INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
GOVT-060

Summer 2020
Monday-Thursday, 3:15-5:15pm
Intercultural Center 118

Professor: Matthew Kroenig
Office: ICC 656
E-mail: mhk32@georgetown.edu
Office Hours: M-Th, after class

Course Objectives
This course has three objectives. 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: 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?

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, the interwar period, World War II, and the Cold War. Not only is this history intrinsically important, but it also provides empirical evidence with which to evaluate the validity of different theoretical approaches to international politics.

Finally, this class evaluates the implications of theory and history for contemporary international politics. 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 **July 21** and an in-class final examination on **August 6**.

**Procedures**

**Office Hours**
The professor will hold office hours after class each day.

**Grading**
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- **Midterm Examination**: 40%
- **Paper**: 40%
- **Participation (Section)**: 20%

**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.”

**Canvas**
A Canvas site has been created for this class. 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 texts are available online or at the Georgetown University Bookstore:


Course Schedule

Introduction

July 6 Introduction and the Theory and Practice of International Relations
   Chapter 1: The Two Cultures of Academia and Policymaking, pp. 3-18
   Chapter 2: The Role of Knowledge in Policymaking, pp. 19-29

Theories of International Relations: Explaining Conflict and Cooperation

July 7 Setting the Stage: Actors and Anarchy
Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (A&J, pp. 33-51)


July 8 Realism


July 9 Liberalism


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

July 13 Constructivism and Bureaucratic Politics


Evaluating Contending Theories

July 14 World War I
   Chapter 1: The Destruction of Peace, pp. 3-35
**July 15  World War II**
Woodrow Wilson, “The Fourteen Points,” Address to the U.S. Congress, January 8, 1918.

Chapter 1: From One War to Another, pp. 6-47

**July 16  The Cold War**


**July 20  The Second Gulf War**
Kenneth M. Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 2 (March/April 2002), pp. 32-47. (Bb)


**July 21  Midterm Exam**

*International Security*

**July 22  The Use of Military Force**


**July 23  Nuclear Weapons**
Matthew Kroenig, “Think Again: American Nuclear Disarmament,” *Foreign Policy* (September/October 2013)

**July 27  Great Power Competition**

**July 28  Terrorism**

Barack Obama, “Dealing with the Current Terrorist Threat” (A&J, pp. 319-327)
**International Political Economy**

**July 29**  
**The International Economic System**  


**Transnational Issues**

**July 30**  
**International Environmental Politics**  
Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (A&J, pp. 408-412)

David G. Victor et al, “The Climate Threat We Can Beat” (A&J, pp. 413-418)

**Aug. 3**  
**Ethics and International Politics**  


**American Foreign Policy**

**Aug. 4**  
**American Foreign Policy and the U.S.-Led Order**  

**The Future of International Politics**

**Aug. 5**  
**Conclusion: The Future of International Politics**  

**Aug. 6**  
**Final Exam**