

PL SC 418: International Relations Theory

Spring 2017

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:05pm to 1:05pm OR by appointment.

Course Goals and Overview

This course offers a survey of traditional and contemporary conceptual frameworks and theoretical approaches for the analysis of international relations. The principal aims of the course are: (a) to familiarize students with theories and conceptual tools used to analyse world politics, and (b) to explore how different theories and conceptual tools speak to contemporary debates and events. It is NOT a course describing current events in world politics, but one that enables students to see these events from an analytical angle and form their own understanding of world politics. This course has NO particular regional focus. The course is organized into three parts: the first part introduces students to basic concepts of social science research as well as basic paradigms of international relations theories such as realism, liberalism, constructivism, and dependency theory. We then move on to specific topics of international security and conflict studies including inter- and intra-state conflicts, terrorism, and state failure. In the final weeks of the course, we will study international political economy, covering diverse topics such as the controversies of globalization, politics of environment, sustainability, and development.

Assignments

Exam 1: 25% (Tuesday of Week 6)

Exam 2: 25% (Tuesday of Week 11)

Final Exam: 30% (cumulative; during finals week)

- All exams consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.
- The first two exams will cover just the preceding section of material.
- The final exam will be **cumulative**.

Participation: 20%

- Your active involvement in class discussion is required: this means first showing up in class; and second contributing to the discussion.

Grading and Class Policies

I will give extensions on midterms only in very extreme circumstances. You **MUST** have an extension approved by me **BEFORE** the exam. If you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 on it. Grades will be determined by a strict percentage. The grading scale is as follows:

A: 94 – 100; A-: 90 – 93; B+: 87 – 89; B: 83 – 86; B-: 80 – 82; C+: 76 – 79; C: 70 – 75; D: 60 – 69; F: below 60.

Plagiarism

An unpleasant topic that we need to discuss is plagiarism. If you don't know what plagiarism is, check with your advisor. Basically, though, plagiarism is taking credit for someone else's work. Examples of plagiarism include turning in a paper written by someone else, or using parts of a book or article without acknowledging the source. I join the University in taking plagiarism very seriously. If I catch someone plagiarizing, I will give that person a 0 on the assignment, and will consider giving you an automatic F for the course, as well as bringing you up on academic charges. It is not hard to avoid plagiarizing -- if you use a quote from someone, acknowledge it in a footnote; if you paraphrase or summarize an argument, cite the source where you got the idea; if you use facts and figures from some source and they are not common knowledge, note the source of your information. Similarly, cheating will get you a 0 on a test.

Special Circumstances

The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. Penn State also encourages students to participate in athletic and other extra-curricular events. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible. I will do my best to make special arrangements for students with any special

needs or conflicts as far as course lectures or test-taking circumstances are required. However, if you anticipate a particular requirement, let me know **as soon as possible**. I will always accommodate legitimate needs, but I am unlikely to accommodate last minute requests. Special circumstances include disabilities and any scheduled activities that you have that conflict with this class, including academic or athletic competitions. **If you do not notify me of special circumstances early on, I am under no obligation to give you a make-up exam or assignment extension.**

Academic Dishonesty

- The Department of Political Science, along with the College of the Liberal Arts and the University, takes violations of academic dishonesty seriously. Observing basic honesty in one's work, words, ideas, and actions is a principle to which all members of the community are required to subscribe. All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. Students uncertain about proper citation are responsible for checking with their instructor.
- In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in-class or take-home, violations of academic integrity shall consist but are not limited to any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not.
- Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity.
- In cases of any violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Political Science to follow procedures established by the College of the Liberal Arts. More information on academic integrity and procedures followed for violation can be found at: http://www.la.psu.edu/CLA-Academic_Integrity/integrity.shtml.
- Note to students with disabilities: Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services. For further information regarding policies, rights and responsibilities please visit the Office for Disability Services (ODS) Web site at: www.equity.psu.edu/ods/. Instructors should be notified as early in the semester as possible regarding the need for reasonable accommodations.

Readings

I expect you to read everything listed on the syllabus **before** class. The lectures will often not duplicate the reading. Instead, the lectures will present other viewpoints, relate ideas to the rest of the course, and clarify tricky concepts. The reading load is not light, but neither is it too heavy.

There are a few readings followed by ** in the course outline below: they are recommended but not required. All readings are in PDF, placed on reserve in ANGEL.

There is **NO** textbook required. However, there is a PDF version of a textbook "Mingst and Snyder: Essential Readings in World Politics, 2nd edition" (ER, henceforth) placed in ANGEL: we are going to read a few chapters from this book.

Course Outline (note: all dates/readings are subject to change):

I. Think as a Social Scientist and Know some Basic IR Theories

[Week 1]: course policies; how to read a social science article/book? Basic elements of research design.

Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, chapter 3: "Elements of Research."

Krasner. 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." World Politics 28(2): 317-347.

[Week 2]: IR, basic paradigms and levels of analysis.

Walt. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," in Mingst and Snyder: Essential Readings in World Politics, 2nd edition (ER, henceforth): 4-11.

Snyder. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories," Foreign Policy, Nov/Dec, 04.

Morgenthau. 1948. "A Realist Theory of International Politics," in ER: 49-54.

Morgenthau. 1967. "The Balance of Power," ER: 124-129.

[Week 3]: realism and power politics.

Waltz. 1979. Selected sections from *Theories of International Politics*.
Mearsheimer. 2001. "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," ER: 54-72.
Krasner. 2001. "Sovereignty," ER: 143-149.

[Week 4]: neo-liberalism: domestic politics, international institutions, and the possibility of cooperation.

Doyle. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics," ER: 73-86.
Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: cooperation and discord in the world political economy*. Read chapter 4-5.

[Week 5]: neo-liberalism and the role of international institutions.

Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: cooperation and discord in the world political economy*. Read chapter 6.
Mearsheimer. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions," in ER: 283-296.
Glennon vs. Luck, Slaughter, & Hurd. 2003. "Why the Security Council Failed" and Responses, in ER: 208-222.

[Week 6]: constructivism and dependency theory.

Frank. 1966. "The Development of Underdevelopment," in ER: 86-94.
Finnemore. 1996. "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," in ER: 102-118.

II. International Security and Conflict Studies.

[Week 7]: different explanations for interstate wars.

Schelling. 1966. "Diplomacy of Violence," in ER: 301-308.
Sagan and Waltz. 2003. "Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For Better or Worse?" in ER: 322-341.
Russett. 1994. "Why Democratic Peace," in *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, online book from the library. (Search book name "Grasping the Democratic Peace".)
Economist. 1995. "Democracies and War: the Politics of Peace."

[Week 8]: Terrorism, civil wars, failed states, and nation-building.

Cronin. 2002/3. "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism," in ER: 367-381.
Pape. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," in ER: 382-401.
Collier. 2003. "The Market for Civil War." *Foreign Policy*, May 2003.
Collier and Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56(4): 563-595.

Spring Break

[Week 9]: the future of the world: the end of history vs. the clash of civilizations.

Fukuyama. 1989. "The End of History?" Summer 1989, in *The National Interest*.
Huntington. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" Summer 1993, in *Foreign Affairs*.
Said. 2001. "The Clash of Ignorance," in ER: 170-173.
Sen. 1998. "Universal Truths: Human Rights and the Western Illusion," in ER: 477-480.

III. International Political Economy.

[Week 10]: IPE/CPE theory overview; the roles of actors and institutions.

Milner. 2005. "Globalization, Development, and International Institutions: Normative and Positive Perspectives." *Perspectives on Politics* 3(4): 833-54.
North. 1993. "Economic Performance through Time," Nobel prize lecture, at http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economics/laureates/1993/north-lecture.html
Caporaso. 1993. "Global Political Economy." In *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*, vol. 2, edited by Ada W. Finifter: 451-481. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association.**

[Week 11]: controversies about this wave of Globalization, multinational corporations; the role of flowing money; and rising inequality.

Reich. 1990. "Who Is US?" Harvard business review 90 (1): 53-64.
Krugman. 1994. "Competitiveness: A Dangerous Obsession." Foreign Affairs, March/April: 28-44.
Scott. 2001. "The Great Divide in the Global Village." Foreign Affairs, January/February: 160-177.
Goodman and Pauly. 1993. "The Obsolescence of Capital Controls?" World Politics 46(1):52-80.**
Leamer. 2007. "A Flat World, A Level Playing Field, a Small World After All, or None of the Above?"
Journal of Economic Literature, March: 83-126.**

[Week 12-13]: free trade: good or bad? Distributional effect of trade and what affect trade policies.

Milner. 1999. "The political economy of international trade." Annual Review of Political Science 2:91-114.
Rogowski. 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade," American Political Science
Review, 81(4): 1121-1137.
Goldstein. 1988. "Ideas, Institutions, and American Trade Policy." International Organization 42(1): 179-
217.**

[Week 14]: environment, sustainability, and development.

Jaffe et al. 1995. "Environmental Regulation and the Competitiveness of U.S. Manufacturing: What Does
the Evidence Tell Us?" Journal of Economic Literature, Vol. 33, No. 1: 132-163.
Andonova et al. 2007. "International Trade and Environmental Policy in the Postcommunist World."
Comparative Political Studies 40(7):782- 807.**

[Week 15]: more on development.

Goldsmith. 2001. "Foreign aid and statehood in Africa." International Organization 55(1):123-148.
Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson. 2002. "Reversal of Fortune: Geography and Institutions in the Making
of the Modern World Income Distribution." The Quarterly journal of economics, 117(4): 1231-1294.