Course Description

This course introduces graduate students to important theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of international relations. We will cover works that address different levels of analysis—from the international system to domestic politics to individual leaders—and that span major theoretical paradigms, including Realism, Liberalism and Constructivism. We will discuss intellectual history as well as cutting-edge contributions to the field. Class sessions will be conducted in a seminar format, though I will offer occasional, brief lectures to introduce new topics or situate debates.

Course Requirements

The final grade will be based on the following components:
50% – two short papers, not to exceed 5 double-spaced pages (25% each)
30% – final exam (take-home)
20% – class participation, including attendance, contribution to discussion, and presentations

More details on the papers and exam will be provided as the course proceeds.

Readings

Readings are available in the course texts, online through Carmen, and/or online through the library (OSCAR). The required books are available at SBX. Students are expected to complete all of the assigned readings before the relevant class session.

For each reading, we will summarize the argument, discuss its contribution to IR, and probe the argument and evidence for strengths and weaknesses. The following questions can be used to guide your reading of each piece and will shape our discussion:

- What is the question or puzzle?
- What is the argument?
- What are the explicit or implicit assumptions?
- Who are the relevant actors?
- What are their preferences and interests and where do they come from?
- At what level of analysis is the argument?
- Where does the argument fit into the theoretical landscape of IR and who would disagree?
- What is the relative importance of agency versus structure?
- What evidence is provided in support of the argument and is it convincing?
**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

**Disability Services**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.osu.edu/.
Course texts

Required:

Suggested (these edited volumes contain many of the course readings):

IO=International Organization; IS=International Security; WP=World Politics; EJIR=European Journal of International Relations; ISQ=Int’l Studies Quarterly; APSR=Amer. Poli. Sci. Review

January 8 – Introduction: Theory, Methods and Levels

Organization and requirements of the course. What is international relations as a field? What makes a good IR theory? What are the main methodologies and the tradeoffs among them?

Methods:

Levels of Analysis:
Kenneth Waltz. 1959. Man, the State, and War, pp. 16-41, 80-5, 159-65.
January 15 – Realism: Classical and Structural

Classical Realism:

Structural Realism and Anarchy:
Neorealism and Its Critics, chs. 3-5).

January 22 – Extensions and Applications of Realism


January 29 – Neoliberalism: Cooperation and Regime Theory


February 5 – Institutional Variation: Power and Interests

**February 12 – The Constructivist Challenge to Neoliberalism**


**February 19 – Constructivism: Norms, Identities and Communication**


**February 26 – Liberalism Revisited: Domestic Politics and the Democratic Peace**


**March 5 – Transnational and Supranational Actors**


**March 12 – Theoretical Paradigms: Islands or Synthesis?**