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, June 20, and an in-class final examination on Thursday, July 7.

Essay Assignment
There will be one 1000 to 2500 word essay. The essay is due in hard copy at the beginning of class on Wednesday, June 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 .................................................. June 6-7
Theories of International Relations ............................................. June 8-9, 13
Evaluating Contending Theories .................................................. June 14-15
Midterm Review and Paper Assignment ....................................... July 16
Midterm Examination ............................................................. June 20
International Law ................................................................. June 21
International Political Economy .................................................. June 22
Coercion ............................................................................ June 23
International Security ............................................................. June 27-June 30
Paper Due ............................................................................. June 30
International Relations in the 21st Century ................................. July 5-6
Final Exam ................................................................. July 7
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.

Required book for purchase:

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

June 6—What is International Relations?
Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” Foreign Policy, No. 145 (November/December 2004), pp. 53-62. (Bb)

Alexander L. George, Bridging the Gap: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 1993), Chapter 1-2, pp. 3-29. (Bb)

June 7—The Anarchic World
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapters 13-15 (Bb)

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

Theories of International Relations

June 8—Realism and Neo-Realism


**June 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. 98-109)


**June 13–Constructivism and Alternative Approaches**


Evaluating Contending Theories

June 14–World War I & World War II


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

Gerhard L. Weinberg, A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994). Chapter 1: From One War to Another, pp. 6-47 (Bb)

June 15–The Cold War & Second Gulf War


John J. Mearsheimer, “Why We Will Miss the Cold War,” The Atlantic, No. 134 (August 1990), pp. 35-50. (Bb)

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


June 16–Midterm Review and Paper Assigned

June 20–Midterm Examination
June 21—International Law: Theory and Concepts


Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (A&J, pp. 408-412)


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


June 23—Coercion


International Security

June 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)


June 28–Intrastate War: Civil War and Insurgency


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

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

***Read pages 598-608.
June 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.


***Read pages 49-58

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


June 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

July 5–Post-Cold War International System


July 6–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:

July 7–Final Examination