Introduction to International Relations
GOVT-060-20

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

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 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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (Section)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**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).


Course Schedule

Introduction

July 12  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 13  Setting the Stage: Actors and Anarchy
Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics” (A&J, pp. 33-51)


July 14  Realism


July 15  Liberalism


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

July 19  Constructivism and Bureaucratic Politics


Evaluating Contending Theories

July 20  World War I
   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

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

July 22  The Cold War  


July 20  The Second Gulf War  


July 26  Midterm Exam

*International Security*

July 27  The Use of Military Force  


July 28  Nuclear Weapons  

July 29  Great Power Competition  

Aug 2  Terrorism  

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

Aug 3  **The International Economic System**  


**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**  


**American Foreign Policy**

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

**The Future of International Politics**

Aug 10  **Special Guest Lecture**

Aug 11  **Conclusion: The Future of International Politics**  

Aug 12  **Final Exam**