

POS 560: International Relations

Reed M. Wood

Tuesday: 4:30 – 7:00

6601 Coor Hall

Office: 6664 Coor Hall

Ph: (480) 965-4686

Email: reed.wood@asu.edu

Office Hours: TR: 3:00-4:00

Objectives of the Seminar

This course is required for students majoring or minoring in International Relations. The objectives of this course are: (1) to understand the scope and breadth of the theoretical literature that has defined the study of international relations; (2) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical paradigms represented in that literature; (3) to define specific research questions and issues that must be addressed by future research; and (4) to prepare students for preliminary examinations in international relations.

It is impossible to provide a comprehensive review of the entire field of international relations in a single semester. The readings and discussions in this course seek to strike a balance between traditional works that define the evolution of the field and contemporary works that highlight the development of our knowledge and possible directions for future research. Some of the materials in this course rely on technical tools (such as econometrics or formal theory). You are not expected to be familiar with these tools prior to enrolling in the course. However, you will be expected to become familiar with them during the semester.

Course Requirements

Summary & Response (25%): Each week, each seminar participant will write a brief response to the set of readings assigned for the week. We will discuss the details of these responses on the first day. In short, for each reading your brief should: 1) identify the central puzzle or question the piece addresses; 2) provide a brief (1-2 sentence) summary of the argument/thesis; 3) develop 3-4 questions or critiques about each reading. These summaries should be **emailed to me by 5:00 PM on the Monday prior to class.**

Literature or Book Review (25% of the final grade): The readings on this syllabus can only serve as a starting point from which students will engage additional important literature. Students will therefore write a literature or book review on a topic of interest to them that relates to one of the subjects addressed by this course. A book review will generally focus intensively on one or two related books; a literature review will examine the development of a theme or problem through time and a larger number of readings. Either type of analysis should be ~5,000 words. Students should consult with me before selecting a review topic. I have listed several articles that you might consider as models for your review at the end of the syllabus. *Note: your topic must be explicitly related to international relations. **Due Monday 4/18.**

Written Final Examination (25% of the final grade): Students will take a one-day examination that will be patterned on the preliminary examinations that graduate students must pass before they may advance to the dissertation stage of the PhD program. **Due Friday 4/29 by 5:00pm.**

Participation (25%): Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week. Student-led discussion of the readings will occur in each class meeting. All students should come prepared with comments regarding the assigned readings.

Required Books

Harrison Wagner, 2007. *War and the State: the Theory of International Politics*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. [Available as E-book at ASU Library]

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth Simmons, eds. 2013. *Handbook of International Relations*, Second Edition. Sage Publications. (Handbook) [Available as E-book at ASU Library]

Week 1 (1/12): Thinking Theoretically about International Relations Research

Hedley Bull, 1966. "International Theory: The Case for the Classical Approach," *World Politics* 18(3)

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, 1985. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View, in Symposium: Methodological Foundations of the Study of International Conflict, *International Studies Quarterly*, 29 (2): 121-136.

Stephen M. Walt, 2005. "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations." *Annual Review of Political Science* 8: 23-48

Dina Zinnes, 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher." *International Studies Quarterly* 23(3): 315-42.

Week 2 (1/19): Definitions and Core Concepts

Thucydides. 431 B.C.E. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, Book 1 (skim). Hobbes, Leviathan (chpts. XIII, XVII and XVIII) Robert Dahl, "The Concept of Power." *Behavioral Science* 2 (2): 201-215 David Baldwin, 2013. *Power and International Relations Handbook*, Chapter 11.

Andreas Osiander. 2001. "Sovereignty, International Relations, and the Westphalian Myth," *International Organization* 55(2)

Week 3 (1/26): International Relations as Social Science

Brian Schmidt, 2013. *On the History and Historiography of International Relations Handbook*.

Chapter 1

Colin Wight, 2013. *Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations Handbook*. Chapter 2.

Richard Herman. "Linking Theory to Evidence in International Relations". Handbook. Chapter 6.

John Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. 2013. "Leaving Theory Behind: Why Hypothesis Testing Has Become Bad for IR." *European Journal of International Relations*

Sydney Tarrow, 2004. "Bridging the Quantitative-Qualitative Divide", in *Rethinking Social Inquiry*, eds. Henry Brady and David Collier, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Week 4 (2/2): Realist Perspectives

Hans Morgenthau. 1948. *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. Chpts 1-3. (available in Dropbox)

Kenneth Waltz. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4)

Stephen Walt. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power," *International Security* 9 (4): 3-43

Bear Braumoeller. 2008. "Systemic Politics and the Origins of Great Power Conflict," *American Political Science Review* 102 (1): 77-93.

***Strongly Recommended:

Kenneth Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Relations*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Week 5 (2/9): Liberal Institutionalism/Neo-Liberalism (and its Limits)

David Axelrod and Robert Keohane, 1985. "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," *World Politics* 38(1): 226-254

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye. 1987. "Power and Interdependence Revisited," *International Organization* 41(4): 725-753.

Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security*, 20(1): 39-51.

Beth Simmons and Dan Hopkins, 2005. "The Constraining Power of International Treaties: Theory and Methods," *American Political Science Review* 99: 623-631.

Mearsheimer, John. 1994. "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19(3): 5-49.

Helen Milner, 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique," *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.

***Strongly Recommended

Richard Ashley, 1984. "The Poverty of Neorealism," *International Organization* 38(2).

Week 6 (2/16): Constructivism and Feminism

Alexander Wendt, 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization* 46: 391-425.

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, 2001. "The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics," *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1): 391-416.

Laura Sjoberg, 2012. "Gender, Structure, and War: What Waltz Couldn't See," *International Theory* 4(1): 1-38

J. Ann Tickner, 2005. "What's Your Research Program? Some Feminist Answers to International Relations Methodological Questions." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (1): 1-21

Laura Sjoberg and J. Ann Tickner, 2013. *Feminist Perspectives on International Relations Handbook*, Chapter 7.

Week 7 (2/23): Psychological Approaches to IR

Robert Jervis, 1988. "War and Misperception," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 675-700.

Janice Gross Stein, 2013. *Psychological Explanations of International Decision Making and Collective Behavior*. Handbook. Chapter 8.

Jack Levy. 1994. "Learning and Foreign Policy: Sweeping a Conceptual Minefield," *International Organization* 48 (02): 279-312.

Dustin Tingley and Barbara Walter, 2011. "Reputation Building in International Relations: An Experimental Approach," *International Organization* 65: 343-365.

Rose McDermott. 2004. "The Feeling of Rationality: The Meaning of Neuroscientific Advances for Political Science," *Perspectives on Politics* 4(2): 691-706.

Week 8 (3/1): The Rational Choice Perspective on International Relations

James Fearon, 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3).

Duncan Snidal, 2013. *Rational Choice and International Relations Handbook*, Chapter 4.

James Fearon and Alexander Wendt. 2013. "Rationalism and Constructivism: A Skeptical View". Handbook, Chapter 3.

Robert Powell, 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem," *International Organization* 60 (1): 169-203

Dan Reiter, 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War", *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-43.

Spring Break (3/8)

Week 9 (3/15): Bargaining War

Harrison Wagner, 2007. *War and the State: the Theory of International Politics*.

Week 10 (3/22): The Liberal Peace

Kenneth Schultz. 1999. "Do Democratic Political Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War," *International Organization* 53: 233-266.

Johann Park and Michael Colaresi. 2014. "Safe Across the Border: The Continued Significance of the Democratic Peace When Controlling for Stable Borders," *International Studies Quarterly*, 58(1): 118-125.

Allan Dafoe, John Oneal and Bruce Russett. 2013. "The Democratic Peace: Weighing the Evidence and Cautious Inference," *International Studies Quarterly* 57: 201-214.

Mark Crescenzi, 2003. "Economic Exit, Interdependence, and Conflict," *Journal of Politics* 65(3): 809-832.

Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace," *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.

Week 11 (3/29): Domestic Politics and International Relations

Weeks, Jessica L. 2012. "Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict." *American Political Science Review*. 106: 326-47.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, James Morrow, Alistair Smith, and Randolph Siverson. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*

Week 12 (4/5): Civil War and Insurgency

Barbara Walter, 2013. *Civil Wars, Conflict Resolution, and Bargaining Theory*. Handbook. Chapter 26.

Lars-Erik Cederman, Nils Weidman, Kristian Gleditsch. 2011. "Horizontal Inequalities and

Ethno-nationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison.” *American Political Science Review* 105(03): 478-495.

Cunningham, Kathleen. 2013. “Actor Fragmentation and Civil War Bargaining: How Internal Divisions Generate Civil Conflict”, *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3)

Mary Caprioli. 2005. “Primed for Violence: The Role of Gender Inequality in Predicting Internal Conflict,” *International Studies Quarterly* 49(2): 161-178.

Cunningham, David. “Veto Players and Civil War Duration”, *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 875-892.

Week 13 (4/12): Civil War and Insurgency (International Dimensions)

Kalyvas, Stathis and Laia Balcells. 2010. “International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict”, *American Political Science Review* 104(3): 415-429.

Navin Bapat, 2010. “Understanding State Sponsorship of Militant Groups”, *British Journal of Political Science* 42: 1-29.

Salehyan, Idean and Kristian Gleditsch. 2006. “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War”, *International Organizations* 60(2): 335-366.

Idean Salehyan, David Siroky and Reed M. Wood, 2012. “External Rebel Sponsorship and Civilian Abuse: A Principal-Agent Analysis of Wartime Atrocities,” *International Organization* 68(3): 633-661.

Stephen Gent, 2008. “Going in When it Counts: Military Intervention and the Outcome of Civil Conflicts,” *International Studies Quarterly* 52(4): 713-735

Week 14 (4/19): Terrorism

Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter. 2002. “Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence,” *International Organization* 56(2).

Ethan Bueno de Mesquita. 2005. “The Quality of Terror,” *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 515-530

David Carter. 2012. “Provocation and the Strategy of Terrorist and Guerrilla Attack,” *International Organization* (forthcoming)

Michael Findley and Joseph Young. 2012. “Terrorism, Democracy, and Credible Commitments”, *International Studies Quarterly* 55(2): 357-378.

Erica Chenoweth. 2013. “Terrorism and Democracy.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 16: 355-378.

Week 15 (4/26): International Mediation, Peacekeeping, and Conflict Management

Beardsley et al. 2006 "Mediation Style and Crisis Outcome," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 2(1): 58-86.

Andrew Kydd, 2010. "Rationalist Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Resolution," *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 101-121

Sara Mitchel and Paul Hensel, 2007. "International Institutions and Compliance with Agreements," *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 721-737.

Page Fortna, 2003. "Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace," *International Organization* 57(2): 337-372

Suzanne Werner and Amy Yuen, 2005. "Making and Keeping Peace." *International Organization* 59 (2): 261-292.

Literature Review Examples

Randall Schweller. 2001. "The Problem of International Order Revisited: A Review Essay," *International Organization* 26(1).

Dale Copeland. 2000. "The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism: A Review Essay," *International Organization* 25(2).

James Fearon and David Laitin. 2000. "Violence and the Social Construction of Ethnic Identity," *International Organization* 54 (4)

Zeev Maoz and Randolph Siverson. 2008. "Bargaining, Domestic Politics, and International Context in the Management of War," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 25(2)

Theda Skocpol, 1973. "A Critical Review of Barrington Moore's Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy," *Politics and Society* 4: 1-34.

John Ruggie, 1983. "Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis," *World Politics* 35

John A. Vasquez, 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.

Douglas Porch, 2000. "Military "Culture" and the Fall of France in 1940: A Review Essay," *International Security* 24: 157-180.

Richard Rosecrance. October 2002. "War and Peace," [review of John Mearsheimer's *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*]." *World Politics* 55 ().