

Yale University
Department of Political Science

Syllabus
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
(Seminar)

Nuno P. Monteiro
Political Science 155 / 654
Fall 2009

Class: Tuesdays 3:30-5:20
Office hours: Rosenkranz #226, Wednesdays 10:00-12:00
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

This seminar explores the main theories of international relations. By the end of the course, students should be conversant in basic IR theory and have the intellectual equipment to understand, criticize, and apply these (and other) theories of international relations. The course is also designed to provide students with an understanding of the potential and limitations of theory in the study of international politics.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course covers four main theoretical traditions in the study international relations, all of which focus on explaining two phenomena: conflict and cooperation. We will cover realism, liberalism, constructivism, and rationalism.

REQUIREMENTS, GRADING, AND DEADLINES

There are no pre-requisites for the course.

The course will consist in a series of seminar sessions with pre-assigned readings. Students are expected to do all the readings prior to each session, as well as attend and participate in all sessions. The weekly sessions will focus on (i) laying out the main arguments of the assigned readings and (ii) critically discussing them. I will open up the session with a short (20-minute maximum) lecture on the topic, laying out the main arguments in the readings, to be followed by a general examination and discussion of the core ideas.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

- Seminar participation: 25%;
- Response papers: 25%;
- Final paper: 50%.

Each student will post a 2-3 paragraph (max. 1 page) reaction to the weekly readings for five different weeks. Your response papers should be posted the evening before the class meeting in which we will deal with these readings (*i.e.*, by 8:00 PM on Monday). Short papers received after the deadline but before the relevant seminar session begins (*i.e.*, between 8:00 PM Monday and 3:30 PM Tuesday) will be dropped one letter grade. Short papers will not be accepted after the relevant seminar session starts.

The final paper should be emailed to me at nuno.monteiro@yale.edu by 4:00pm on Friday, December 11. This deadline is strict. Final papers received late will be dropped one letter grade for each 24 hours

past the deadline. To receive an overall passing grade, students must receive a passing grade in all three components of the final grade.

While these policies will be strictly enforced, I know that emergencies and illnesses might arise during the term. If that happens to be the case, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work out alternative arrangements for you to complete your work within a reasonable period of time. In emergency cases, you will need to present a “dean’s excuse” in order to be excused from late work or a series of absences from class sessions.

All assignments are non-collaborative and should be entirely your own work. Ideas drawn from other sources should be properly cited. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in penalties up to and including a failing grade for the assignment (and therefore the course) and referral to the university for disciplinary action. If you haven’t done so yet, please familiarize yourself with the University’s policy on academic honesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and document citation, which can be found at <http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/uregs/appendix/cheating.html>. It is your responsibility to understand and abide by this policy. If you don’t, please ask.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Participation: Since the course will be conducted in a seminar format, students will take responsibility for leading much of the discussion. All students should be prepared to contribute to class discussion by informally bringing questions that stem from the readings.

Response Papers: These short statements should include an analysis of strengths or weaknesses of arguments made by the authors for the relevant week; questions with which you were left by the readings; or points of confusion that should be clarified. (You should *not* summarize the readings; assume that everybody else has done the reading as well.) You do not have to discuss all of the readings assigned for the week; you can discuss just one or two, or you can pick a broader range and compare them to each other (or to readings for earlier weeks). You are welcome to choose any five weeks in which to write reaction papers, though spacing things out over the semester might be best.

Final Paper: Students will write a substantial (15 pages for undergrads; 20-25 pages for graduate students) research paper. For undergraduates, I will distribute a list of topics at the beginning of the seminar session on week 5. You should pick one topic, discuss the strengths and weakness of existing theories relating to it, and proposing a way to study the question further. If you don’t like any of the topics on the list, contact me with a topic suggestion. Graduate students show view this as an opportunity to begin developing publishable work. They should pick their own topic and consult me on it during office hours until the end of week 5.

Final papers should be printed in letter-sized paper, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, using a size 12 standard font such as Arial, Calibri, or Times New Roman.

READINGS

The selected texts were chosen to represent the major positions and theories in the study of international relations. They provide a wide range of views and differ both in the persuasiveness of the theoretical argument and the evidence provided in its support. As a whole, the selection is designed to encourage critical evaluation of existing academic literature. In order to best achieve this goal, keep in

mind the following questions when doing the readings: What is the argument the author is trying to make? Why does it matter? What are its strengths and weaknesses? How convincing is it? What are possible counter-arguments? Above all, how does the argument advance our understanding of international politics?

All readings will be available in PDF format on the Classes*V2 server at least one week before their respective session.

The readings for each session below are listed in the order you should do them.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (Sep. 08) -- Introductory Remarks

Week 2 (Sep. 15) -- Theory and International Relations (108pp.)

- Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, "Between Utopia and Reality: The Practical Discourses of International Relations," in Reus-Smit and Snidal, editors, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 3-40;
- Brian Schmidt, "On the History and Historiography of International Relations," in Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth Simmons, editors, *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002), 3-22;
- Colin Wight, "Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations," in Carlsnaes, Risse, and Simmons, editors, *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002), 23-51;
- James Fearon and Alexander Wendt, "Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View," in Carlsnaes, Risse, and Simmons, editors, *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002), 52-72.

Week 3 (Sep. 22) -- The Sources of Conflict and Cooperation (164pp.)

- J. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics*, Vol. 14 (1961): 77-92;
- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30 (1978): 167-214;
- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979), 60-128;
- Charles Glaser, "The Security Dilemma Revisited," *World Politics* Vol. 50 (1997): 171-201.

Week 4 (Sep. 29) -- Realism: Power and Structure I (149pp.)

- Charles Glaser, "Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help," *International Security*, Vol. 19 (1994/95): 50-90;

- Randall Schweller, "Neorealism's status-quo bias: What security dilemma?" *Security Studies*, Vol. 5 (1996): 90 - 121;
- Colin Elman, "Horses for Courses: Why Not Neorealist Theories of Foreign Policy?" *Security Studies*, vol. 6 (1996): 7-53;
- Jeffrey Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* Vol. 24 (1999): 5-55 and the correspondence, "Brother Can You Spare a Paradigm? (Or was Anybody Ever a Realist)," *International Security* Vol. 25 (2000): 165-193.

Week 5 (Oct. 06) -- Realism: Power and Structure II (207pp.)

- John Mearsheimer, "Structural Realism," in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith, editors, *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 71-88;
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001), 1-167;
- Robert Jervis, "Realism in the Study of World Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 52 (1998): 971-992.

Week 6 (Oct. 13) -- Liberalism I: Domestic Politics (177pp.)

- Peter Gourevitch, "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 32 (1978): 881-912;
- Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization*, Vol. 42 (1988): 427-460;
- James Fearon, "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88 (1994): 577-592;
- Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Relations," *International Organization*, Vol. 51 (1997): 513-553;
- Jeffrey A. Frieden, "Actors and Preferences in International Relations," in Lake and Powell, editors, *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), 39-76;
- Christian Reus-Smit, "The Strange Death of Liberal IR Theory," *European Journal of International Law*, Vol. 12 (2001): 573-593.

Week 7 (Oct. 20) -- Liberalism II: Democratic Peace Theory (185pp.)

- Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part I," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 12 (1983): 205-235;
- John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19 (1994): 87-125;
- Bruce Russett and John Oneal, "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics*. Vol. 52 (1999): 1-37;

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith, "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93 (1999):791-807;
- Sebastian Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97 (2003): 585-602;
- Michael Desch, "Democracy and Victory: Why Regime Type Hardly Matters," *International Security*, Vol. 27 (2002): 5-47.

Week 8 (Oct. 27) -- Liberalism III: International Institutions (223pp.)

- Barbara Koremenos, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal, "The Rational Design of International Institutions," *International Organization*, Vol. 55 (2001):761-799;
- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization*, Vol. 53 (1999): 699-732;
- Alastair Ian Johnston, "The Social Effects of International Institutions on Domestic (Foreign Policy) Actors," in Drezner, editor, *Locating the Proper Authorities: The Interaction of Domestic and International Institutions* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2003), 145-196;
- Robert Jervis, "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security*, Vol. 24 (1999): 42-63;
- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol. 19 (1994-95): 5-49;
- Alexander Wendt, "Driving with the Rearview Mirror: On the Rational Science of Institutional Design," *International Organization*, Vol. 55 (2001): 1019-49.

Week 9 (Nov. 03) -- Constructivism I: International Society (166pp.)

- Alex Wendt, "Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 46 (1992): 391-425;
- Alex Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 92-192;
- Ian Hurd, "Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 53 (1999): 379-408.

Week 10 (Nov. 10) -- Constructivism II: Culture, Norms, and Identity (200pp.)

- Alastair Johnston, "Thinking About Strategic Culture," *International Security*, Vol. 19 (1995): 32-64;
- Alex Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), 246-312;

- Barry Buzan, Ole Waever, and Jaap de Wilde, *Security: A New Framework for Analysis* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rieder, 1998), 1-49;
- Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-use," *International Organization*, Vol. 53 (1999): 433-46;
- Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, "Power in International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 59 (2005): 39-75;

Week 11 (Nov. 17) -- Rationalism: Strategic Choice, Cooperation, and Conflict (214pp.)

- David Lake and Robert Powell, "International Relations: a Strategic Choice Approach" in Lake and Powell, editors, *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999), 3-38;
- James D. Morrow, "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics," in Lake and Powell, editors, *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1999), 77-114;
- Duncan Snidal, "Rational Choice and IR," in Carlsnaes, Risse, and Simmons, editors, *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002), 73-94;
- James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49 (1995): 379-414;
- James Fearon, "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization*, Vol. 52 (1998): 269-306;
- Stephen Walt, "Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies," *International Security*, Vol. 23 1999: 5-48.

Week 12 (Nov. 24) -- Fall Recess; no Session

Week 13 (Dec. 01) -- Progress in International Relations (and IR Theory) (87pp.)

- Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, "Introduction: Appraising Progress in International Relations Theory," in Elman and Elman, editors, *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003), 1-20;
- J. Samuel Barkin, "Realist Constructivism," *International Studies Review*, Vol. 5 (2003): 325-42;
- Patrick Jackson, "Bridging the Gap: Toward A Realist-Constructivist Dialogue," *International Studies Review*, Vol. 6 (2004): 337-352;
- Peter Katzenstein and Rudra Sil, "Eclectic Theorizing in the Study and Practice of International Relations," in Reus-Smit and Snidal, editors, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 109-131;
- Robert W. Cox, "The Point Is not Just to Explain the World but to Change It," in Reus-Smit and Snidal, editors, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), 84-93.