This seminar introduces the field of international relations. It is designed primarily for students pursuing the PhD in Political Science, Public Policy and related fields. The focus is on theories of international relations; we focus on fundamental theoretical debates in IR and their relationship to empirical social science. The course complements other graduate offerings, which examine discrete empirical and applications of these theories and methodological issues. Students should finish the course with an ability to situate arguments in the conceptual structure and intellectual history of IR theory, to grasp the assumptions, logical structure and implications of various theoretical positions, and to appreciate the diverse range of available concepts and explanations for state behavior.

Requirements for the course are:

1. *Attendance and active participation in discussion.* All students are expected to participate actively in class discussions of all readings. This means students should be prepared to summarize, assess critically and evaluate the significance of every reading, without using notes.

2. *Formal advocacy and defense of required readings each week.* Students serve as formal advocates or critics of the required readings on the syllabus. The advocate speaks first. This does not mean summarizing the argument—unnecessary, because everyone has read it—but rather: (a) situating the contribution in the literature; (b) identifying the salient theoretical contribution and its broader implications; (c) identifying its major strengths as a contribution to IR theory. Critics challenge the contribution, its salience and implications, or point to theoretical or broad empirical weaknesses.

3. *Four 5 pp. papers.* Each paper comments critically on at least two of the required readings for a
given week. These papers must be distributed to the entire class by e-mail by 6 p.m. on the Monday preceding class; authors must also be prepared to discuss this paper in class. **NB: A paper writer may not assume the role of a critic or defender (see 2 above) of the same reading.** While these papers necessarily engage in minimal necessary summary and criticism of the respective readings, and occasionally “referee” debates among established authorities, *neither is their primary purpose*. Rather, the primary purpose of the papers is to use summary and criticism as a foundation from which to set forth original theoretical, empirical or methodological insights about how IR scholars can improve theories about the underlying phenomena and develop new empirical insights about important cases, thereby charting the best direction forward toward new and improved IR theory.

(4) **One take-home final exam.** This exam questions are similar to those on the departmental “General Exams” in IR that students may take at the end of their second year. Each student will be asked to answer three broad questions about the IR literature on the syllabus.

Written work for the course should be submitted in electronic form by *e-mail attachment only*. All e-mails pertaining to the course should have a subject line beginning “POL551: ...”

Grading will be on the basis of all items above. Class participation is very important. You must do the readings and be ready to talk about them.

Books are on reserve at the library, and permanent links to articles have been provided. Those who desire personal copies of books should search for copies from on-line providers; we recommend you purchase them used. Additional “recommended” readings, of use in studying for general exams, have been included a well.
**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: International Relations Theory and Social Science**


**Week 2: Anarchy, Sovereignty, and the State System**


**Week 3: Power, Distribution of Power, Polarity, and Order**


**Week 4: Hegemony, Hierarchy, Power Transitions, and Order**


**Week 5: Domestic Politics 1: Preferences, Institutions and Foreign Policies**


**Week 6: Domestic Politics 2: Domestic Institutions, Democracy and IR**


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**Week 7: Strategic Interaction, Security Dilemmas, and Bargaining in International Politics**


**Week 8: Signaling, Credibility, and Diplomacy**


**Week 9: International Institutions**


**Week 10: Institutional Design and Compliance**


**Week 11: Ideas, Perception, Cognition, Psychology, and Culture**


Yarhi-Milo, Keren (2014). *Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence, and Assessment of Intentions in International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 11.


**Week 12: Constructivism: Ontology, Socialization, Legitimacy, Diffusion**


**Recommended readings:**

**Week 1:**

Week 2:
Week 3:
Week 4:
Week 5:
Week 6:
Week 7:
Week 8:
Week 9:
Week 10:
Week 11:
Week 12: