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and  
International Ambition* (Cornell  
University Press, 1991), Chapter 2.

Niall Ferguson, "Hegemony or Empire?," *Foreign Affairs*  
(September/October 2003);  
available through Olin Library or at:  
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20030901fareviewessay82512/niall-ferguson/hegemony-or-empire.html?mode=print>

G. John Ikenberry, "Illusions of Empire: Defining the New  
American Order," *Foreign  
Affairs* (March/April 2004).

Ivo Daalder and James Lindsay, "American Empire, Not 'If' but  
'What Kind'," *New  
York Times*, May 10, 2003; available at:  
<http://www.brookings.edu/views/op-ed/daalder/20030510.htm>

April 12: No class           FIRST DRAFT OF RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE  
(in my box outside the Department office, no  
later than 5pm)

April 17 Future of World Politics

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?," *The National  
Interest*, No. 16  
(Summer 1989).

John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will All Soon Miss the Cold War,"  
*The  
Atlantic*, November 1990.

William Wohlforth and Stephen Brooks, "American Primacy in  
Perspective,"  
*Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, no. 4 (July/August, 2002).

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Benjamin Schwarz, "The Perils of Primacy," *The Atlantic* (January/February 2006);  
available at:  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200601/primacy>

Richard Haass and Robert Litan, "Globalization and its Discontents: Navigating the Dangers of a Tangled World," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 1998).

"Issue 1. Is Globalization Likely to Create a Better World?"; and "Issue 2. Will State Sovereignty Survive Globalism?" in *Taking Sides*.

*Review or read:*  
Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993);

April 19, 24, 26, May 1, 3, 8 Class Presentations/Discussions

These classes will be devoted to your research projects. Each author will identify a relevant background reading for the class in advance of the presentation of his or her paper. Two other students will be assigned to present the argument proffered in the reading, relate it to the appropriate theoretical approach(es) and to open a critical discussion of the author's paper. The author will then be given an opportunity to respond.