

PO 530 International Relations

Ursula E. Daxecker
Office: Clark 366 A
Office Hours: W 1-3, F 10-11
Phone: 491-6424
Email: ursula.daxecker@colostate.edu

Fall 2011
Clark C 347
M 6-8:50pm

Course Information:

This class introduces students to the field of international relations, with an emphasis on contending theoretical perspectives and key empirical findings. Its purpose is to introduce and evaluate the theories and methods used in the study of international relations, to identify interesting and important questions in the field, and to think about the ways in which research can be designed to address these questions. The material includes classics in the field as well as more recent research that illustrates ongoing areas of inquiry. The course seeks to establish a foundation for more advanced study, research, and understanding of the field of international relations and prepares students to participate in the scholarly discourse on international relations.

Required Texts:

Campbell, David. 1998. *Writing Security: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 978-0816631445.

Katzenstein, Peter (ed.). 1996. *The Culture of National Security*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. ISBN: 978-0231104692.

Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0-691-12248-9.

Keohane, Robert O. (ed.). 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. ISBN: 978-0231063494.

Lake, David A. and Robert Powell (eds.). 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0-691-02697-8.

Spruyt, Hendrik. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0691029108.

Additional readings can be located by using the library's electronic journal databases (<http://lib.colostate.edu/databases/>) or Google Scholar (click "findit@CSU"). Readings not available electronically will be posted on RamCT.

Optional Texts:

Baldwin, David A (ed.). 1993. *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. ISBN: 0-231-08440-2.

Dougherty, James E. and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr. 2001. *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Survey, 5th ed.* New York, NY: Longman. ISBN: 0-321-04831-8.

Viotti, Paul R. and Mark V. Kauppi. 2011. *International Relations Theory*, 5th ed. New York, NY: Pearson Longman. ISBN: 978-0-205-08293-3.

Weber, Cynthia. 2010. *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction*, 3rd ed. New York, NY: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-77842-8.

Course Requirements:

(1) Short Papers (40%)

Each student is expected to write 4 short papers (5-6 pages in length, double spaced, and no smaller than 10pt. font) EVALUATING the relevant readings. Students should identify central themes of the readings and situate the individual readings accordingly, highlighting similarities and differences among the readings and evaluating authors' arguments and, if applicable, methods used to test the arguments. Students are free to choose which weeks they will turn in their short papers. The essays are due at the beginning of class on **Monday at 6:00 pm**. Short papers received after class meets will receive a grade of zero. These papers must be thoughtful and critical of the research you have read, and should not just summarize the material. Papers count for a substantial portion of your grade, so be sure to spend significant time on each one. Consider the following questions when evaluating the readings:

What is the substantive question that the researcher seeks to answer?

What is the theory/conceptualization presented by the researcher? What assumptions underlie this theory? Is a model explicated? Are the model and theory consistent?

If a model is tested, how is it tested? (What methods are used?) Is the test reasonable? What evidence is used to support or disconfirm the model? Is this evidence compelling? If there are problems, identify them.

What conclusions are reached by the researcher? Does the researcher fully examine the implications of this theory? Does the researcher answer the question(s) addressed?

Do you consider this a good example of research? Why or why not? What are the possibilities for related research? How can the research be extended or applied elsewhere?

(2) Discussion Leader (10%)

Each student will lead discussion at least one time during the semester. These presentations are meant to help focus the class discussion on important aspects of the week's readings.

(3) Class Participation and Attendance (20%)

This course is a seminar, not a lecture series. It is your responsibility, as well as mine, to come to class prepared to discuss the information and claims found in the readings and explore related research possibilities. I expect no absences in the course, and I encourage you to discuss any circumstances with me that will preclude you from attending class. I also expect you to arrive on time. If you do need to miss class, please contact me ahead of time to let me know that you will not be able to attend and to make arrangements to complete an alternate assignment. A large portion of my overall evaluation of your performance in the course will depend on the quality of your seminar participation.

To facilitate class discussion and to help plan areas for the class to focus on, each student will submit two or more questions based on the assigned readings on RamCT by **12:00 pm on the day of class**. I hope that these questions improve understanding of the material and inspire discussion. Questions can

be related to a single reading, a set of readings, or the week's selections as a whole. You may also include questions of clarification if there are areas in the reading that you find difficult to understand. However, keep in mind that I will evaluate the quality of your questions as a portion of your attendance and participation. So put some thought into these questions and be prepared to have your question presented/asked in front of the entire class. Given the size of the class, and the amount of material covered, not everybody gets an opportunity to ask every question they have. Consider this your opportunity to get your questions on record. Also, if you do not turn in questions, your participation grade for that week will be no higher than a B regardless of how much you participate in discussion.

Keep in mind that the purpose of the seminar is to engage in informed group discussion: we are not interested in uninformed opinion. This means that students should closely and critically read each book or article on the reading list, and spend time thinking about what each contributes to the topic that week and to conflict studies in general. Class discussion will focus on such issues as the theoretical arguments being made (both explicitly and implicitly), the empirical evidence that is marshaled to test these arguments, weaknesses of the work, and potential directions for future study. Finally, because we will engage in vigorous academic debate during class, classroom etiquette is vital. Please work to ensure that you make comments in ways that *invite* discussion. Our classroom contains members with various life experiences, divergent perspectives, varying levels of experience with political science research, and different strategies for defending their views. Please state your opinions constructively and respectfully, listen carefully when your colleagues are speaking, and speak to me if you are offended by something that is said in class. If you do not follow these guidelines, your participation grade will be adversely affected.

(4) A 24-hour take-home exam (30%)

The exam is modeled on the PhD comprehensive exam and will include three questions. You will answer two questions that test your knowledge of the theoretical approaches and contemporary debates covered over the course of the semester. For the third question, you will choose an IR journal and analyze its content for the past decade. In your answer, you should identify the substantive issues, theories, and methodologies addressed in the journal and assess how they reflect on topics covered in the course. You will have 24 hours to complete the exam upon receipt. Answers must be emailed to me in MSWord format. The final exam will be emailed to students on **a date to be announced** and must be completed within 24 hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

August 22: Introduction, Course Overview

August 29: Conceptualization, International Relations Theory

Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." *World Politics* 14(1): 77-92.

The Classical Debate

Bull, Hedley. 1966. "International Theory: The Case for the Classical Approach." *World Politics* 18: 361-377.

Singer, J. David. 1969. "The Incomplete Theorist: Insight Without Evidence." In Klaus Knorr and James Rosenau, eds., *Contending Approaches to International Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 62-86. [Available on RamCT]

The Scientific Approach

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. "Towards a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly* 29: 121-136.

Dessler, David. 1991. "Beyond Correlations: Towards a Causal Theory of War." *International Studies Quarterly* 35: 337-355.

September 5: LABOR DAY

September 12: Classical Realism

Hobbes, Thomas. 1909. "Relations Among Sovereigns." In Phil Williams, Donald M. Goldstein, and Jay M. Shafritz (eds.), *Classical Readings of International Relations*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing, pp. 28-30. [Available on RamCT]

Carr, Edward H. 1964 [1939]. "Realism and Idealism." In Richard K. Betts (ed.) *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on the Causes of War and Peace*. New York, NY: Pearson, pp. 70-87. [Available on RamCT]

Morgenthau, Hans J. 1967. *Politics Among Nations*. New York, NY: Knopf. (Chapters 1-3) [Available on RamCT]

Jervis, Robert. 1998. "Realism in the Study of World Politics." *International Organization* 52(4): 971-991.

Keohane, Robert O. (ed.). 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Gilpin, chapter 10)

September 19: Neorealism and Beyond

Keohane, Robert O. (ed.). 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Waltz, chapters 2-5).

Brooks, Stephen G. 1997. "Dueling Realisms." *International Organization* 51(3): 445-477.

Schroeder, Paul. 1994. "Historical Reality vs. Neorealist Theory." *International Security* 19(1): 108-148.

September 26: Liberalism I: International Institutions

Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (Chapters 1-6).

Axelrod, Robert and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy." *World Politics* 38(1): 226-254.

Powell, Robert. 1991. "Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory." *American Political Science Review* 85(4): 1303-1319.

Grieco, Joseph. 1988. "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism." *International Organization* 42(3): 485-508.

Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.

October 3: Liberalism II: Domestic Society and Institutions

Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1151-1169.

Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics." *International Organization* 51(4): 513-553.

Owen, John. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19: 87-125.

Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 1999. "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992." *World Politics* 52(1): 1-37.

Mousseau, Michael. 2000. "Market Prosperity, Democratic Consolidation, and Democratic Peace." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(4): 472-507.

October 10: English School

Bull, Hedley. 1977. *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in International Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Chapters 1-4) [Available on RamCT]

Buzan, Barry. 1993. "From International System to International Society: Structural Realism and Regime Theory Meet in the English School." *International Organization* 47: 327-352.

Dunne, Tim. 2003. "Society and Hierarchy in International Relations." *International Relations* 17: 303-321.

October 17: Constructivism

Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It." *International Organization* 46: 391-425.

Katzenstein, Peter (ed.). 1996. *The Culture of National Security*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Chapters 1-2, 4-5, 9)

October 24: Feminist Theories

Tickner, J. Ann. 2001. *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in World Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Chapters 1&2) [Available on RamCT]

Cohn, Carol. 1987. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 12(4): 687-718.

Carpenter, R. Charli. 2003. "'Women and Children First': Gender, Norms, and Humanitarian Evacuation in the Balkans 1991-1995." *International Organization* 57: 661-694.

Zalewski, Marysia. 1995. "Well, What Is the Feminist Perspective on Bosnia?" *International Affairs* 71(2): 339-356.

October 31: Critical Theory

Campbell, David. 1998. *Writing Security*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. (entire).

Booth, Ken. 1991. "Security and Emancipation." *Review of International Studies* 17(4): 313-326.

Keohane, Robert O. (ed.). 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (Cox, chapter 8, Ashley, chapter 9).

November 7: Rational Choice and International Relations

Lake, David A. and Robert Powell (eds.). 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (Chapters 1-3, 7)

Fearon, James D. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization* 52(2): 269-306.

Walt, Stephen. 1999. "Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies." *International Security* 23: 5-48.

November 14: International Relations and Domestic Politics (Thursday Meeting, 6-8:50pm)

Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3): 427-460.

Gourevitch, Peter. 1978. "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32(4): 881-911.

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16(4): 387-415.

Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade." *American Political Science Review* 81 (4): 1121-1137.

November 21: No Class, Fall Break

November 28: No Class

December 5: Rethinking Sovereignty

Spruyt, Hendrick. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (entire)

TBA: Final Exam distributed, due 24 hours after receipt!!!