Introduction to International Relations
Political Science S1601Q
Summer 2008
Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:15pm - 9:25pm
902 International Affairs Building

Instructor: Stefano Recchia
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Course Description:
This course introduces students to the main concepts, theories, and debates in contemporary scholarship on international relations. Central questions include: What are the causes of war and the conditions of peace? Why is international cooperation so difficult? How do transnational terrorism and environmental degradation affect relations among states? The primary goal of the course is to enhance students’ abilities to think critically and analytically about current problems and challenges in international politics. Throughout the term, we will apply different theories of international relations to select historical and contemporary cases in order to illustrate how theory can help us make sense of complex, real-world events.

Course Materials:
The required textbook for this course is:


Students can purchase the reader at the Columbia University Bookstore. The reader is also on reserve at Butler Library. Older versions of the reader will have many but not all of the assigned texts.

Additional readings listed on the syllabus are available in a coursepack that can be purchased at Village Copier (Amsterdam Ave. & 118th). Alternatively, these readings can be accessed online through the class website on Columbia courseworks at https://courseworks.columbia.edu. In order to access courseworks, you will need to log-in with your Columbia uni and password. If you have not yet established an account, you may do so at www.columbia.edu/acis/accounts/create/. For further information call 854-1919.

Requirements and grading:
Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
Two Response Papers: 20%
Take-home Midterm: 30%
In-Class Final Exam: 40%
**Class Participation (10%)**:  
Given that this is an intensive summer course, class attendance and participation are imperative. Students should complete all the required readings before the actual class meeting for which they are assigned (approx. 110 pages/week). Recommended readings are optional: they are for students who wish to dwell further on a specific topic to gain a more advanced understanding of the issues at hand. Specific knowledge of the recommended readings is not required to do well in the course. Students may miss one lecture – no questions asked – but additional absences will result in lost points. Exceptions will be made for students with valid medical or religious excuses. Class participation is essential, and students who do not participate in class discussion will be penalized accordingly.

**Reading Response Papers (20%)**:  
Students are expected to complete two reading response papers (between 2-4 pages) during the course. The instructor will hand out a sign-up sheet on the first day of class: students will be asked to sign up to write response papers on the readings from any two course sections of their choice (e.g. Realism, or the causes of war, or transnational actors). Each response paper must be emailed to the instructor by 12 noon on the day of class. In these papers, students are expected to offer some comments on the readings. These comments might relate the readings to one another or relate the readings to a current or historical event. The papers will serve as the basis for class discussion. Good papers will not just summarize the readings, but rather they will analyze and critically discuss the readings. Each paper will be worth 10 points.

**Midterm (30%)**:  
The take-home midterm will take the form of a 5 to 7 page double-spaced paper (max.1,800 words). The midterm assignment will be handed out on Thursday, July 24 and will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, July 31. The penalty for late submissions in the absence of a valid medical excuse will be one full letter grade a day.

**Final Exam (40%)**:  
The final will be held on the last day of class, Thursday, August 14. The final exam will consist of two parts: first, students will be asked to write short answers to a series of questions requiring them to identify key concepts in international relations; second, students will be asked to write a longer essay on a specific topic from the course. The exact format of the exam will be announced on August 7.
Course Schedule and Readings:

Class 1. Introduction (Tue. July 8)
Introduction: What is International Relations? Main concepts and issues. Levels of Analysis.

Required: [21 pages]

Recommended:

I. PRINCIPAL THEORIES & SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

Class 2. Political Realism (Thu. July 10)

Required: [35 pages]

Recommended:

Class 3. Liberal Internationalism (Tue July 15)

Required: [47 pages]
- Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” AJR, 83-96. [14 pages].

Recommended:
II. WAR AND PEACE

Class 4. The Causes of Inter-state War (Thu. July 17)

Required: [73 pages]

Case-study: The origins of World War II in Europe (Required):

Recommended:


Required: [54 pages]

Recommended:


Required [66 pages]:

Case Study: A Nuclear-Armed Iran? (Required):

Recommended:
III. POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GLOBALIZATION

Class 7. International Political Economy (Tue. July 29)

Required: [57 pages].
- Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, “Has Globalization Passed its Peak?” AJR 340-46. [7 pages].

Recommended:

Class 8. Global Development and Environmental Issues (Thu. July 31)

Required: [66 pages]

Recommended:

Class 9. Transnational Actors: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (Tue. August 5)

Required: [51 pages]
- Sebastian Mallaby, “NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor,” AJR 484-490. [7 pages].
- Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” AJR 198-216. [19 pages].

Recommended:
**IV. INTERNATIONAL ETHICS AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**

**Class 10. Failed States and Humanitarian Intervention (Thu. August 7).**

*Required: [47 pages]*

*Case study: Humanitarian Intervention in Darfur? (Required)*

*Recommended:*

**Class 11. U.S. Leadership and International Order: Challenges Ahead (Tue. August 12)**

*Required: [56 pages]*

*Recommended:*

**Class 12. In-class final exam (Thu. August 14)**