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 fundamental theoretical debates in IR and their relationship to empirical social science. The course complements other graduate offerings, which focus on discrete empirical and applications of these theories or 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 specific readings.** Students serve as formal advocates or critics of specific readings highlighted in yellow 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) **Three 5 pp. papers.** Each paper comments critically on 1-2 readings for a given week, selected from those marked in yellow. 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) **Oral presentation of articles selected by students.** During the final weeks of the course, 45-60 minutes of the seminar will be devoted to students leading a discussion of 1-2 articles they have selected. Articles may reflect: (a) current published research (i.e. from the last five years); and/or (b) classic research pertaining to a major strand of IR theory. All articles must be of major significance to theoretical and/or empirical debates in IR on an issue that has not received sufficient attention in the assigned readings. Articles must be approved in advance by the instructors.

(5) **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.

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

BACKGROUND READING: TO BE READ BEFORE CLASS BEGINS

THE CLASSICAL HERITAGE


WEEK 1: 16 SEPTEMBER 2014

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, METHODOLOGY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE


**WEEK 2: 23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**ANARCHY, RATIONALITY, POWER AND CLASSIC TYPOLOGIES OF IR THEORY**

**Classical Realism**


**Neorealism**


... and its Critics


**Paradigmatic Alternatives and Typologies**


Realist War and the Democratic Peace: A Realist Perspective

WEEK 3: 30 SEPTEMBER 2014
INTERDEPENDENCE AND STATE PREFERENCES 1 - SOCIAL PRESSURES

Interdependence and State Preferences


Ideational Interdependence and Societal Preferences: Ethnicity, Ideology, Morality


Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink (1998). Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Introduction (pp. 1-38), plus one of these two empirical chapters (pp. 79-120, or 121-164).


**Economic Interdependence and Societal Preferences: Goods and Capital**


**Interdependence and Conflict**


**Democratic Peace: Ideational Perspectives**


**Democratic Peace: An Economic Perspective**


**WEEK 4: 7 OCTOBER 2014**

**INTERDEPENDENCE AND STATE PREFERENCES 2- INSTITUTIONS**

**Domestic Representation**


**Institutions and Economic Policy**


**Institutions and Security Policy**


**War and the Democratic Peace: Institutional Perspectives**


Debs, Alexandre, and H. E. Goemans (2010). Regime Type, the Fate of Leaders, and War. *American Political Science Review*. 104(03): 430-445. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055410000195](http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055410000195)


**Domestic Institutional Change as the Object of Foreign Policy**


WEEK 5: 14 OCTOBER 2014

STRATEGY FORMATION AND NON- OR BOUNDEDLY RATIONAL POLICY-MAKING: IDEAS, PROCESS, PERCEPTION, COGNITION, PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY, EMOTION, HABIT AND CULTURE AS SOURCES OF MEANS-ENDS CALCULATION

Ideas in General

Strategic and Economic Ideas


Procedural Constraints and Bureaucratic Politics


Perceptual Lenses


Cognition and Expertise

**Psychology**


Yarhi-Milo, Keren (2014). *Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence, and Assessment of Intentions in International Relations.* Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 11 (pp. 14-43, 241-254).


**Emotions and Biology**


**Habit**


**Gender**


War and the Democratic Peace: Normative Perspectives


**WEEK 6: 21 OCTOBER 2014**

**STRATEGIC INTERACTION - COORDINATION, BARGAINING AND POWER**

Power and Strategic Choice in International Politics


Coordination


Interdependence and Power


**Bargaining and Coercive Threats**


**Beyond Rationality**


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**WEEK 7: 4 NOVEMBER 2014**

**SIGNALING, CREDIBILITY, AND DIPLOMACY**

**The Theory of Two-Level Games**


**Domestic Politics**


**Audience Costs and Signaling**


**The Democratic Peace: A Signaling Perspective**


Deterrence


Diplomacy


WEEK 8: 11 NOVEMBER 2014

POLARITY, HEGEMONY, TRANSITIONS AND DETERRENCE

Hegemony and Power Transitions


Time Inconsistency and Informational (aka “Rationalist”) Theories of War


Unipolarity


WEEK 9 – 18 NOVEMBER 2014

BALANCING, INTENTIONS AND NEO-CLASSICAL REALISM

Neo-Classical Realism


... and its Critics


Learning from History


The Domestic Politics of Alliances


**Alliances and Conflict**


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**WEEK 10 – 25 NOVEMBER 2014**

**INFORMATION AND COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

**Hegemony and Global Order**


**Institutions and Regime Theory**


...and their Critics


The English School


Student Presentations to be Added

WEEK 11 – 2 DECEMBER 2014

INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN, COMPLIANCE AND AUTONOMY

Variation in the Form and Function of International Institutions


Legalization


**The Domestic and Transgovernmental Politics of Compliance**


*And the response...*


*And the rebuttal...*


**Conditionality**

International Organizations as Actors


*Student Presentations to be Added*

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**WEEK 12 – 9 DECEMBER 2014**

**FEEDBACK AND LONG-TERM EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**

**Feedback and Evolution**


**Diffusion, State Formation and Evolution of the International System over Time**


**Historical Institutionalism**


**Socialization**


Wendt, Alexander E. (1999). *Social Theory of International Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 4 (pp. 1-46, 139-192), 5 (pp. 233-245 only), and 7 (pp. 313-369).
http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781848608290.n3


http://www.jstor.org/stable/2706971

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**Institutional Socialization and Communicative Action**


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*Student Presentations to be Added*

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**WEEK 13 – OPTIONAL (IF NEEDED)**

*Student Presentations to be Added*
SOME RECOMMENDED READINGS

Week 1


**Week 2**


Symposium on War and the State in International Theory:


And reviews thereof:


Week 3


Adler, Emanuel, and Michael N. Barnett (Eds.) (1998). Security Communities. Cambridge (UK); New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1, 2 and 13 (pp. 3-66, 413-441).


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**Week 5**


**Week 6**


**Week 7**


Week 9


Week 10


**Week 11**


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


**Week 12**


*Also see reactions to it:*


