Government 6067: Field Seminar in International Relations

Fall 2016

Jonathan Kirshner       Monday 10:10-12:05
323 White Hall       498 Uris Hall
jdk5@cornell.edu

This seminar provides an overview of the field of international relations for graduate students. Particular emphasis is placed upon (1) identifying the main points of debate and contrasting research traditions within the field; (2) developing the critical analytical skills necessary to evaluate the contrasting arguments made within the field; (3) grounding individual empirical interests within the context of these broader theoretical and methodological issues.

Students are expected to attend every class, to have done the readings before class, and to participate actively in discussions. The reading load for this class is quite heavy – prepare accordingly. We will also circulate reading lists from recent years, these include additional and supplementary reading that should be helpful in preparing for A-exams.

There are four requirements for this class:

1) A take home final examination loosely in the format of the department A-exam for the field of international relations. Students will be given the choice of answering two questions out of three covering the material from this syllabus. The exam should be no more than 20 double spaced pages total.

2) A ten page paper taking the form of a mini version of a “World Politics” style review essay on some of the literature assigned for a particular week. Each student can write on any week they choose (in consultation with me), but regardless of the week chosen the essay is due before Friday, October 14.

3) A ten page paper taking the form of a hypothetical “research prospectus” that sets out a question and a research agenda building on unresolved issues, puzzles or debates suggested by some of the literature. You should discuss your proposed topic with us before the middle of October; the paper is due no later than Friday, December 2.

4) Active and thoughtful class participation.

Given the nature of the assignments, it is not appropriate to take an incomplete in this class except as a consequence of extraordinary personal circumstances. Late work will be marked down.
Note that most of the assigned journal articles are available on-line through the Cornell library system, which is how you should access them. Many of the books are on reserve at Olin library, and some of the readings are posted to the course blackboard site.

**Week 1 (August 29): Introduction**

Miles Kahler, “Inventing International Relations,” in Michael Doyle and John Ikenberry (eds.), *New Thinking in International Relations*, pp. 20-53.


**Week 2 (September 12): Anarchy and Levels of Analysis**


**Week 3 (September 19): Realism**


Week 4 (September 26): Liberalism


Week 5 (October 3**): Constructivism


Week 6 (October 17): Causes of War

Week 7 (October 24): Democratic Peace and Alliances


Week 8 (October 31): Domestic Politics and International Relations


Week 9 (November 7): How Rational is Rationality?

Anthony Lopez, Rose McDermott, and Michael Bang Petersen, “States in Mind:
Evolution, Coalitional Psychology, and International Politics,”
Security Dilemma,” *European Journal of International Relations* 12:3
Todd Hall, “We Will Not Swallow This Bitter Fruit: Theorizing a Diplomacy

**Week 10 (November 14): Status and Position**

Robert Frank, *Choosing the Right Pond: Human Behavior and the Quest for
Deborah Welch Larson/Alexei Shevchenko, “Status Seekers: Chinese & Russian
William Wohlforth, Deborah Larson and T. V. Paul, “Status and World Order,” in
Wohlforth, Larson and Paul, (eds.) *Status in World Politics* (Cambridge
University Press, 2014), pp. 3-29.
Allan Dafoe, Jonathan Renshon & Paul Huth, “Reputation and Status as Motives
Steven Ward, “Race, Status, and Japanese Revisionism in the Early 1930s,”
Michelle Murray, “Identity, Insecurity, and Great Power Politics,” *Security
Charles Kupchan, “The Normative Foundations of Hegemony and the Coming

**Week 11 (November 21): Institutions**

Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of
Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, “Power in International Politics,”
G. John Ikenberry, “Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of
Christian Reus-Smit, “Struggles for Individual Rights and the Expansion of the
Aidan Hehir, “The Permanence of Inconsistency: Libya, the Security Council, and
Robert Keohane, “Twenty Years of Institutional Liberalism,” *International
Week 12 (November 28): Transnationalism and Primacy