

IR 500: Theory of International Relations (Fall 2005)

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hours: Wed 11:00-12:00
Thurs 12:30-2:00

Introduction

This is the core theory course in the School of International Relations. It introduces graduate students to the major theoretical debates—their origins, evolution, and current status—in the field of IR. We explore a variety of different and often contradictory worldviews and theoretical frameworks. For example, you will learn that there is no consensus in IR about the purposes of theory, nor even about the existence of natural “laws” governing the processes we study. You will master the core assumptions and methods of analysis of each school of thought. This course is also about critical thinking—the analysis and evaluation of theoretically and empirically grounded arguments about the world. You will critically review the *raison d’être* of each theoretical perspective and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the descriptions, interpretations, explanations, predictions and policy prescriptions that these theories support.

Seminar Requirements

midterm and final examination:	25 % each (take-home midterm, in-class final)
critical review essay	25 %
seminar participation	25 %

Students are expected to do assigned readings carefully and be ready to debate them in class. Students will also serve as discussion leaders for individual questions and topics on a rotating basis. The review essay (due at semester’s end) is less a research paper and more a close critique of one or another issue, debate, or specialized literature in IR theory. Guidelines for this assignment will be circulated early in the semester, and students are encouraged to begin thinking about (and suggesting) possible topics.

Readings

Required books are available in the USC bookstore, as well as on reserve in Leavey Library; they are important additions to your scholarly library. Xeroxed readings listed on the syllabus are so indicated by an asterisk. They will also be on reserve, but for convenience’ sake you may wish instead to purchase them in a collected “course reader” available in the IR office (VKC 330).

- E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis*
- R. Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*
- P. Katzenstein et al., eds., *The Culture of National Security*
- M. Keck and K. Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*
- R. Keohane, *After Hegemony*
- R. Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and Its Critics*
- S. Smith, K. Booth and M. Zalewski, *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*
- J. Vasquez and C. Elman, eds., *Realism and the Balancing of Power*
- K. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*

Students are also strongly encouraged to acquire the habit of independent (unassigned) reading of such journals as *International Organization*, *International Security*, *World Politics*, *Millennium* and *European Journal of International Relations*.

IR 500, Course Schedule

Aug 23 Course Introduction: Theory and International Relations

- * S. Walt, "One World, Many Theories," and J Gaddis, "History, Theory, and Common Ground," in Mingst and Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics* (2004)
- * G. King, R. Keohane, S. Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry* (1994), pp. 3-33, 99-114
- * S. Hoffmann, "An American Social Science: International Relations," in DerDerian, ed., *International Theory: Critical Investigations* (1995)

Aug 30 History of the Discipline; Epistemological and Ontological Debates

- * M. Wight, "Why is There No International Theory?," in DerDerian, ed., *Int'l. Theory*
- R. Jackson, "Is There a Classical International Theory?," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, eds., *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond* (1996)
- * H. Morgenthau, "Intellectual and Political Functions of Theory," and H. Bull, "Theory of International Politics, 1919-1969," both in DerDerian, ed., *Int'l. Theory*
- * M. Kahler, "Inventing International Relations Theory After 1945," in Doyle and Ikenberry, eds., *New Thinking in International Relations Theory* (1997), pp. 20-53
- * H. Alker, T. Biersteker, "The Dialectics of World Order," in DerDerian, *Int'l. Theory*
- K. Waltz, "Laws and Theories," chap. 2 in Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and Its Critics* (1986)
- * A. Wendt, "On Constitution and Causation in International Relations," *Review of International Studies* vol. 24 (1998), pp. 101-117

Sept 6 Players, Levels, and Interests

- K. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (1959). Read in its entirety (or review, if familiar)
- * J. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," in Ikenberry, ed., *American Foreign Policy* (1989)
- * O. Holsti, "Crisis Decision-Making," in Tetlock et al., eds., *Behavior, Society, and Nuclear War* (1989). pp. 8-84
- * G. Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," in Ikenberry, ed., *American Foreign Policy*
- * J.A. Tickner, *Gender in International Relations* (1992) chap. 2
- * J. Weldes, "Constructing National Interests," *European Journal of International Relations* vol. 2, no. 1 (1996), pp. 275-318

Sept 13 Classical Realism (and Liberalism)

- * Thucydides "Melian Dialogue," Kant "Perpetual Peace," and Wilson, "Fourteen Points" excerpted in Mingst and Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings*
- E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis* (1939)
- * H. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations* (1948), chap. 1
- * J.A. Tickner, "A Feminist Reformulation," and H. Bull, "Society and Anarchy," both in DerDerian, ed., *International Theory*
- B. Buzan, "The Timeless Wisdom of Realism?," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*

Additional suggestions:

- H. Kissinger, *A World Restored* (1957)
- M. Doyle, *Ways of War and Peace* (1997)

Sept 20 Neorealism and its Critics

R. Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and Its Critics*, chaps. 1, 3-5, 7

* Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," and R. Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma," both in Art and Jervis, eds., *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues* (2003)

* S. VanEvera, "Why Cooperation Failed in 1914," *World Politics* vol. 38 (1985), pp.80-117

J. Snyder, "Myths, Modernization, and the Post-Gorbachev World," available at: <http://www.ciaonet.org/book/lebow/Lebow05.html>

* J. Legro and A. Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist?," *International Security* vol. 24 (1999) pp. 5-55.

Additional suggestions:

B. Posen, *The Sources of Military Doctrine* (1984)

J. Snyder, *Myths of Empire* (1991)

Sept 27 Neorealism and Neoliberalism I: Regimes and International Organizations

* S. Krasner, *International Regimes* (1983), pp. 1-21, 355-368

R. Keohane, *After Hegemony* (1984), pp. 5-132, 243-259

* R. Axelrod and R. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy," J. Greico, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation," in Baldwin, ed., *Neorealism and Neoliberalism* (1993).

* R. Powell, "Anarchy in IR Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate," *International Organization* vol. 48 (1994), pp. 313-344

R. Little, "The Growing Relevance of Pluralism," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*

Additional suggestions:

R. Keohane and J. Nye, *Power and Interdependence* (1977)

J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *Int'l. Security* (1994-95)

Oct 4 Neorealism and Neoliberalism II: Hegemonic Stability and Democratic Peace

R. Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (1981) chaps. 1-3, 5-6

* P. Schroeder, "Historical Reality versus Neo-Realist Theory," *International Security* vol. 19 (1994)

* F. Kratochwil, "Embarrassment of Changes," *Review of International Studies* 19 (1993)

* M. Doyle, "Internationalism," chap. 8 in *Ways of War and Peace* (1997), pp. 251-300.

* C. Layne, "Kant or Kant? The Myth of the Democratic Peace," *International Security* vol. 19 (1994) pp. 5-49

* E. Mansfield and J. Snyder, "Democratization and the Danger of War," *International Security* vol. 20 (1995).

Additional suggestions:

S. Strange, "The Persistent Myth of Lost Hegemony," *International Organization* 41 (1987)

B. Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (1993)

R. Lebow, "The Long Peace, the End of the Cold War, and the Failure of Realism," *International Organization* vol. 48 (1994)

Oct 11 Rational Choice and International Political Economy

- * J. Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *Int'l. Organization* 49 (1995) pp. 379-414
- * T. Sandler, *Economic Concepts for the Social Sciences* (2001) chaps. 3-4
- * T. Sandler, "Collective vs. Unilateral Responses to Terrorism," *Public Choice* 30 (2005)
- * S. Walt, "Rigor or Rigor Mortis?," *International Security* (1999)
- * J. Odell, "Understanding International Trade," *World Politics* (1990)
- S. Krasner, "The Accomplishments of International Political Economy," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*

Additional suggestions:

- A. Stein, "The Limits of Strategic Choice," chap. 7 in Lake and Powell, eds., *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (1999)
- R. Bates, "Comparative Politics and Rational Choice," *American Political Science Review*, Sept. 1997, pp. 699-704
- R. Rosecrance, *The Rise of the Trading State* (1986)
- R. Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (1987)

Oct 18 State-Level Theories, Organization, Culture

- * P. Gourevitch, "The Second Image Reversed: International Sources of Domestic Politics," *International Organization* (1978)
- * R. Putnam, "The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization* 42 (1988)
- * H. Callaghan, "Metaphor and Algebra" (2001)
- * M. Evangelista, "Domestic Structures and International Change," in Doyle and Ikenberry, eds., *New Thinking*
- * R. English, "Sociology of New Thinking," *Journal of Cold War Studies* (2005) pp. 43-80
- * J. Duffield, "Germany Confounds Neorealism," *Int'l. Organization* 53 (1999), pp. 765-803
- A. Johnston, "Cultural Realism and Strategy in Maoist China," chap. 7 in Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security*

Additional suggestions:

- P. Evans, H. Jacobson and R. Putnam, *Double-Edged Diplomacy* (1993)
- H. Milner, *Interests, Institutions and Information* (1997)
- Y. Lapid and F. Kratochwil, *The Return of Culture and Identity* (1996)

Oct 25 Social Constructivism

- * A. Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," and R. Keohane, "International Institutions: Two Approaches," both in DerDerian, ed., *International Theory*
- * D. Dessler, "What's at Stake in the Agent-Structure Debate," *Int'l Organization* 43 (1989)
- * A. Wendt, "Constructing International Politics," *International Security* vol. 20 (1995)
- O. Waeber, "The Rise and Fall of the Inter-Paradigm Debate," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*
- P. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security*, chaps. 1-2

Additional suggestions:

- N. Onuf, *World of Our Making* (1989)
- A. Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (1999)

Nov 1 Social Constructivism II

- P. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security*, chaps. 3-6, 9-11
- * J. Barkin and B. Cronin, "The State and the Nation," *Int'l. Organization* (1994) pp.107-130
 - * J. Checkel, "The Constructivist Turn in IR Theory," *World Politics* (1998) pp. 324-348
 - * E. Adler, "Seizing the Middle Ground: Constructivism in World Politics," *European Journal of International Relations*, September 1997
 - * R. Lebow, "Thucydides the Constructivist," *American Political Science Review* vol. 95 (2001) pp. 547-560

Additional readings:

- A. Klotz, *Norms in International Relations* (1995)
- M. Finnemore, *The Purpose of Intervention* (2003)
- N. Tannenwald, *The Nuclear Taboo* (2005)

Nov 8 Marxism and Critical Theory

- * J. Rosenberg, "The International Imagination," *Millennium* vol. 23 (1994), pp. 85-108
- I. Wallerstein, "The Inter-state Structure of the Modern World System," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*
- R. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders" and R. Ashley, "The Poverty of Neorealism" both in Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and its Critics*
- A. Linklater, "The Achievements of Critical Theory," in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*

Additional suggestions:

- V. Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (1916)
- I. Wallerstein, *The Modern World System* (1974, 1980)
- B. Cardoso and E. Faletto, *Dependency and Development in Latin America* (1978)
- J. Maclean, "Marxism and International Relations," *Millennium* 17 (1988), pp. 295-319
- J. George, *Discourses of Global Politics* (1994)
- C. Brown, "Antifoundationalism, Critical Theory, and IR," *Millennium* 23 (1994)

Nov 15 Feminist and Post-Positivist Theory

- * J.A. Tickner, *Gender in International Relations* (1992) chaps 1, 3-5
- * J. A. Tickner, "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists," *International Studies Quarterly* vol. 41 (1997)
- C. Sylvester, "The Contributions of Feminist Theory," Smith, "Positivism and Beyond" and M. Nicholson, "The Continued Significance of Positivism," all in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, *Positivism and Beyond*
- * K. Holsti, "Mirror, Mirror on the Wall," *International Studies Quarterly* vol. 33 (1989)
- * J. George, "Of Incarceration and Closure," *Millennium* vol. 22, pp. 197-234

Additional suggestions:

- V. S. Peterson, *Gendered States* (1992)
- C. Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of IR* (2000)
- J. A. Tickner, *Gendering World Politics* (2001)
- J. Goldstein, *War and Gender* (2001)

Nov 22 States, NSAs, and Global Civil Society

- * H. Bull, "The Importance of Grotius in the Study of International Relations," in Bull, Kingsbury and Roberts, *Hugo Grotius and International Relations* (1990) pp. 65-93
- * K. Deutsch, "Political Community and the North Atlantic Area," in *International Political Communities* (1966), pp. 2-91
- M. Keck and K. Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (1998)
- * R. Lipschutz, "Reconstructing World Politics: The Emergence of Global Civil Society," *Millennium* vol. 21, no. 3, pp. 389-420

Additional suggestions:

- A. Klotz, *Norms in International Relations* (1995)
- M. Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society* (1996)
- J. Ruggie, *Constructing the World Polity* (1998)
- B. Cronin, *Community Under Anarchy* (1999)
- R. Falk, *Human Rights Horizons* (2000)

Nov 29 Hegemony, Polarity and Power Revisited

- J. Vasquez and C. Elman, eds., *Realism and the Balancing of Power* (2003)
- * J. Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future," *International Security* 15 (1990), pp. 5-56
- * M. Mastanduno, "Preserving the Unipolar Moment: Realist Theories and U.S. Grand Strategy After the Cold War," *International Security* 21 (1997) pp. 49-88
- * W. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security* 24 (1999), pp. 5-41
- * J.A. Tickner, "Gendered Perspectives on 9/11," *International Studies Perspectives* 3 (2002)
- * J. Mearsheimer and S. Walt, "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* (Jan-Feb 2003)

Additional suggestions:

- C. Kupchan, *The Vulnerability of Empire* (1994)
- J. Mueller, *Quiet Cataclysm: Reflections on the Transformation of World Politics* (1996)

Dec 5 Critical Review Essay due (Friday COB--hard copy or e-mail attachment)

Dec 8 Final Examination (Thursday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.)

