Introduction to International Relations

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323 White Hall
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Fall 2014
TR 2:55-4:10
Olin 155

Objectives: This course offers an introduction to the study of international relations. It considers examples from history and addresses contemporary issues, while introducing and evaluating the political theories that have been used by scholars to explain those events. The principal goal of the course is to develop a general set of analytical approaches that can be used to gain insight into the nature of world politics – past, present and future.

Teaching Assistants: Silvi Toska (st522) (head TA); Dustin Page (djp279); Whitney Taylor (wkt9); Youyi Zhang (yz749). The TA for 1827 Writing in the Majors is Elizabeth Acorn (ea346). Lectures and reading assignments are designed to complement – not duplicate – each other. Students are expected to attend sections prepared to discuss the relevant readings.

Reading Assignments: A number of books have been made available for purchase at the campus store. The following four books contain required reading:

- Jeffry Frieden, Global Capitalism (2006)

Five additional books have also been ordered at the campus store. For a short paper assignment you will be required to read one, and only one, of the following books:

- Jonathan Kirshner, American Power after the Financial Crisis (2014)
- Keren Yarhi-Milo, Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence and the Assessment of Intentions . . . (2014)

All of these books are also on 2 hour reserve at Uris Library.

Course Requirements and Grading: The course has four principal requirements:

- An in-class midterm Tuesday, September 30 (20%)
- A short paper, due by noon, Friday, December 5 (25%)
- A final exam, (Exam period, date TBA by the college) (45%)
- Active and productive participation in section meetings (10%)

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity: “Absolute integrity is expected of every Cornell student in all academic undertakings.” Students unfamiliar with or uncertain about specific attributes of the code should review it on-line at:
http://newstudentprograms.cornell.edu/dos/cms/nsp/Initiatives/upload/AcademicIntegrityPamphlet.pdf
Course Schedule

Week 1: August 26-August 28
   Tuesday: Introduction, Course Overview, and Some Key Concepts
   Thursday: Explaining International Relations

Readings:
   Kagan, Origins of War, pp. 81-144

Week 2: September 2-4
   Tuesday: Crime of the Century? The First World War
   Thursday: Too Many Suspects – The Causes of World War I

Readings:

Week 3: September 9-11
   Tuesday: The Inevitably Bloodier Summer Sequel – World War II
   Thursday: Force of Evil? Explaining World War II

Readings:
   Kagan, Origins of War, pp. 281-97, 334-417
   Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in A&J
   Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning,” in A&J

Week 4: September 16-18
   Tuesday: The Origins and Course of the Cold War
   Thursday: Explaining the Cold War

Readings:
   Stern, The Week the World Stood Still, pp. 11-76
   Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics,” in A&J
   Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” in A&J

Week 5: September 23
   Tuesday: Who Knew? The End of the Cold War

Readings:
   Stern, The Week the World Stood Still, pp. 119-98

Week 6: September 30-October 2
   Tuesday: In Class Midterm
   Thursday: Strategy and Games

Readings:
Week 7: October 7-9
Tuesday: Nuclear Weapons in World Politics
Thursday: Theories of Cooperation

Readings:
Waltz, “Peace, Stability and Nuclear Weapons,” [Blackboard]
Sokolski, “Getting Ready for a Nuclear Armed Iran,” in A&J
Keohane, “Hegemony in the World Economy,” [Blackboard]
Frieden, Global Capitalism, pp. 28-55, 105-23

Week 8: October 14-16
Tuesday: Fall Break, No Class
Thursday: The Expansion of the International Economy

Readings:
Frieden, Global Capitalism, pp. 127-54, 173-215
Frankel, “Globalization of the Economy,” in A&J
Ghemawat, “Why the World Isn’t Flat,” in A&J

Week 9: October 21-23
Tuesday: International Political Economy: Liberalism and its Discontents
Thursday: The Rise and Fall and Rise of International Trade

Readings:
Frieden, Global Capitalism, 253-300
Hiscox, “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies,” in A&J
Rodrik, “Why Doesn’t Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade?” in A&J

Week 10: October 28-30
Tuesday: International Money: What is it Good For?
Thursday: Politics and the International Monetary System

Readings:
Frieden, Global Capitalism, pp. 339-412

Week 11: November 4-6
Tuesday: Explaining Choices about Money
Thursday: Who Ordered the Financial Crisis, To Go?

Readings:
Frieden, Global Capitalism, pp. 435-76.
Helleiner/Kirshner, The Future of the Dollar, [Blackboard]
Week 12: November 11-13
Tuesday: Economic Sanctions and Economic Statecraft
Thursday: “The weak do as they must?” Asymmetric International Relations

Readings:
- Frieden, *Global Capitalism*, pp. 302-20, 412-34
- World Bank, “The Shape of Violence Today,” in A&J
- Cronin, “Enduring Terrorism,” in A&J
- Western and Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age,” in A&J
- Downs, “To the Shores of Tripoli?” in A&J

Week 13: November 18-20
Tuesday: Globalization and National Security
Thursday: Things Come Apart? New Actors in World Politics

Readings:
- Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” in A&J
- Dupont, “The Strategic Implications of Climate Change,” in A&J
- Keck and Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks,” in A&J
- Williams, “Transnational Organized Crime and the State,” in A&J
- Lin, “Cyber Conflict and National Security,” in A&J

Week 14: November 25-27
Tuesday: Looking Back at America’s Recent Wars
Thursday: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Readings:
- Drezner, “Military Primacy Doesn’t Pay,” [Blackboard]
- Posen, “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?” in A&J
- Cox, “Power Shifts, Economic Change, and the Decline of the West?” in A&J

Week 15: December 2-4
Tuesday: The Rise of China and the Emerging International Order
Thursday: Explaining Behavior in World Politics

Readings:
- Art, “The United States and the Rise of China,” in A&J
- Kirshner, “The Tragedy of Offensive Realism,” [Blackboard]

*Papers due by noon on Friday, December 5*