

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GOVT-060-20

***Summer 2021
Monday-Thursday, 3:15-5:15pm***

Professor: Matthew Kroenig
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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 26** and an in-class final examination on **August 12**.

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 below required texts are available online or at the Georgetown University Bookstore. Other required reading is available on the course's Canvas site and are marked with a (C).

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 12th Edition (New York: Prentice Hall, 2015)

Matthew Kroenig, *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the US and China* (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Course Schedule

Introduction

- July 12 Introduction and the Theory and Practice of International Relations**
Alexander L. George, *Bridging the Gap: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 1993) C
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 13 Setting the Stage: Actors and Anarchy**
Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics" (A&J, pp. 33-51)

Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue" in *History of the Peloponnesian War* (A&J, pp. 7-11)

- July 14 Realism**
Hans J. Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism" (A&J, pp. 15-20)

Stephen M. Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," (A&J, pp. 110-116)

- July 15 Liberalism**
Robert O. Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work" (A&J, pp. 134-140)

Kenneth A. Oye, "The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics" (A&J, pp. 67-78)

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

- July 19 Constructivism and Bureaucratic Politics**
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)

Evaluating Contending Theories

- July 20 World War I**
David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy* (New York: Basic Books, 2004) C
Chapter 1: The Destruction of Peace, pp. 3-35

July 21 World War II

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

Gerhard L. Weinberg, *A World at Arms: A Global History of World War II* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994). C

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

July 22 The Cold War

George F. Kennan, "The Long Telegram," February 22, 1946. C

John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System," *International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (Spring 1986), pp. 99-142. C

July 20 The Second Gulf War

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

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy*, No. 134 (January/February 2003), pp. 51-59. C

July 26 Midterm Exam

International Security

July 27 The Use of Military Force

Robert J. Art, "The Four Functions of Force" (A&J, pp. 145-151)

Thomas C. Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence" (A&J, pp. 152-163)

July 28 Nuclear Weapons

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

July 29 Great Power Competition

Matthew Kroenig, *The Return of Great Power Rivalry* (entire book)

Aug 2 Terrorism

Bruce Hoffman, "What Is Terrorism?" (A&J, pp. 164-173)

Barack Obama, "Dealing with the Current Terrorist Threat" (A&J, pp. 319-327)

International Political Economy

Aug 3 The International Economic System

Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," (A&J, pp. 212-226)

Helen Milner, "International Political Economy: Beyond Hegemonic Stability," *Foreign Policy*, No. 110 (Spring 1998), pp. C

Transnational Issues

Aug 4 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 5 Ethics and International Politics

Rhoda E. Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics" (A&J, pp.362-372)

Michael Walzer, "The Triumph of Just War Theory (and the Dangers of Success)," *Social Research*, Vol. 69, No. 4 (Winter 2002), pp. 925-944. C

American Foreign Policy

Aug 9 American Foreign Policy and the U.S.-Led Order

Ash Jain and Matthew Kroenig, *Present at the Re-Creation: A Global Strategy for Revitalizing, Adapting, and Defending a Rules-Based International System*, Atlantic Council Strategy Paper, Atlantic Council, Washington DC, October 2019. C

The Future of International Politics

Aug 10 Special Guest Lecture

Aug 11 Conclusion: The Future of International Politics

Matthew Burrows, *What World Post-COVID-19? Three Scenarios*, Atlantic Council Strategy Paper, Atlantic Council, Washington DC, July 2020. C

Aug 12 Final Exam