

POLS 680:
Theories of International Relations
Northern Illinois University
Fall 2017

Thursday 12:20 - 3:00 pm | Dusable Hall 464

Professor:

Dr. Ches Thurber

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Office Hours: Mon / Wed 9:00-10:30

Course Description:

This course is intended as the graduate-level survey of international relations as a disciplinary subfield of political science. The course traces the evolution of main paradigmatic traditions of realism, liberalism and constructivism (with some attention to their alternatives), explores how those tradition grapple with enduring questions, such as the causes of inter- and intra-state war, economic relations among states, and the development of global governance, and highlights current debates in the field, such as the roles of psychology, domestic politics, and non-state actors in world politics. The course serves as the foundation for preparation for the Ph.D. candidacy exam in international relations. It will also be valuable for those preparing to teach undergraduate IR courses, those looking to broaden their proficiency in the field of political science, and those interested in how the academic field of international relations contributes to important policy debates.

Course Materials:

There are no required texts for this course. All materials will be posted on Blackboard. This being said, if you intend to take a comprehensive examination in International Relations, it may be worth your while to purchase some of the books from which we read multiple chapters in this course.

Evaluation:

1. *Class attendance, preparation and participation: (30%)*
The time we spend in class is for me the most important of this course. As such, punctual attendance is mandatory. But more important than just being present at a desk is that you are actively engaged. I expect that you have done the readings and that you try to participate in discussion each and every class section.
2. *Reading Analyses: (30%)*
For each week, you will be required to draft written summaries on each of the readings. These summaries will be invaluable as you prepare for comps as well as help ensure a high level of discussion in seminar.
3. *Book Review: (40%)*
The main written assignment for this course is a 10-15 page review of three books recently published in a specific area of IR. You should be looking for 3 books published in the last 5 years by the top presses (Cambridge, Cornell, Princeton, Oxford, Columbia) that share a similar theme. You will write a *World Politics* style review in which you both assess the strengths and weaknesses of the books individually, as well as provide a broader analysis of the state of the literature on this subject, its larger contributions to the field of IR, and the opportunities for future research. The point of this exercise is to explore what a good book-length research project looks like (what a good dissertation should aspire to eventually become!) as well as to familiarize yourself with the leading-edge of research in your area of greatest interest.

Course Policies:

1. Successful completion of this course requires consistent, punctual attendance, completing the readings prior to the start of class, and active participation. If you must miss class due to a conflicting responsibility or an emergency, it is your responsibility to contact me to discuss the situation. I will generally require a short written assignment to be submitted in lieu of class attendance. Any more than 1 absence without prior notification and make-up work will affect your final grade.
2. If you think you need to delay submitting a written assignment, you should talk to me, generally at least two weeks before the due date. Such extensions are never guaranteed, but will be based on university policy, exigency of the circumstances, and timeliness of the request (the earlier the better). Any missed written assignment submitted after the deadline without prior authorization from me will not be accepted and a grade of 0 will be assigned.

3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will lead to an F for the course. If you are unsure as to whether your approach for any given assignment may constitute plagiarism, please be sure to double check with the professor prior to handing in your assignment. Political Science department resources pertaining to plagiarism may be found at: <http://www.niu.edu/polisci/audience/plagiarism.shtml>
4. If you need an accommodation for this class, please contact the Disability Resource Center as soon as possible. The DRC coordinates accommodations for students with disabilities. It is located on the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 or drc@niu.edu. Also, please contact me privately as soon as possible so we can discuss your accommodations. Please note that you will not be required to disclose your disability, only your accommodations.
5. It is my personal policy to allow graduate students to call me by my first name, "Ches." This reflects the idea that I view you all as colleagues-in-training. Please let me know how you prefer to be addressed, both in name and pronoun, if it differs from what is in the college directory. I will make every effort to address you in the way you wish to be addressed. Please try and do the same for your fellow classmates, as well as for other faculty in the department.
6. I am committed to your success in this class – if you feel that you are not performing to your expectations, please come and see me. I am available to answer any questions you may have about course assignments, requirements or content. I generally answer e-mails within 24 hrs on weekdays, and would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you if you are unavailable during my posted office hours.

Tentative Course Outline:

Updates will be announced in class and posted on the course website.

Week 0 (Aug. 30): APSA Conference - No Class

Week 1 (Sep. 7): Historiography of the Field

- Brian C. Schmidt, "The Historiography of Academic International Relations," *Review of International Studies* 20, no. 4 (1994): 349–367.
- Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015), Introduction.
- J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992), Ch. 1
- Jeffrey A. Frieden and David A. Lake, "International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance," *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600, no. 1 (2005): 136–56.
- Stephen M. Walt, "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science* 8, no. 1 (June 2005): 23–48.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), Selections.

Suggested:

- J. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics* 14, no. 1 (Oct. 1961): 77–92
- Hayward Alker and Tom Biersteker, "The Dialectics of World Order: Notes for a Future Archeologist of International Savoir Faire," *International Studies Quarterly*, 28 2 (June 1984): 121-42.
- Richard Little, "Historiography and International Relations," *Review of International Studies*, (1999), 25, pp. 291-299.
- Ole Weaver, "The Sociology of a Not So International Discipline: American and European Developments in International Relations," *International Organization*, 52/4 (Autumn 1998), 687-727.

Week 2 (Sep. 12): The Realist Tradition

- Edward Hallett Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939*, 2nd (London: MacMillan / Co., 1946), Chs. 4-5.
- Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, 7th (Boston: McGraw Hill, 2006), Ch. 1.
- Kenneth N Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Addison-Wesley, 1979), Chs. 5-6.
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: Norton & Company, 2001), Chs. 1-2.
- Milner, Helen. "The assumption of anarchy in international relations theory: a critique." *Review of International Studies* 17.01 (1991): 6785.

Suggested:

- Robert Gilpin (1981), *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Robert Keohane (ed) (1986), *Neorealism and its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*.
- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*
- Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*, tr. and ed. by Harvey C. Mansfield, 2nd ed., (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1998).
- Stacie E. Goddard and Daniel H. Nexon, "The Dynamics of Global Power Politics: A Framework for Analysis," *Journal of Global Security Studies* 1, no. 1 (Feb. 2016): 4-18

Week 3 (Sep. 21): The Liberal Tradition

- Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review* 80, no. 04 (Dec. 1986): 1151–1169
- Peter J Katzenstein and Stephen D Krasner, "International Organization and the Study of World Politics," *International Organization* 52, no. 4 (1998): 645–685
- Robert O. Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes," *International Organization* 36, no. 2 (1982): 325–355
- Kenneth A. Oye, "Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies," *World Politics* 38, no. 1 (Oct. 1985): 1–24
- Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization* 51, no. 4 (1997): 513–553
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, "Sovereignty and Power in a Networked World Order," *Stanford Journal of International Law* 40 (2004): 283–328

Suggested:

- Slaughter, Anne-Marie. *A New World Order*. Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Keohane, Robert O. (1984). *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*
- Kenneth W. Abbott, Robert O. Keohane, Andrew Moravcsik, Anne-Marie Slaughter and Duncan Snidal, "The Concept of Legalization," *International Organization*, 54 (2000), pp. 401–19.
- Martha Finnemore and Stephen J. Toope, "Alternatives to 'Legalization': Richer Views of Law and Politics," *International Organization*, 55 (2001), pp. 743–58.
- Abram Chayes and Antonia Handler Chayes (1993), "On Compliance," *International Organization*, 47 (1993), pp. 175–205.
- Immanuel Kant, "Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in H. S. Reiss, Raymond Geuss, and Quentin Skinner, eds., *Kant's Political Writings*, (Cambridge University Press, [1795] 1991), pp. 93-130.

Week 4 (Sep. 28): The Constructivist Tradition

- Alexander Wendt, *Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics*, 1992, 391–425
- Adler, Emanuel (1997), “Seizing the Middle Ground: Constructivism in World Politics” *European Journal of International Relations*, 3(3): pp. 319-363.
- Jeffrey Checkel and Jeffrey T., “The Constructivist Turn in International Relations Theory,” *World Politics* 50, no. 2 (1998): 324–348
- Finnemore and Sikkink, *International Norm Dynamics*
- Tannenwald, *Nuclear Taboo*

Suggested:

- Adler, Emanuel and Michael Barnett (eds.) (1998). *Security Communities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Adler, Emanuel and Vincent Pouliot (eds.) (2011). *International Practices*, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ba, Alice (2009), *[Re]Negotiating East and Southeast Asia: Region, Regionalism, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Acharya, Amitav (2014), *Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia: ASEAN and the Problem of Regional Order*. London: Routledge.
- Zürn, Michael and Jeffrey T. Checkel (2005), “Getting Socialized to Build Bridges: Constructivism and Rationalism, Europe and the Nation-State” *International Organization* 59: pp. 1045-1079.
- Williams, Michael C. (2007), *Culture and Security: Symbolic Power and the Politics of National Security*. New York: Routledge.
- Rosenau, James N. (1986). “Before cooperation: Hegemons, regimes, and habit-driven actors in world politics.” *International Organization* 40(4): pp. 849–894.
- Pouliot, Vincent (2008), “The Logic of Practicality: A Theory of Practice of Security Communities” *International Organization* 62(2): pp. 257–288.
- Pouliot, Vincent (2010), *International Security in Practice: The Politics of NATO-Russia Diplomacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Ted Hopf (2002). *Social Construction of International Politics: Identities and Foreign Policies*, Moscow, 1955 and 1999. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.
- Peter J. Katzenstein, ed. (1996), *The Culture of National Security*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Mitzen, Jennifer (2006). "Ontological security in world politics: State identity and the security dilemma." *European Journal of international relations* 12.3: pp. 341-370.

Week 5 (Oct. 5): Critical, Feminist, and Howard School Approaches

- DuBois, "Worlds of Color"
- Tickner, J. Ann. "Hans Morgenthau's principles of political realism: A feminist re-formulation." *Millennium* 17.3 (1988): 429-440.
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- Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals," *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, Vol. 12 No. 4, (Summer 1987), pp. 687-718.
- Carpenter, Charli R. "'Women, Children and Other Vulnerable Groups': gender, strategic frames and the protection of civilians as a transnational issue." *International Studies Quarterly* 49.2 (2005)
- Nicholas Rengger and Ben Thirkell-White, "Still Critical After All These Years? The Past, Present and Future of Critical Theory in International Relations,"

Suggested:

- Hudson, Valerie M., et al. "The heart of the matter: The security of women and the security of states." *International Security* 33.3 (2009): 745
- Sjoberg, Laura (2016) "What, and Where, is Feminist Security Studies?" *Journal of Regional Security* 11(2): pp; 143-161.
- Enloe, Bananas, Beaches, and Bases
- R. B. J. Walker, *InsideOutside: International Relations as Political Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- James Der Derian and Michael Shapiro, eds., *International Intertextual Relations: Postmodern Readings of World Politics*, (Lexington Books, 1989).
- Elizabeth J. Wood, "Variation in Sexual Violence During War," *Politics & Society*, Vol. 34, No. 3, (2006), pp. 307-342

Week 6 (Oct. 12): Inter-State War

- Van Evera, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma"
- Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War"
- Erik Gartzke, "War is in the Error Term," *International Organization*, 53, 3 (Summer 1999), pp. 567-587.
- Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. *Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965*. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36: 309-341.
- Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. *Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes*. *American Journal of Political Science* 47: 427- 439.

Suggested:

- Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma"
- Achen, Christopher and Duncan Snidal. 1989. *Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies*. *World Politics* 41: 143-169.
- Huth, Paul and Bruce Russett. 1984. *What Makes Deterrence Work: Cases from 1900 to 1980*. *World Politics* 36: 496-526.
- Fearon, James D. 1994. *Signaling Versus the Balance of Power and Interests*. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38: 236-269.
- Reed, William. 2000. *A Unified Statistical Model of Conflict Onset and Escalation*. *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 84-93.
- Van Evera, Stephen. *Causes of War*. Cornell University Press, 2001
- Copeland, Dale. *The Origins of Major War*. Cornell University Press, 2000.

Week 7 (Oct. 19): Intra-State War

- Eckstein, "On the Etiology of Internal Conflict"
- P. Collier, "Greed and grievance in civil war," *Oxford Economic Papers* 56, no. 4 (June 2004): 563–595
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min, "Why do ethnic groups rebel?: New data and analysis," *World Politics* 62, no. 1 (Jan. 2010): 87–119
- Barbara F Walter, "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization* 51, no. 3 (July 1997): 335–364
- Eli Berman and Aila Matanock Review
- Staniland, *Armed Politics*

Suggested:

- Gurr, *Why Men Rebel*
- Horowitz, *Ethnic Groups in Conflict*
- James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 01 (Mar. 2003): 75
- Jeremy M. Weinstein, *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Halvard Buhaug, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, *Inequalities, Grievance, and Civil War* (New York: Cambridge University Press, Jan. 2013)

Week 8 (Oct. 26) : International Political Economy

- Gilpin, Politics of international economic relations
- Susan Strange, "International Economics and International Relations: A Case of Mutual Neglect," *International Affairs*, 46 (1970), pp. 304-315.
- John G. Ruggie, "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order,"
- Goldstein, Judith. "Ideas, institutions, and American trade policy." *International Organization* 42.01 (1988): 179-217.
- Margaret E. Peters. 2014. "Trade, Foreign Direct Investment, and Immigration Policy Making in the United States." *International Organization*. 68(4): 811-844.
- Emilie Hafner-Burton, "Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Arrangements Influence Government Repression," *International Organization*, 59, 3 (2005), pp. 593-629.

Week 9 (Nov. 2): Institutions and Global Governance (Glas)

- John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (1994/95): 5-93;
- Keohane and Martin Reply
- Wendt Reply
- Barnett, Michael N., and Martha Finnemore. "The politics, power, and pathologies of international organizations." *International organization* 53.4 (1999)
- Alastair Iain Johnston, "Treating International Institutions as Social Environments," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (2001): 487-515.
- Avant, Finnemore, and Sell, *Who Governs the Globe*, Ch. 1

Suggested:

- Robert O. Keohane, "International Institutions: Two Approaches," *International Studies Quarterly* 32 (December 1988), 379-396.
- Keohane, Robert O. (1984). *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Peter Katzenstein, Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner, "International Organization and the Study of World Politics," *International Organization*, 52 4 (Autumn 1998): 645-85.
- John Duffield, 'What are International Institutions?', *International Studies Review*, 9 (2007), pp. 1-22.
- Stephen D. Krasner, ed., *International Regimes*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983).
- Christian Reus-Smit, *The Moral Purpose of the State* (Princeton University Press, 1999).
- Christian Reus-Smit, "The Constitutional Structure of International Society and the Nature of Fundamental Institutions," *International Organization* 51/4 (Autumn 1997), 555-590.

Week 10 (Nov. 9): Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

- John R. Oneal and Bruce Russett, "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics* 52, no. 1 (1999): 1-37
- Layne, Kant or Can't, the Myth of the Democratic Peace
- Walt, Stephen M. 1992. Revolution and War. *World Politics* 44: 321-368.
- Putnam, Two-Level Game
- Fearon, James D. 1994. Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes. *American Political Science Review* 88: 577-592.
- Snyder and Borghard, The Cost of Empty Threats
- deMesquita et al, Testing Novel Hypotheses from the Selectorate Theory of War
- John R. Oneal and Bruce Russett, "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics* 52, no. 1 (1999): 1-37

Week 11 (Nov. 16): Cognition, Emotions, and Leadership

- Allison, Cuban Missile Crisis
- Jervis, Hypotheses on Misperception
- Saunders, Elizabeth. "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy." *International Security* 34, no. 2 (2009): 119–61.
- Levy, Jack S. "Prospect Theory, Rational Choice, and International Relations." *International Studies Quarterly* 41, no. 1 (1997): 87–112.
- Neta Crawford, *The Passion of World Politics*

Nov. 23: Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 12 (Nov. 30): Environment and Health

- Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons
- Dietz, Ostrom, and Stern, "The Struggle to Govern the Commons"
- Zurn, the Rise of International Environmental Politics
- Keohane and Victor, the Regime Complex for Climate Change
- Susan Peterson, "Epidemic Disease and National Security," *Security Studies*, 12 (2002), pp. 43–81.
- Caroline Thomas and Martin Weber, "The Politics of Global Health Governance: Whatever Happened to Health for All by the Year 2000?" *Global Governance*, 10 (2004), pp. 187–205.

Suggested:

- Thomas Homer-Dixon, *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999) or, Thomas Homer-Dixon (1994), "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict" *International Security* 19(1): 5-40.
- Steven Bernstein, "Ideas, Social Structure and the Compromise of Liberal Environmentalism," *European Journal of International Relations* 6/4 (December 2000), 464-512.
- Matthew J. Hoffmann (2011) *Climate Governance at the Crossroads: Experimenting with a Global Response After Kyoto*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Steven Bernstein, Michele Betsill, Matthew Hoffmann, Matthew Paterson (2010), "A Tale of Two Copenhagens: Carbon Markets and Climate Governance" *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 39 (1): 161-173.

Week 13 (Dec. 7): Non-State Actors in Global Politics

- Ronnie Lipschutz, "Reconstructing World Politics: The Emergence of Global Civil Society," *Millennium*, 21 3 (1992), pp. 389-420.
- Peter M. Haas, "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination," *International Organization*, 46 (1992), pp. 1-35.
- Keck and Sikkink, *Activists Without Borders*
- Carpenter *Setting the Advocacy Agenda*
- Stroup and Wong, *Agency and Authority International NGOs*
- Stephan and Chenoweth, *Why Civil Resistance Works*