SYLLABUS

Instructor: Shubha Kamala Prasad  
Email: skp42@georgetown.edu  
Class location: ICC 102  
Class days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
Class time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Office Hours and Location: TBD

Course Description and Objectives:

This course has three objectives. First, the course provides an introduction to the major theories of international politics. We begin by asking what IR theories are and how they help us understand the world. We compare and contrast each theoretical approach’s relative strengths and weaknesses.

Second, the class provides a basic history of major international events of the twentieth century. In particular, we review the history of World War I, World War II, and the Cold War in order to test the validity of different theoretical approaches to international politics.

Finally, this class evaluates the implications of theory and history for contemporary international issues. 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. We will examine theories and conceptual frames such that students will be better able to understand, explain, and develop practical approaches to crucial questions about war, peace, cooperation, global trade, economic development, human rights, environmental change, gender and war, nuclear weapons, and the rise of China.

Assessment:

Everyone enrolled in this course will be evaluated on the basis of their in-class participation. As a result, attendance is required with exceptions for emergencies and health-related concerns.

A mid-term examination evaluating your grasp of the theories taught in the first two parts of the course will be administered at the end of Week 3.

The final graded assignment will be a 1,000 word essay due on the last day of the course. The essay will ask you to apply theories of international relations to understand contemporary international relations policy questions. More details on this assignment will be distributed in class.

For resources on how to write academic papers, see:  
https://writingcenter.unc.edu/tips-and-tools/  
http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/general/general-advice/  
https://writingcenter.georgetown.edu/
Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Deadlines:
In-class participation will be continuously evaluated.

Mid-term exam: July 25 (in-class)

Final Paper: August 8 (to be submitted in class)

Procedures:

Attendance
Attendance is required with exceptions for health-related concerns or emergencies. Exceptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Readings
Required readings should be completed before the class for which they are assigned. Classes will be discussion oriented on the basis of the readings for the day, so having a good grasp of the material is important.

Office Hours
I will hold office hours each week to discuss substantive questions about readings, lectures, exams, and papers. The timings and location are in the syllabus.

Late Assignments
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 that they are late.

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

Plagiarism
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.” Action will be taken against cases of plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. Please only submit original work.
Canvas
A Canvas site has been created for this class. You can access the site at http://canvas.georgetown.edu/. On the site, you will find announcements, the syllabus, PDF copies of the readings, lecture slides, and information about assignments.

Course Outline:

Week 1 (July 8-11)
Part 1 - Theories of International Relations: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation
July 8: Introduction and Classical Realism
July 9: Neorealism and Anarchy
July 10: Classical Liberalism and Democratic Peace
July 11: Neoliberalism and Interdependence

Week 2 (July 15-18)
July 15: Constructivism: Ideas and Norms
Part 2 - Beyond the Big 3: More Theories of International Relations
July 16: The English School and the Society of States
July 17: Critical IR: Deconstructing the Structures
July 18: Gender and IR

Week 3 (July 22-25)
July 22: Copenhagen School and Securitization
July 23: Marxism and Hegemony
July 24: Theories of Foreign Policy: Bureaucratic, Organizational, and Psychological Approaches
July 25: Mid-term Exam

Week 4 (July 29-August 1)
Part 3 - International History
July 29: World War I & World War II
July 30: Cold War
Part 4 - International Political Economy
July 31: The International Economic System
August 1: Globalization and Development

Week 5 (August 5-8)
Part 5 - Global Governance
August 5: International Law and Human Rights
August 6: International Environmental Politics
August 7: WMD and Nuclear Proliferation
August 8: Conclusion (Final Papers are due in class)
Readings

In addition to the books and articles below, you should read the international affairs section of any major national newspaper, such as the *New York Times* or the *Washington Post*, on a daily basis. You might also consider reading policy analysis in publications like the *Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Foreign Policy*. You should also try reading one major article from the front page or international affairs section of a leading newspaper/magazine of another country before every class. I’ve put together a preliminary list of international news sources available in English for you (see below). Feel free to explore more on your own (especially non-English language sources based on your language skills). The GU Library has resources for accessing newspaper databases for historical archives. Classes will often include references to contemporary events, so it is critical that you are aware of important current developments in the world.

**International media sources:**

| Al Jazeera | Mexico News Daily |
| BBC | Russia Today |
| Buenos Aires Times | The China Post |
| CBC | The Japan Times |
| Daily News Egypt | The Manila Times |
| Daily Nation | The Moscow Times |
| Dawn | The Rio Times |
| Der Spiegel | The Seoul Times |
| Global Times | The Straits Times |
| Le Monde | Turkish Policy Quarterly |
| Mail and Guardian | Vanguard News |
| The Hindu | Xinhua |
| The Jakarta Post | |

**Book:**


**Articles:**

All the articles that are listed below will be available online on Canvas.

**Week 1 (July 8-11)**

**Part 1 - Theories of International Relations: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation**

**July 8**  
**Introduction and Classical Realism**


July 9  Neorealist and Anarchy

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


July 10  Classical Liberalism and Democratic Peace

Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs” (A&J, pp. 98-109)


July 11  Neoliberalism and Interdependence


Week 2 (July 15-18)

July 15  Constructivism: Ideas and Norms

Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” (A&J, pp. 59-66)

Ian Hurd, “Legitimacy in International Politics” (A&J, pp. 12-14)

Part 2 - Beyond the Big 3: More Theories of International Relations

July 16  The English School and the Society of States


July 17  Critical IR: Deconstructing the Structures
GOVT 060: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS


**July 18**

**Gender and IR**


**Week 3 (July 22-25)**

**July 22**

**Copenhagen School and Securitization**


**July 23**

**Marxism and Hegemony**


**July 24**

**Theories of Foreign Policy: Bureaucratic, Organizational, and Psychological Approaches**


**July 25**

**Mid-term Exam**

**Week 4 (July 29-August 1)**

**Part 3 - International History**
July 29

**World War I & World War II**


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

July 30

**Cold War**


*Part 4 - International Political Economy*

July 31

**The International Economic System**


August 1

**Globalization and Development**

Jeffrey Frankel, “Globalization of the Economy” (A&J, pp. 242-255)

Pankaj Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat” (A&J, pp. 256-260)


*Week 5 (August 5-8)*

*Part 5 - Global Governance*

August 5

**International Law and Human Rights**


August 6  
**International Environmental Politics**


Alan Dupont, “Strategic Implications of Climate Change” (A&J, pp. 459-466)

August 7  
**WMD and Nuclear Proliferation**

Matthew Kroenig, “Think Again: American Nuclear Disarmament,” *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2013)


August 8  
**Conclusion: Simulation Exercise (Final Papers are due)**

Simulation Exercise – Students will be asked to react to a hypothetical international situation. The outcome of the exercise will then be assessed by the entire class based on the IR theories learnt during the course.