

Introduction to International Relations

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

Instructor: Stefano Recchia
Office hours: Tue. 4.00-6.00pm 1326 IAB

Email: sr2334@columbia.edu

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:

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, eds. *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th edition (New York: Pearson Longman, 2008).

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]

- Charles W. Kegley, "Interpreting World Politics," in Id., *World Politics: Trend and Transformation*, 12th Edition (Thompson 2009). [21 pages].

Recommended:

- Chris Brown, "The Development of International Relations Theory in the Twentieth Century," in Id., *Understanding International Relations* (London: Palgrave, 2001).

I. PRINCIPAL THEORIES & SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

Class 2. Political Realism (Thu. July 10)

Required: [35 pages]

- Thomas Hobbes, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind," in Id., *Leviathan* (New York: Touchstone, 1997). [5 pages].
- Hans Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism," Art-Jervis reader (AJR, 7-14). [8 pages].
- Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," AJR, 29-50. [22 pages].

Recommended:

- Jack Donnelly, "The Realist Tradition," in Id., *Realism and International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2000).

Class 3. Liberal Internationalism (Tue July 15)

Required: [47 pages]

- Immanuel Kant, "Toward Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in Pauline Kleingeld, ed., *Toward Perpetual Peace and other Writings on Politics, Peace, and History*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006). [20 pages]
- Giuseppe Mazzini, "Principles of International Politics," in Stefano Recchia and Nadia Urbinati, eds., *A Cosmopolitanism of Nations: Giuseppe Mazzini's Writings on Democracy, Nation Building, and International Relations* (Princeton University Press, forthcoming). [6 pages].
- Michael W. Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," AJR, 83-96. [14 pages].
- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, "Power and Interdependence," in Richard K. Betts, *Conflict After the Cold War*, 3rd edition (Pearson-Longman, 2008), pp.161-167. [7 pages].

Recommended:

- Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization* 51 (4), 1997, pp. 513-33.

II. WAR AND PEACE

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

Required: [73 pages]

- Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma," *AJR*, 153-73. [21 pages].
- Chris Brown, "The Balance of Power and War," in Id., *Understanding International Relations* (London: Palgrave, 2001), pp.106-126. [21 pages].
- Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *AJR*, 395-411. [16 pages].

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

- Frank Mc Donough, "From Peace to Global War, 1933-41," in *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), pp.69-83 [15 pages].

Recommended:

- Jack Levy, "The causes of war and the conditions of peace," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1, 1998, pp.139-65.

Class 5. International Institutions and Collective Security (Tue. July 22).

Required: [54 pages]

- John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," in Karen A. Mingst and Jack L. Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*, 3rd edition (New York: Norton, 2008), pp. 319-331. [23 pages].
- Thomas G. Weiss et al., "The Theory of UN Collective Security," in *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 5th edition (Westview Press, 2007), pp. 3-26. [23 pages].
- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *AJR*, 61-8. [8 pages].

Recommended:

- Robert Jervis, "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security*, 24 (1), 1999, pp. 42-63.

Class 6. Nuclear Proliferation, Deterrence, and WMDs (Thu. July 24).

Required [66 pages]:

- John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War," *The Atlantic Monthly*, August 1990, 35-50. [16 pages].
- Richard K. Betts, "The New Threat of Mass Destruction," *Foreign Affairs*, 77 (1), 1998, pp. 26-41. [16 pages].

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

- Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, "A Nuclear Iran: Promoting Stability or Courting Disaster?" *Journal of International Affairs*, 60 (2), 2007, 135-150. [16 pages].
- Barry R. Posen, "A Nuclear-Armed Iran: A Difficult but Not Impossible Policy Problem," *AJR* 239-254. [16 pages].
- Michael W. Doyle, "Iran and the West," *Dissent*, Winter 2007. [2 pages].

Recommended:

- Robert Art, "The Four Functions of Force," *AJR*, 131-8.

III. POLITICAL ECONOMY AND GLOBALIZATION

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

Required: [57 pages].

- Robert Gilpin, "The Trading System," in *Global Political Economy: Understanding the Global Economic Order* (Princeton University Press, 2001), pp. 196-233. [38 pages].
- Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, "Has Globalization Passed its Peak?" AJR 340-46. [7 pages].
- Robert O. Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" AJR, 119-130. [12 pages].

Recommended:

- Andrew C. Sobel, "The Bretton Woods System: The Rebuilding of Globalization," *Political Economy and Global Affairs*, 2006, Ch.9, pp.244-285.

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

Required: [66 pages]

- Bruce R. Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village," AJR 290-302. [13 pages].
- Jeffrey D. Sachs, "Globalization and Patterns of Economic Growth," in Michael M. Weinstein, ed., *Globalization: What's new?* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), pp. 214-227. [14 pages].
- Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," AJR 347-352. [6 pages].
- David G. Victor, "International Cooperation on Climate Change," AJR 364-72. [9 pages].
- John Podesta and Peter Odgen, "The Security Implications of Climate Change," *The Washington Quarterly*, 31 (1), 2008, pp. 115-38. [24 pages].

Recommended:

- Jeffrey A. Frankel, "The Environment and Economic Globalization," in Michael M. Weinstein, ed., *Globalization: What's new?* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), pp.129-69.

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

Required: [51 pages]

- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks," AJR 477-483. [7 pages].
- Sebastian Mallaby, "NGOs: Fighting Poverty, Hurting the Poor," AJR 484-490. [7 pages].
- Phil Williams, "Transnational Organized Crime and the State," AJR 491-503. [11 pages].
- Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," AJR 198-216. [19 pages].
- John Mueller, "Is There Still a Terrorist Threat?" *Foreign Affairs* 85, 2006, pp.2-8. [7 pages].

Recommended:

- The Economist, "Special Report on Terrorism," July 19, 2008.

IV. INTERNATIONAL ETHICS AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

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

Required: [47 pages]

- Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators," *AJR*, 427-434 [8 pages].
- Michael Ignatieff, "Intervention and State Failure," *Dissent*, Winter 2002, pp. 115-23. [9 pages].
- Gareth Evans and Mohamed Sahnoun, "The Responsibility to Protect," *Foreign Affairs*, 81 November/December 2002. [8 pages].

Case study: Humanitarian Intervention in Darfur? (Required)

- Roberto Belloni, "The Tragedy of Darfur and the Limits of the 'Responsibility to Protect'", *Ethnopolitics*, 5 (4), 2006, pp. 327-346. [20 pages].
- Bernard-Henri Lévy, "The Faraway Massacre," *The New Republic*, April 21, 2008. [2 pages].

Recommended:

- Richard K. Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention," in Chester A. Crocker et al., eds., *Turbulent Peace: the Challenges of Managing International Conflict* (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 2001) pp. 285-295.

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

Required: [56 pages]

- Stephen M. Walt, "In the National Interest: A new grand strategy for American foreign policy," *The Boston Review*, February/March 2005. [10 pages].
- Joseph Nye, "Soft Power and American Foreign Policy," *Political Science Quarterly*, 119 (2), 2004, pp. 255-270. [16 pages].
- G. John Ikenberry, "Rising Powers and Global Institutions," *AJR*, 560-66. [6 pages].
- Mats Berdal, "The UN Security Council: Ineffective but Indispensable," *Survival*, 45 (2), 2003, pp.7-30. [24 pages].

Recommended:

- Robert O. Keohane and Peter J. Katzenstein, "The Political Consequences of Anti-Americanism", in Katzenstein and Keohane, eds., *Anti-Americanisms in World Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007).

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