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Fall 2013

DIPL 6000 International Relations Theory

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DIPL 6000 - Fall 2013

International Relations Theory

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Class: Wednesday 19:35-21:45 in DH61
Office Hours: Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00 & By appointment

Course Description

DIPL 6000 is required for all graduate students in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations. This class introduces students to a variety of ways of thinking about international relations. As such, the focus is not contemporary policy issues, but rather the theories used to understand and explain international relations. We will cover some major schools of thought as well as how these play out in various issue areas, like hegemony and empire, the role and nature of international institutions and organizations, war, trade, democracy, and the rise of China. We will also address the question of what relevance these theories have or might have to policymakers.

This class is intended to prepare students for advanced course work in the field. As such, there will be a lot of reading, writing, and thinking required.

Readings

Required readings are listed below for each class session. Most articles and book chapters will be posted online. The following books are not required for purchase, but you may find it easier if you have your own copy.

Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 8th Edition, 9th Edition or 10th Edition.

David A. Lake and Robert Powell, 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, Princeton University Press.

Course Objectives

1. To familiarize students with the key theoretical debates in international relations scholarship;
2. To stimulate critical thinking, appreciation for logical consistency, and an awareness of multiple potentially useful conceptual frameworks when thinking about international relations;
3. To encourage the application of insights from international relations theory to contemporary policy issues;
4. To provide an opportunity to further develop skills in writing, analysis, discussion, and public presentations on themes related to international relations theory.

Requirements and Grading

Class preparation and participation	20%
Mid-term take-home exam	20%
Policy memo	30%
Final take-home exam	30%

Preparation and Participation - 20%

This class involves active and extensive participation in class discussion based on sometimes substantial reading. This is because humans learn better, more quickly and more deeply, when they are actively involved in talking and thinking, rather than passively receiving information. As such, students are expected to do all assigned reading in preparation for class and to participate fully in class discussion. Explaining your interpretation and evaluation of the readings and understanding other students' interpretation and evaluation is a crucial part of the learning process.

Normal standards of polite discussion, such as not interrupting people speaking, not using increased volume to dominate the conversation, and not holding private conversations, are expected. However, high standards of intellectual discussion (i.e. *not* polite discussion), are also expected. These include being honest about what you really think about an idea, especially when you do not understand it or its implications, not being afraid to ask questions about what someone has just said (e.g. "Can you please clarify what you mean when you say..."), being willing to follow someone's line of reasoning or use their assumptions temporarily, and not trying to 'win' an argument but trying to understand and help others understand the ideas.

It should be obvious that a course like this only works if everyone does the assigned reading in advance. Take notes when you read; mark passages that seem important or interesting or puzzling, and have those notes with you in class. In order to help ensure that you do this, **I would like everyone to keep a personal reading journal. In this journal you should provide answers to some questions about the readings that I provide below (Minimum 1 page, no maximum)**. Note that the reading journal is not a document for public consumption; I am not interested in directly stimulating a pre-class conversation based on the circulation of your journal entries for the week. Hence I do not want you to publish your journal to a blog or other online forum; just keep it as a series of weekly electronic documents in some format I can read. On the other hand, I want to make sure that you are actually keeping this journal as we go through the semester. While it seems pretty obvious to me that doing the journal weekly will help you to contribute more intelligently to class discussion, this may not be clear to you yet - or you may need some additional incentive to do the journal weekly. Hence I am going to require you to submit the journal to me weekly, by noontime on the Wednesday of each class session. However, I will not be evaluating the content of these journals; what matters is that you submit them to me on time, and that they address the questions that I provide. As long as you do that throughout the semester, you will receive full credit for this portion of your grade.

- Essential Questions (you must answer these questions for at least 3 of the readings each week)
 - * What is the question/puzzle that the piece is trying to answer/solve?
 - * If you had to summarize the lesson or core idea of the piece in 3 sentences or fewer, what would it be?
 - * What is one thing that you do not understand about the piece?
- Valuable Questions (you do not have to answer these questions, but it would be good if you did)

- * What is the point of the piece, as intended by the author?
- * What is the dependent variable? (The thing that is being explained?)
- * What is the explanation?
- * What is the most important concept in the piece?
- * Why is it the most important concept?
- * What are the units involved? (e.g. individuals, states, major powers, domestic publics, rules, institutions, norms)
- * What are the key properties of the units involved?
- * Why are these the key properties?
- * What are some of the relations between the units? (i.e. what do the units do to each other?)

NB: Students will take turns leading off the class discussion each week. More details regarding leading discussion will be distributed in class. If you are part of the group leading off class discussion for a given week, you do not need to do or submit a journal for that week.

Mid-term take home exam- 20%

You will have a week to write an exam aimed at giving you an opportunity both to solidify some of your ideas about the theories covered and to demonstrate your mastery of those theories. The exam will be handed out in class and is due at the beginning of class the following week. Late papers will not be accepted.

Policy Memo 30%

A short policy paper assignment will be handed out in week 12 and is due on week 14. Being both concise and effective is both difficult and valuable. Late papers will not be accepted.

Final take-home exam - 30%

The final exam will cover the material from the entire class. Late papers will not be accepted.

Communications Policy

The primary mode of communication between you and I is email. I will endeavour to respond to email within 48 hours, but usually I will be able to do so within 24 hours. If you want an answer to a substantive (i.e. not a logistical one) question about course material, email may be cumbersome, office hours inconvenient, and it may be possible to talk on the phone or Skype. My Skype name is jomahoney.

Accommodations Policy

Students requiring special accommodation should contact Disabilities Support Services.

Academic Integrity

Thinking about cheating? Don't do it. Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the School of Diplomacy's Standards of Academic Conduct, <http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>. By registering, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Standards, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by the Standards. Violations of the Standards of Academic Conduct will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken

should such violations occur. Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or as they relate to particular requirements for this course.

Course Schedule

Many readings will be posted electronically. If you are unable to access a reading, please contact me in adequate time before the class session in which the reading is due. This schedule of readings may be changed with appropriate notice.

1. *August 28* No Class - Professor at APSA annual conference

2. *September 4* Theory, International Relations, and International Relations Theory

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy*, November 1, 2004. <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2004/11/01/one_world_rival_theories?page=full>

Michael Shermer, "Wronger than Wrong: Not all Wrong Theories are Created Equal". *Scientific American*. November 2006. <<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=wronger-than-wrong>>

Kevin A. Clarke and David M. Primo, 2012. "What is a Model?" in *A Model Discipline: Political Science and the Logic of Representations*, Oxford University Press. (3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 are inessential).

Jeffrey Frieden and David Lake. "International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance", *Annals of the AAPSS*, July 2005.

3. *September 11* Anarchy and Realism

Kenneth Waltz, 1979. "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power", in *Theory of International Politics*, Addison-Wesley.

From *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)

- John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power."
- Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma."
- Stephen M. Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning."

Jeffrey W. Taliaferro. 2000-2001. "Security Seeking under Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited", *International Security*, 25(3): 128-161.

4. *September 18* Liberalism

From *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)

- Michael W. Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs"

Andrew Moravcsik, 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics", *International Organization*, 51(4): 513-553.

Robert Keohane, 1984. "A Functional Theory of Regimes", in *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*, Princeton University Press.

Dale Copeland, 1996. "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations", *International Security* 20(4): 5-41.

Robert Jervis, 1999. "Realism, Neo-liberalism and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security*, 24(1): 42-63.

5. September 25 Strategic Choice

David A. Lake and Robert Powell, 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, Princeton University Press. Chs. 1, 2, 3, 4.

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita and Alastair Smith. 2011. *The Dictator's Handbook: Why Bad Behavior is Almost Always Good Politics*. PublicAffairs. Chapter 1, The Rules of Politics, and Chapter 7, Foreign Aid.

6. October 2 Constructivism - Rules, Norms, and Identity

Alex Wendt, 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics", *International Organization* 46(2): 391-425.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change", *International Organization*, 52(4): 887-917.

Ian Hurd, 2005. "The Strategic Use of Liberal Internationalism: Libya and the UN Sanctions, 1992-2003", *International Organization*, 59(3): 495-526.

Richard Price, 1998. "Reversing the Gun Sights: Transnational Civil Society Targets Land Mines," *International Organization* 52(3): 613-644.

Michael Barnett, 1996. "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East", in Peter Katzenstein (ed.), *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*, Columbia University Press.

7. October 9 Communication and Argumentation

James Fearon, 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes", *American Political Science Review*, 88(3): 577-582 and 585-587.

Victor Cha, 2009. "What Do They Really Want?: Obama's North Korea Conundrum", *Washington Quarterly*, 32, October, 119-38.

Frank Schimmelfennig. 2001. "The Community Trap: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action, and the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union", *International Organization*, 55(1): 47-80.

Stacie E. Goddard, 2008/2009. "When Right Makes Might: How Prussia Overturned the European Balance of Power" *International Security*, 33(3): 110-142.

Ronald Krebs and Jennifer Lobasz, 2007. "Fixing the Meaning of 9/11: Hegemony, Coercion, and the Road to War in Iraq," *Security Studies*, 16(3): 409-451.

8. *October 16* Hegemony, Hierarchy, Empire

William C. Wohlforth, 1999. "The Stability of a Unipolar World", *International Security* 24(1): 5-41.

John Ikenberry, 1998/1999. "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order", *International Security*, 23(3): 43-78.

David A. Lake, 2007. "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics", *International Security* 32(1): 47-79.

Daniel Nexon and Thomas Wright, 2007. "What's at Stake in the American Empire Debate", *American Political Science Review* 101(2): 253-271.

Alexander Cooley and Daniel H. Nexon, 2011. "Bahrain's Base Politics: The Arab Spring and Americas Military Bases", *Foreign Affairs*.

9. *October 23* International Institutions & Organizations

Scott Barrett, 2010. *Why Cooperate?: The Incentive to Supply Global Public Goods*. Oxford University Press, Introduction and Chapter 1.

David D. Hawkins, D. A. Lake, David L. Nielson, and Michael J. Tierney, 2006. "Delegation Under Anarchy: States, International Organizations, and Principal-Agent Theory." In *Delegation and Agency in International Organizations*, edited by David D. Hawkins, D. A. Lake, David L. Nielson and Michael J. Tierney. Cambridge University Press.

Alexander Thompson, 2006. "Coercion through IOs: The Security Council and the Logic of Information Transmission", *International Organization*, 60(1): 1-34.

Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, 1999. "The Power, Politics, and Pathologies of International Organizations", *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732.

Alastair Iain Johnston, 2001. "Treating International Institutions as Social Environments", *International Studies Quarterly* 45(4): 487-515.

10. *October 30* War

Robert Jervis, 1988. "War and Misperception", *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 675-700.

James Fearon, 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War", *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.

David A. Lake, 2010-2011. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War", *International Security* 35(3): 7-52.

Martha Finnemore, 2003. "The Purpose of Force", in *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs About the Use of Force*, Cornell University Press.

Bruno Tertrais, 2012. "The Demise of Ares: The End of War as We Know It?", *The Washington Quarterly* 35(3): 7-22.

11. *November 6 Trade*

Cletus Coughlin, 2002. "The Controversy Over Free Trade", *Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review*.

Stephen D. Krasner, 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade", *World Politics*, 28(3): 317-347.

Ronald Rogowski, 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade", *American Political Science Review*, 81(4): 1121-1137.

Scott Kastner, 2007. "When do Conflicting Political Relations Affect International Trade?", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(4): 664-688.

Mlada Bukovansky, 2010. "Institutionalized Hypocrisy and the Politics of Agricultural Trade", in *Constructing the International Economy*, Rawi Abdelal, Mark Blyth, Craig Parsons (eds.), Cornell University Press.

12. *November 13 Democracy and International Politics*

Bruce Russett and John Oneal. 1999. "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992", *World Politics*, 52:1-37.

Miriam Fendius Elman, 1997. "Introduction: The Need for a Qualitative Test of the Democratic Peace Theory", in Miriam Fendius Elman, ed., *Paths to Peace: Is Democracy the Answer?*, MIT Press.

Dan Reiter and Allan Stam, 2002. *Democracies at War*, Princeton University Press. Ch. 1.

Susan Hyde, 2011. "Catch Us If You Can: Election Monitoring and International Norm Diffusion", *American Journal of Political Science*, 55(2): 356-369.

Jon Pevehouse, 2002. "Democratization, Credible Commitments and Joining International Organizations", Chapter 1 in Daniel Drezner (ed) *Locating the Proper Authorities: The Interaction of Domestic and International Institutions*, University of Michigan Press.

13. *November 20 The Rise of China*

Richard Bernstein and Ross H. Munro, 1997. "China I: The Coming Conflict with America", *Foreign Affairs* 18-32.

John J. Mearsheimer, 2006. "China's Unpeaceful Rise", *Current History*, 105(690): 160-162.

Avery Goldstein, 2008. "Parsing Chinas Rise: International Circumstances and National Attributes", in Robert S. Ross and Zhu Feng, eds., *Chinas Assent: Power, Security, and the Future of International Politics*, Cornell University Press.

G. John Ikenberry, 2008. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?", *Foreign Affairs*, 87(1): 23-37.

Erich Weede, 2010. "The Capitalist Peace and the Rise of China: Establishing Global Harmony by Economic Interdependence", *International Interactions*, 36(2): 206-213.

Charles Glaser, 2011. "Will China's Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism", *Foreign Affairs*, 90(2): 80-91.

Gregory Chin and Ramesh Thakur, 2010. "Will China Change the Rules of Global Order", *The Washington Quarterly*, 33(4): 119-138.

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 27 - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

14. December 4 Is Anybody Listening? IR Theory and Foreign Policy Relevance.

Joseph Leggold, 1998. "Is Anyone Listening? International Relations Theory and the Problem of Policy Relevance", *Political Science Quarterly* 113: 43-62.

Stephen M. Walt, 2005. "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations", *Annual Review Political Science*, 8: 23-48.

Johan Eriksson, 2013. "On the Policy Relevance of Grand Theory", *International Studies Perspectives*.