Overview

This course is designed to provide students with a basic framework for understanding the nature of contemporary international relations. The first part covers the intellectual traditions and classical theories used for examining the international system (realism, liberalism, radicalism, behavioralism). The second part looks at enduring issues in global security; globalization, the problem of war, terrorism and the emerging crises of environmental change and natural resource depletion. Throughout the course, we will take time to discuss the ethical dilemmas we confront when theory meets real world developments. Upon completion, students should be able to identify key concepts, actors, and issues in the modern interstate system and be prepared for advanced coursework in the field of international relations.

This class consists primarily of lecture with time set-aside for in-class discussion and other activities. In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to maintain awareness of major international developments by reading a domestic news source such as the Washington Post and a reputable foreign news source such as the BBC or Deutsche Welle on-line. Students are encouraged to invest in a decent world atlas in order to familiarize themselves with the location and geography of major global activities.

Class Requirements

- **Examinations:** There will be one final exam. The exam consists of short essay responses to questions designed for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject material presented throughout the course. The exam will be take-home so that you have opportunity to compose your thoughts more coherently without the pressures of an in-class exam. 25% of total grade.

- **Reflection Paper:** Each student will write a 2-3 page paper reflecting on one of the key introductory themes of the course. Due 2nd week of class. 15% of total grade.

- **Analytic Critique Paper:** Each student will write a 5-page critical analysis paper of a reserve article. The list of articles will be provided in class. Due 5th week of class. 20% of total grade.

- **Research Paper:** Each student will write an 8 page research paper that discusses a current topic in international relations within the context of the methodologies discussed in class. Due 12th week of class. 20% of total grade.

- **Film Review and Class Participation:** As a homework project, students will watch and be prepared to discuss in class one film that addresses an international relations theme. Film discussion, thoughtful contribution to the weekly class meetings that demonstrate knowledge of assigned readings, and participation in on-line Blackboard assignments if/when assigned will together constitute 20% of the total grade.
Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability who requires accommodations or if you think you may have a disability and want to inquire about accommodations, please contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 or arc@georgetown.edu.

Turnitin.com: Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers can be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Attendance: Per University policy, absence from the first class meeting and/or several unexplained absences or an accumulation of absences might result in failure of the course. Individual professors may reflect a student's absence in the final course grade or by requiring additional course assignments before assigning the final grade.

Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity: During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university’s Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your e-mail for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.

The university recently has acquired the capability to send text messages and recorded messages about emergencies to cell phones and other mobile devices. Sign up on MyAccess.

Georgetown Honor System: All students are expected to follow Georgetown's honor code unconditionally. We assume you have read the honor code material located at http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/honor-code, and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will all be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Plagiarism: In accord with university policy, all incidents of suspected plagiarism or other Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Council without fail. If the Honor Council finds that a student has plagiarized or has violated the Honor Code in any other way, the student will receive a grade of F for the course.

Policy Accommodating Students' Religious Observances: The following is university policy: Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes.
Grades: All work will be issued a letter grade. Letter grades correspond to the following numerical scale, which will be used to compute the final class grade.

Scale for computing individual assignment grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Numerical Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>91-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>61-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>60 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scale for computing final grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late/Incomplete Work: Papers are due on dates specified, at the start of class. Papers can be hand delivered in class, or e-mailed to me prior to the start of class. Late work will be marked down 1 letter grade per 24-hour period unless the student can document a valid medical emergency or family crisis. Such situations must be brought to my attention before the due date; you are free to contact me via phone or e-mail (above).

Classroom Courtesy: Out of respect for your fellow students (and your instructor), please turn off personal communication devices (cell phone, Blackberry, etc.) while class is in session. Students are welcome to bring laptop computers to class for note taking and class-related work. We typically take a short break halfway through the evening if you need to make calls.

Draft Reviews: I will gladly offer a free review and comment on rough drafts of any written assignments provided these are sent to me prior to 1 week of the due date.

Readings: The required text is available at the University bookstore and also at major on-line book retailers. It is also in the Laniuing Library general collection. All supplemental readings will be available via Blackboard or handed out by the instructor. Be sure you have the necessary network accounts to access and use the Blackboard system.

Required Texts


Learning Objectives

1. Explain the difference between empirical and normative analysis.
2. Explain the role of theory in understanding international relations.
3. Identify the root sources of international relations theory.
4. Explain and apply system, unit, and sub-unit levels of analysis.
5. Identify the features of classical realist and neo-realist theory.
6. Explain the meaning of anarchy in the interstate system.
7. Characterize the nature of the security dilemma in interstate affairs.
8. Identify elements in Enlightenment thought that produced liberalist theory.
9. Identify the primary features of radicalist and revisionist theory.
10. Discuss the role of the behavioral sciences in understanding state behavior.
11. Identify the traditional elements of state power.
12. Explain the reasons for war, as suggested by the major schools of theory.
13. Discuss international political economy as a potential IR theory.
14. Explain how the information technology revolution is changing state behavior.
15. Apply a school of international relations theory in a research project.
16. Identify the moral dilemmas in a theory-based approach to policy development.

Class Meetings

1. Class Introduction

Topics: Class Introduction: A Methodological Approach to the Study; Genesis of the Modern State System

- Snyder, Jack: “One World, Rival Theories”, Foreign Policy, Nov/Dec 2004, pg. 52. (optional)

2. Levels of Analysis [Reflection Paper Due]

Topics: The Levels of Analysis Problem; Classical Writers and the Levels of Analysis

- Text, Chapters 1-2.

3. Realism and Neo-Realism

Topics: Fundamentals of Classical Realism; Neo-Realism; The Balance of Power; Polarity

- Text, Chapter 3
- Morgenthau, Hans, “A Realist Theory of International Politics”.

4. Liberalism and Neo-liberalism

Topics: Fundamentals of Liberalism; Liberalism in Action; Institutionalism

- Text, Chapter 3.
• Kant, Immanuel, “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch.

• Wilson, Woodrow, “Address to the US Congress, 8 January 1918 (The Fourteen Points)”.


• Pacem In Terris, Papal encyclical, John XXIII (1963)

5. **Idealist and Radicalist Approaches [ANALYTIC PAPER DUE]**
Topics: Classical and Modern Approaches to Radicalism
- Text, Chapter 4.

6. **Actors: The State (RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE)**
Topics: The Changing Nature of the State  
Enduring Tensions Between Nation and State  
Measuring and Employing State Power
- Text, Chapter 5

7. **Behavioral Science and State Action**
Topics: Behavioral Science as a Window into State Behavior  
Rational Actor and Alternative Models  
Role of the Individual Decision Maker
- Text, Chapter 6.
- Jervis, Robert., “Hypothesis on Misperception”.

8. **The Problem of War (Part I)**
Topics: The Legacy and Future of Great Power Conflict  
Prospects for Moral War
- Text, Chapter 7


9. **The Problem of War (Part II)**

Topics: Terrorism and Asymmetric Warfare
Just War Theory

• Text, Chapter 8


10. **Global Political Economy [Be prepared to discuss the Bremmer book]**

Topics: Global Trade in Historical Perspective
What is Globalization Today?

• Text, Chapter 9-10 (excerpts)

• Ghemawat, Pankaj, "Why The World Isn't Flat", *Foreign Policy*, March/April 2007, p. 54-60.


11. **An Information Revolution**

Topics: Modern Telecommunications and the Nation-State
Arab Media Case Study.
Social Media and Political Change


• Govern, Kevin: "The Twitter Revolutions: Social Media in the Arab Spring", *Jurist.org*, October 2011


12. **Issues for a Globalized World [RESEARCH PAPER DUE]**

Topics: Environmental Concerns
Climate Change
Natural Resources

• Text, Chapter 14 (excerpts)

• Schmidt, Charles W., “The Kyoto Protocol: Just A Lot Of Hot Air?”, Environmental Health Perspectives, August 2000

13. Thanksgiving break

• Film assignment.

14. Summary Discussion and Review (FINAL EXAM HANDOUT)

• Text: Chapter 15
• Discuss the film and readings

15. FINAL EXAM DUE: Exam is due to me via e-mail.