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 serves as a foundation for other graduate offerings, which focus on discrete empirical and applications of these theories, as well as detailed methodological issues. Students should finish the course with an ability to situate arguments in the conceptual structure and intellectual history of IR theory, to appreciate the diverse range of available concepts and explanations for state behavior, to grasp the assumptions, logical structure, causal mechanisms and empirical implications of various theoretical positions, and to be aware of the most basic prima facie empirical evidence for and against important theories.

Requirements for the course are:

(1) **Attendance, reading and active participation in discussion.** All students are expected to attend and participate actively in class discussions of all readings. This means students should be prepared to summarize, evaluate and assess critically the significance of every reading—at a moment’s notice and without using notes. This will be the single largest component of the grading.

(2) **Formal advocacy and defense of required readings each week.** Students will sign up to 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 broader literature; (b) identifying the salient theoretical contribution and its broader implications; (c) identifying its major strengths (not weaknesses) as a contribution to IR theory. Critics challenge the contribution, its salience and implications, or point to theoretical or broad empirical weaknesses.

(3) **Three 5 pp. papers commenting on required readings.** Students will sign up for three different weeks. Each paper comments critically on at least two of the required readings for that 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 in any given week may not assume the role of a critic or defender (see 2 above) of the same reading. While such essays necessarily engage in minimal necessary summary and criticism of the respective readings, and occasionally “referee” debates among established authorities, neither is their primary purpose. Their primary purpose is instead 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 5 pp. (minimum) paper commenting on a paper presented in the IR Faculty Colloquium. Each student will sign up for a session of the IR Faculty Colloquium, which meets Mondays at noon. Each student will produce a paper commenting critically on the paper and presentation that week. This paper will be distributed to the instructors, the rest of the class and the colloquium speaker. These papers must be distributed to the entire class by e-mail by 6 p.m. on the Friday of the week of the colloquium presentation.

(5) One take-home final exam. The questions on the exam will be similar to those found 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.

Grading will be on the basis of all items above. The most important single element is class participation, as defined above: you must do all the required readings and be ready to speak intelligently and flexibly about them.

Logistics:

All 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: …”

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, for use in studying for general exams if you are serious about research in IR, have been included a well.
SEMINAR SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1: International Relations Theory and Social Science


Week 2: Anarchy, Sovereignty, and the State System


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


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


**Week 5: The Causes and Consequences of State Preferences**


Week 6: State Preferences and Conflict 2 – The Effects of Democracy


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**Week 7: Forms of Strategic Interaction and Bargaining in World Politics**


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


**Week 9: International Institutions**


**Week 10: Institutional Design and Compliance**


**Week 11: Beyond Rationality - 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: Socialization, Legitimacy, Diffusion**


Recommended readings, including other major works, material relevant to general exams for those serious about IR, critical background on specific points:

Week 1:


**Review Symposium: The Qualitative-Quantitative Disputation:**


*Exchange on the Third Debate:*


Week 2:


Week 3:


And reviews thereof:


Week 4:


http://www.jstor.org/stable/2706716


http://www.jstor.org/stable/23316010

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09636410008429423


http://www.jstor.org/stable/3877861


Week 5:


Week 6:


Week 7:


http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9701.2007.01082.x


Week 8:


**Week 9:**


**Week 10:**


*And the response...*


*And the rebuttal...*


**Special issue on Legalization in International Organization:**


**Week 11:**


**Week 12:**


