



Political Science 9400

Introduction to International Relations

Thursdays, 3:00 – 5:30pm

Prof. Bryce Reeder

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Office Location: Professional Building, Room 210

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1pm – 4pm (virtual via Zoom)

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This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.

Overview: This seminar is an introduction to the scientific study of international relations. As an introduction, the purpose of the course is to create a solid theoretical foundation for Ph.D. students who aspire to undergo advanced training in the field. The seminar is structured as a broad survey of the theoretical approaches, core problems, and enduring debates that exist in the literature. By the end of the seminar, students will be prepared for courses in the curriculum that pursue these topics in greater depth. The intent is to push students to think like political scientists by focusing primarily on the intellectual history and trajectory of IR scholarship. We will not cover everything during this *broad* overview – that task will be left to other courses in the department.

Expectations: By selecting into graduate school, you have signaled to our department that you are eager to learn and desire to be challenged to develop the skills needed to become successful in this discipline. In the same vein, by selecting into a course on international relations, you have signaled to me that you wish to acquire the ability to do research in this area. In my view, this constitutes a contract whereby you come prepared to contribute, and I challenge you in such a way that helps you develop as a political scientist. In this spirit, a disinterested disposition will not be tolerated. In other words: respect me, your peers, and yourself enough to come to class prepared to be an active contributor.

Requirements:

- I. *Participation (30%)*: This course will be structured as a seminar and very little lecturing will take place. Students are expected to attend all classes, read all of the assignment material, and actively participate in our discussions. Those who miss class without an excuse, come unprepared, and fail to participate will be penalized. Note that participation does not mean “talking a lot.” Rather, participation involves making insightful observations about the readings and thinking critically about the field of international relations. I reserve the right to randomly ask questions of specific students in order to keep the “flow” of the discussion moving in the right direction. This will help you refine your knowledge about the literature, and will also lead to the development of new research questions.

- II. *Research Question Development (25%)*: Students will choose a topic of interest and perform an in-depth literature review. The review should only contain works not found in the syllabus, and be concluded with a potential research question that might fill a gap in the literature. The review and research question will be informally presented and discussed at the beginning of class. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during our first meeting.
- III. *Lakatosian Critique (25%)*: Students will use the criterion proposed by Lakatos (1970) to assess the transition to neoclassical realism as detailed in Rose (1998) and Rathbun (2008). As a guide, students are advised to consult the following application:
- Vasquez, John A. 1997. "The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition" *American Political Science Review* 91 (4): 899-912.
- IV. *Final Exam (20%)*: The exam will be a mock comprehensive exam. As such, it will be a take-home exam and students will choose which questions to answer. The exam will be distributed at 5pm on Thursday, December 13th and must be returned (via Canvas) by 5pm on Friday, December 14th. Late submissions of the exam will not be accepted.

University Policies

I. *Students with Disabilities*

- If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.
- If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

II. *Plagiarism and Other Violations of Academic Integrity*

- Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

III. *Intellectual Pluralism*

- The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.
- All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

IV. *Intellectual Property Notice*

- All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

Schedule

August 27 – Introduction & Overview

- Explore the TRIP Project (<https://trip.wm.edu>)
- Dion, Michelle L., Jane Lawrence Sumner, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2018. “Gendered Citation Patterns across Political Science and Social Science Methodology Fields” *Political Analysis* 26 (3): 312-327.
- Acharya, Amitav. 2016. “Advancing Global IR: Challenges, Contentions, and Contributions” *International Studies Review* 18 (1): 4-15.
- Lake, David A. 2016. ”White Man’s IR: An Intellectual Confession” *Perspectives on Politics* 14 (4): 1112-1122.

September 3 – Theory-Building, Falsifiability, and the Demarcation Problem

- Mears, Ashley. 2017. “Puzzling in Sociology: On Doing and Undoing Theoretical Puzzles” *Sociological Theory* 35 (2): 138-146.
- Healy, Keiran. 2017. “Fuck Nuance” *Sociological Theory* 35 (2): 118-127.
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. “Laws and Theories” from *Theory of International Politics*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill. (chapter 1)
- Mackie, J.L. 1965. “Causes and Conditions” *American Philosophical Quarterly* 2 (4): 245-264.
- Popper, Karl R. 1963. “Science as Falsification” from *Conjectures and Refutations*. London: Routledge and Keagan Paul. (on Canvas)

September 10 – Cancelled for APSA Meeting

September 17 – Evolution of Research Programs

- Kuhn, Thomas S. 1996. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. (sections II, III, VI, and VII required)
- Lakatos, Imre. 1970. “Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes” from *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, edited by Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

September 24 – Classical & Structural Realism

- Thucydides. 1972. “The Melian Dialogue” from *History of the Peloponnesian War*. New York, Penguin. (pages 400-408)
- Carr, E.H. 1981. *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*. New York, NY: Palgrave. (chapters 5, 6, 8, and 9 required)

- Morgenthau, Hans J. 1993. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill. (chapters 1, 2, and 3 required)
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill. (chapters 2-6 required)

October 1 – Extensions of Realist Thought

- Snyder, Glenn H. 2002. “Mearsheimer’s World - Offensive Realism and the Struggle for Security” *International Security* 27(1):149-173.
- Rose, Gideon. 1998. “Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy” *World Politics* 51(1): 144-172.
- Buzan, Barry. 1993. “From international system to international society: structural realism and regime theory meet the English school” *International Organization* 47 (3): 327-352.
- Rathbun, Brian. 2008. “A Rose by Any Other Name: Neoclassical Realism as the Logical and Necessary Extension of Structural Realism” *Security Studies* 17 (2): 294-321.

October 8 – Foreign Policy Behavior

- Allison, Graham T. and Morton H. Halperin. 1972. “Bureaucratic Politics: A Paradigm and Some Policy Implications” *World Politics* 24: 40-79.
- Rosenau, James N. 1966. “Pre-Theories and Theories of Foreign Policy” In *Approaches to Comparative and International Politics*, edited by R. Barry Farrell. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press.
- Christensen, Thomas J. and Jack Snyder. 1990. “Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity” *International Organization* 44 (2): 137-168.
- Schroeder, Paul. 1994. “Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory” *International Security* 19 (1): 55-79.
- Lobell, Steven E. 2018. “A Granular Theory of Balancing” *International Studies Quarterly*, Forthcoming (available via Early View).

October 15 – Critiques and Defenses of the Realist Research Program

- Ruggie, John G. 1986. “Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis” In *Neorealism and Its Critics*, edited by Robert O. Keohane. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1986. “Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond” In *Neorealism and Its Critics*, edited by Robert O. Keohane. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Ashley, Richard K. 1986. “The Poverty of Neorealism” In *Neorealism and Its Critics*, edited by Robert O. Keohane. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

- Gilpin, Robert G. 1986. “The Richness of the Tradition of Political Realism” In *Neorealism and Its Critics*, edited by Robert O. Keohane. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Wagner, R. Harrison. 2007. *War and the State: The Theory of International Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (chapter 1)

October 22 – The Anarchy Problematique

- Bull, Hedley. 1977. *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. (chapters 1-3)
- Jervis, Robert. 1978. “Cooperation under the Security Dilemma” *World Politics* 30 (2): 167-214.
- Milner, Helen. 1991. “The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique” *Review of International Studies* 17: 67-85.
- Vinci, Anthony. 2008. “Anarchy, Failed States, and Armed Groups: Reconsidering Conventional Analysis” *International Studies Quarterly* 52 (2): 295-314.

October 29 – The Social Construction of International Politics

- Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (chapters 6-7)
- Ruggie, John Gerard. 1998. “What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge” *International Organization* 52 (4): 855-885.
- Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change” *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-917.
- Finnemore, Martha. 2003. *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. (chapters 1 and 5 are required; entire book recommended)

November 5 – Introduction to Liberal Thought

- Lake, David A. 1996. “Anarchy, Hierarchy, and the Variety of International Relations” *International Organization* 50 (1): 1-33.
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics” *International Organization* 51 (4): 513-553.
- Axelrod, Robert. 1981. “The Emergence of Cooperation among Egoists” *American Political Science Review* 75 (2): 306-318.
- Powell, Robert. 1991. “Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory” *American Political Science Review* 85 (4): 1303-1320.

November 12 – Domestic Politics

- Putnam, Robert D. 1988. “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games” *International Organization* 42 (3): 427-460.
- Schultz, Kenneth A. 1998. “Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises” *American Political Science Review* 92 (4): 829-844.
- Brewster, Rachel. 2004. “The Domestic Origins of International Agreements” *Virginia Journal of International Law* 44(2): 501-544.
- Weeks, Jessica L. 2008. “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve” *International Organization* 62 (1): 35-64.

November 19 – Democratic Peace Theory

- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. “Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986” *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 624-638.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. “An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace” *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-807.
- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. “A Kantian System? Democracy and Third-Party Conflict Resolution” *American Journal of Political Science* 46 (4): 749-759.
- Peceny, Mark, Caroline C. Beer, and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. “Dictatorial Peace?” *American Political Science Review* 96 (1): 15-26.
- Gibler, Douglas M. 2007. “Bordering on Peace: Democracy, Territorial Issues, and Conflict” *International Studies Quarterly* 51 (3): 509-532.

November 26 – Thanksgiving Break

December 3 – International Political Economy

- Gartzke, Erik. 2007. “The Capitalist Peace” *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (1): 166-191.
- Milner, Helen V. and Keiko Kubota. 2005. “Why the Move to Free Trade? Democracy and Trade Policy in Developing Countries” *International Organization* 59 (1): 157-193.
- Peters, Margaret. 2015. “Open Trade, Closed Borders: Immigration Policy in the Era of Globalization” *World Politics* 67 (1): 114-154.
- Lake, David A. 1993. “Leadership, Hegemony, and the International Economy: Naked Emperor or Tattered Monarch with Potential?” *International Studies Quarterly* 37 (4): 459-489.

December 10 – International Institutions

- Keohane, Robert O. 1988. “International Institutions: Two Approaches” *International Studies Quarterly* 32 (4): 379-396.

- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. “The Rational Design of International Institutions” *International Organization* 55 (4): 761-799.
- Abbott, Kenneth W. and Duncan Snidal. 1998. “Why States Act through Formal International Organizations” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42 (1): 3-32.
- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Paul R. Hensel. 2007. “International Institutions and Compliance with Agreements” *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (4): 721-737.
- Carnegie, Allison. 2014. “States Held Hostage: Political Hold-Up Problems and the Effects of International Institutions” *American Political Science Review* 108 (1): 54-70.

December 14 – Mock Comprehensive Exam Due by 5pm (upload to Canvas)