Political Science 857
Theories of International Relations
Professor Lisa Martin
Spring 2015

Tuesdays, 1:20-2:15
Ogg Room

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Office hours Mondays, 11:00-1:00

This course offers a graduate-level introductory review of the field of international relations. The primary purpose is to understand the development of the field, and to understand and be able to evaluate the main theoretical approaches in this sub-discipline. The course covers many of what have come to be known as classic works in the field as well as some more recent theoretical and empirical applications. While it is not designed as a research course, it is useful preparation for more specialized courses of study emphasizing international relations research. Another important purpose of the course is to prepare PhD students to pass the preliminary examination in international relations.

Throughout the course, we will focus primarily on alternative theoretical approaches and perspectives, although we will also explore some empirical work. Our goal will be to engage, discuss, and tackle the following questions: What are the critical concepts? How are cause and effect observed? What kind of research design do the authors use? From what theoretical perspective does the argument originate? With whom are the authors engaged in debate?

Course requirements: All students should come to class having done the readings and be prepared to discuss them in depth each week. I will post discussion questions on learn@uw prior to class to guide your reading and organize class discussion. One-third of the course grade will be based on seminar participation.

Each student will also be required to write eight short essays (no more than 2 pages) based on the weekly readings or some subset thereof. A copy of the essay should be e-mailed to me by noon the day before the class. The papers should not just re-present the arguments, but must analyze, compare, and/or critique the quality of the theory and/or evidence, as appropriate.

Finally, each student will be required to take a 30 minute oral examination with me during the last two scheduled weeks of class (1/3 of the grade). We will make arrangements for the exact timing of this exam later in the semester.
Readings: Readings marked with two asterisks (**) are classics in the field that you should consider buying as part of your permanent bookshelf. Readings marked with one asterisk (*) are available on learn@uw. The other readings should be easily accessible on line through the UW library.

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January 22: Organization


January 29: Development of the field

- **Thucydides. *The Peloponnesian War*. Book 1, vs. 24-146. (page numbers will depend on the edition you use)


February 3: War and power I: structure and conflict


Alexander Wendt, 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*, chs. 4, 6


**February 10: War and power II: agents, ideas, preferences**


**February 17: Cooperation and interdependence**

February 24: Institutions and Organizations


March 3: Conflict and cooperation as bargaining processes


**March 10: Democracy and peace**


March 17: Domestic institutions and interests


- ** Helen Milner, 1997. *Interests, Institutions, and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations*, (Princeton University Press), Ch. 1-4; (pp. 3-128).


March 24: Empire


April 7: Trade and Globalization


April 14: No class

April 21: Ethnicity and civil war


**April 28 and May 5:** Oral examination to be scheduled during regular class time