INSTRUCTOR: Megan A. Stewart, mas436@georgetown.edu

OFFICE HOURS: 3:00-4:00 PM Monday and Thursday after class, and by appointment.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The ultimate aim of this course is to bring the theories of International Relations into dialogue with the events of the world, to apply, analyze and evaluate the former with the reality of the latter, and to broaden your understanding of both. In order to do so, the course has three major components.

First, the course provides an introduction to the major theories of international politics. We begin by asking what theories are and how they help us understand the world. Then, we will examine theories designed to answer the most important questions about international politics: What determines stability and change in international politics? Why do states go to war? What are the prospects for international cooperation? Are democratic states more peaceful than authoritarian regimes? What role do international institutions, such as the United Nations, play in managing international politics? How has globalization altered the nature of international politics and the international economy? What are emerging threats, and do these threats alter the international system, if at all?

Second, the class provides a basic history of major international events of the twentieth century. Not only is this history intrinsically important, but it is with this empirical foundation that we will begin to apply theories of international relations, evaluate them and analyze their utility in understanding international political phenomena. For this class, we will focus on World War I, the interwar period, World War II, the Cold War and the Second Gulf War.

Finally, this class will move evaluates the implications of theory and history for contemporary international politics by focusing on three aspects of the International Relations sub-field: International Law, International Political Economy and International Security. This class is not a current events class, but a primary objective is to provide students with the tools to analyze current events in a rigorous, theoretically-informed manner.
REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance
Attendance at all class lectures is required.

Readings
Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. The exams and review essay will require you to have a strong comprehension of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures.

Examinations
There will be an in-class midterm examination on Monday, July 20, and an in-class final examination on Thursday, August 6.

Essay Assignment
There will be one 1000 to 2500 word essay. The essay is due in hard copy at the beginning of class on Thursday, July 30. The essay will ask you to apply theories of international relations to contemporary international relations policy questions. More details on this assignment will be distributed in class.

Course Outline

Introduction and Key Concepts ................................. July 6-7
Theories of International Relations ............................. July 8-9, 13
Evaluating Contending Theories ................................. July 14-15
Midterm Review and Paper Assignment ......................... July 16
Midterm Examination ................................................. July 20
International Law ..................................................... July 21
International Political Economy ................................. July 22
Coercion ................................................................. July 23
International Security ............................................. July 27-July 30
Paper Due ............................................................... July 30
International Relations in the 21st Century ....................... August 3-4
Final Exam Review .................................................. August 5
Final Exam ............................................................. August 6
PROCEDURES:

Office Hours
I will hold office hours each week to discuss substantive questions about readings, lectures, exams, and papers. As a general rule of thumb, if you have a substantive question that probably requires more than one or two sentences to answer thoroughly, I recommend that you come to office hours, email me a time to meet or save the question for class. This will be better for everyone because it not only saves time, but I will also be able to sit with you and work through the material in a much more comprehensive way, and in a way that I know will be clear to you. Moreover, people in class probably will have the same questions, and if you ask the question in section, other people will benefit as well. If you have administrative or organizational questions, however, I encourage you to email me first.

Late Essays
Deadlines are strict. No extensions will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency or documented illness. Predictable events, such as a heavy workload or extracurricular activities, are not normally considered grounds for an extension. All appeals for extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Late papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day they are late.

Grading
Grades will be based on the absolute merit of your work, so there is no grading curve employed in this class. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Participation ................. 10%
- Midterm Examination ........ 25%
- Essay ............................ 30%
- Final Examination .......... 35%

Grading Disputes
You may email me about a grading concern after a 48-hour waiting period. You are entitled to a satisfactory explanation for why you received the grade you received. If you are not satisfied with the explanation provided by me, you may submit a written explanation for why you believe that your work was misgraded. The work will then be regraded by me with the understanding that I may ultimately issue a grade that is better, the same, or worse than the original grade.

Plagirism
Plagiarism or other acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. As defined by the Georgetown University Honor Council, plagiarism is “the act of passing off as one’s own the ideas or writings of another.”

Blackboard
A Blackboard site has been created for this class. You can access the site at [http://campus.georgetown.edu](http://campus.georgetown.edu). On the site, you will find announcements, the syllabus, pdf copies of the readings, lecture slides, and information about assignments.
READING ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to the books and articles below, you should read the international affairs section of a major national newspaper, such as the New York Times or the Washington Post, on a daily basis. You might also consider reading the Economist, which is generally considered the best weekly news magazine available. Lectures will often include references to contemporary events, so it is critical that you are aware of important developments in international affairs.

The following required text is available at the Georgetown University Bookstore:


All readings for this class are either located in the Art and Jervis volume or posted on Blackboard, noted with (Bb).

**Introduction and Key Concepts**

**July 6–What is International Relations?**


**July 7–The Anarchic World**

Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (A&J, pp. 33-51)

**Theories of International Relations**

**July 8–Realism and Neo-Realism**


Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory,“ *Journal of Interdisciplinary History,*


**July 9—Liberalism and the Democratic Peace**

Immanuel Kant. “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” (1795). (Bb).

Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” (A&J, pp. 98-110)


**July 13—Constructivism and Alternative Approaches**


Evaluating Contending Theories

July 14–World War I & World War II


Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” Address to the U.S. Congress, January 8, 1918. (Bb)


July 15–The Cold War & Second Gulf War


Kenneth M. Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 2 (March/April 2002), pp. 32-47. (Bb)


July 16–Midterm Review and Paper Assigned

July 20–Midterm Examination


Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (A&J, pp. 408-413)


**July 22—International Political Economy: The Economic System and Its Development**


**July 23—Coercion**


**International Security**

**July 27–Interstate War and Weapons of Mass Destruction**
James D. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War” (A&J, pp. 52-59)


Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 84, No. 3 (September 1990), pp. 731-745. (Bb)


**July 28–Intrastate War: Civil War and Insurgency**


***Read pages 74-82, 88-89.***


***Read pages 1-5, 11-16.***


***Read pages 598-608.***
July 29–International Actors and Domestic Conflict: Intervention, Reconstruction and Nation-Building

***Read pages 3-5, 25-31 and at least one country from pages 7-23.


Richard Betts, “The Delusion of Impartial Intervention,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 73, No. 6 (November-December 1994), pp. 20-33. (Bb)

***Read pages 49-58

Recommended: Frontline video “The Triumph of Evil”
See: www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/evil/


July 30–Non-State Actors in World Politics: Terrorism and Emerging Threats

Paper Assignment Due in Hard Copy at Beginning of Class


International Relations in the 21st Century

August 3–Post-Cold War International System


August 4–Conclusions and the Future of the International System
Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds, Executive Summary, pp. i-xiv. (Bb)


You will be assigned one of the following to read:

August 5–Final Exam Review

August 6–Final Examination