Introduction to International Relations Theory and Diplomacy

Mita Saksena Dr.
Seton Hall University

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# SETON HALL

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND DIPLOMACY

**DIPL:6000**  
**FALL 2016**

## INSTRUCTOR CONTACT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Dr. Mita Saksena</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Hours</td>
<td>Tuesday 6.00 to 7.30, Room 105, School of Diplomacy and International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mita.saksena@shu.edu">mita.saksena@shu.edu</a></td>
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## COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Introduction to International Relations Theory and Diplomacy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course ID &amp; Section</td>
<td>DIPL:6000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Time</td>
<td>Tuesday 7.35 TO 9.45</td>
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COURSE OVERVIEW

The course introduces students to contending theoretical traditions in international relations. The theories help us understand patterns of state interaction in world politics and may help us make sense of contemporary world events like wars, international organizations, foreign policies, role of domestic and transnational actors, international political economy, and alliances in world politics. As such an understanding of key theoretical perspectives may be of relevance to policy makers and diplomats. The course also aims at developing critical thinking skills and writing capabilities on themes around International Relations theory.

COURSE REQUIREMENT AND GRADING

- **Attendance and Participation**: Regular attendance and participation is required for all scheduled classes. Students have to take an active role in their own learning. Students must do the assigned readings and come to class with questions, and be able to contribute to classroom discussions. Absence from classes will affect your grade.

- **Reaction Papers**: The students have to write 3 reaction papers.
  
  - **Reaction Paper 1**: What are the main tenets of Realist theory? How does neo realism differ from classical realism? Who are the main actors? How does realism explain interaction between states? What do you consider 2 major limitations of the theory? Due, October 4.
- **Reaction Paper 2**: What are the main tenets of Neoliberal Institutional theory and Liberal theory of International Politics? Who are the main actors and how does the theory address interaction among these units and actors in international relations? What are the major contributions of this theoretical perspective and how does it challenge the realist tradition? What do you think are the major limitations of this school of thought? Due November 15

- **Reaction Paper 3**: What do you think about the “Third Debate in International Relations?” How did constructivism challenge the prevailing theories? What are the various strands of constructivist political thought? Can it explain changes in world politics in the present times? Due December 6

- **Class Presentation**: The students will discuss a few contemporary world events and issues and analyze if any particular international relations theory offers a more satisfactory answer. Some issues we will take up are rise of China and multipolar units in world politics, rise of international terrorism by transnational and non-state actors, ethnic and cultural clashes, American hegemony and Empire building, role of Pro-Israel lobby in the United States, globalization, internet and communications revolution.

**THE GRADING SCALE IS DISPLAYED IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in debates</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper 1</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction Paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reaction</td>
<td>20%</td>
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### COURSE POLICIES

- **Absence Policy**: In accordance with University policy, students are expected to attend class every day with all relevant required course materials and work. If you are absent from class, contact me as soon as possible, preferably before the next class meeting. Students remain responsible for any missed work, for work completed in class, and for work due, and must arrange for that work to be delivered to the faculty on time.

- **Blackboard**: Please check the blackboard for readings and announcements.

- **Completion of Requirements**: You have to complete ALL the requirements of the course. If you do not submit an assignment or appear for your presentation, you will automatically fail the course. If you foresee any problems with the timely submission of assignments and/or appearing for your presentations, you must notify me immediately. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class meeting.

- **Policy on Incompletes**: Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor **before** the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course
requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

- **Use of Electronic Devices:** Please turn off all cell phones and personal electronic devices when you enter the classroom. You are allowed to use laptops, but only for taking notes. Note that your class participation grade will automatically drop to an F if you use your phone or laptop for a non-classroom related activity.

- **Email Communication:** Outside of the classroom, the primary method of communication will be via emails, sent either directly or via Blackboard.

- **Disability Services:** It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu

- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here: [Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf](http://www13.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/upload/Seton-Hall-University-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf) <[http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm]>
08/30: INTRODUCTION, WELCOME AND COURSE OVERVIEW

09/06: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY AND POLICY RELEVANCE


09/13: CLASSICAL REALISM

Roots of Realist tradition and Classical Realism- Thucydides, Morgenthau, E H Carr(readings in BB)


09/20: NEO-REALISM


09/27: CHALLENGE TO REALISM- PLURALISM, THEORIES OF INTEGRATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE IN 60S AND 70S


10/04: BUREAUCRATIC THEORY – BARGAINING AMONG BEAURACRIES – CHALLENGES TO REALISM


Reaction Paper 1 due in class

10/11: NO CLASS FALL BREAK

10/18: NEO- LIBERAL- FUNCTIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL: COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS


10/25: CONTINUED, RISE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY


11/01: LIBERAL THEORY OF IR- 3 VARIANTS- IDEATIONAL, COMMERCIAL, REPUBLICAN


Robert Putnam, Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two – Level Games (1988)

11/08: 2001- RULES, IDENTITY- CONSTRUCTIVISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS


11/15: NORMS - CONSTRUCTIVISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS


Reaction Paper 2

11/22: POST COLD WAR ERA: UNIPOLARITY IN THE WORLD, RISE OF ETHNIC AND CULTURAL CLASHES

John Mearsheimer, “Why we will soon miss the Cold war,” The Atlantic, August 1990.


11/29: 9/11, 2001- 2016- MAJOR ISSUES AND DEBATES IN IR THEORY


12/06: IR THEORY- IS IT AN AMERICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE? INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FEMINIST THEORY


Reaction Paper 3 due in class

12/13: SUMMING UP: RELEVANCE OF IR THEORY TO POLICY MAKING


