

Theories in International Relations

University of San Diego

Spring 2018

M/5:30-8:20

Dr. Joel Day

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Office Hours: M / F 4pm-5pm

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Course Description and Objectives

The central question in the study of International Relations is how states and international entities interact in the absence of a formal authority. Much of our everyday life is organized by the fact that there is a working national government that uses law and, if necessary, force to create order and security. In the global arena, however, there is no superior authority. How is cooperation, order, and even *peace* possible, especially when power is unevenly distributed? This is the central organizing question for this course and the field of international relations. In the absence of a legal authority with sufficient force to resolve disputes, violence (or war) is the ordinary/ historical solution. Is that still true or is the world changing in important ways?

In the first part of this course, students will better understand theoretical issues in IR:

- How cooperation is possible without a uniform world government?
- How the international system of today evolved
- Broad theoretical frameworks for explaining international relations including: realism, neorealism, liberalism, neoliberalism, constructivism, Marxism, poststructural / postmodern, critical theory, gender and feminism, cosmopolitanism, power transition theory, and nonstate explanations.
- The use of force and the changing rules on the use of force
- The entrance and role of new global actors (other than nation-states)
- International regimes and international organizations
- Terrorism, insurgency, civil war, ethnic conflict, and human security
- Great power politics in the 20th and 21st Centuries
- Globalization and international economic issues

Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, successful students should have: a fairly sophisticated understanding of international organizations, the international community, and classical, neo, offensive, defensive, and other forms of realist thought; power transition theory; liberal approaches to international relations, including regime theory, democratic peace, and interdependence approaches; an advanced understanding of different dimensions of ideational and normative approaches such as critical theory, constructivism, postmodernism; understanding of gendered and feminist theories of IR; and a working understanding of regional, subregional, supranational, and substate/domestic approaches to

global politics; understanding of how to apply theoretical insights to applications of state and substate conflict, including terrorism, civil war, and great power conflict; a strong commitment to clear and effective writing; a basic understanding and working knowledge of methods as employed in the field of IR theory; a disciplined, habitual expertise in managing reading and writing schedules; a discipline of engaging with peers and the instructor in a professional way.

Required Material

No textbook is required for this course. All assignments are available on Blackboard. All required readings must be completed prior to the class meeting and lecture discussion for that lesson.

Expectations and Grading

This is a foundational graduate course for the MAIR degree and thus the bar is quite high for student performance. You are expected to attend class regularly, participate verbally and non-verbally, and keep current with the reading schedule. We will be reading several hundred pages per week. The reading will prove overwhelming in a single sitting, so I highly recommend daily work. Lecture notes will not be posted online. I will provide an outline of the lecture during class to assist with note-taking. You must participate in the course by active and attentive note-taking, both during the lecture and during class discussion. If you miss a class, you are expected to get notes from a classmate. You must attend class regularly, arrive early, and be fully prepared for a lecture and discussion. Finally, you are expected to be engaged, respectful, inclusive, and professional at all times. Students can expect the same from me.

1. **Grading.** Course grades will be based on the following elements, but failure to complete any of the individual assignments is grounds for failing the course.

Midterm Exam (25%) The take-home midterm exam will be distributed at the end of class Week 8 and it will be due at the beginning of class of Week 10. The exam accounts for 25% of the total course grade and covers material through Week 8. Late exams will receive a one grade deduction for every day late.

Course Participation (25%) Students should think of the course participation grade as an in-class oral examination extended throughout the semester. I evaluate participation on the basis of preparation, comprehension, professionalism, and engagement. To achieve the maximum score on participation, students should attend class regularly, prepare for discussion by completing the readings in advance, contribute to the discussion in class, and be respectful of and responsive to other students. Quantity of participation is not as important as quality. Questions, insights, and synthesis are all considered quality. Irregular attendance, rude behavior, arriving to class late, failing to participate in discussions, and disrupting class with side conversations, texting, sleeping, or using your laptop for non-course related reasons will detract from the participation grade.

Policy Memo (10%) An important aspect of mastering advanced IR Theory is to be able to translate ideas for a lay audience. Your task will be to produce a 800-1000 word op-ed / policy memo on a prompt to be given in class. You will have one week to write this memo. Examples are provided on Blackboard.

Final (40%) The final paper, worth 40% of the total course grade, will be comprehensive and responsive to three prompts, from a list of five options. You will use readings, lectures, and discussions from the course. The prompts will be given at the end of class on Week 15 and expected by Midnight on May 21. Late exams will receive a one grade deduction for every day late.

2. Assignment Due Dates / Make Up. Incompletes are granted only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious personal illness, death in the family), which are accommodated only at my discretion. No extensions are granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes, extracurricular activities, or stress). I encourage students to think of course deadlines as opportunities to practice the self-discipline required for a successful professional life.

3. Academic Integrity. Cheating and plagiarism should not be tolerated in any academic environment, and I intend to hold everyone equally accountable to that standard. Please review the university policy on academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism. Violations of this will be referred to the department chair and Dean for appropriate discipline.

4. Student Complaints and Grade Disputes. In the event you disagree with a grade, you must notify me via email and then schedule an appointment with me to discuss the grade. To this appointment, you must bring the original piece of work with a professional, typed note outlining the reasons why you believe the grade is unfair or wrong. I will deliberate and revise the grade as I see fit. Please keep in mind that revisions of grades go both ways – up and down. If a dispute still remains, this course will follow the dispute procedure outlined by the university.

5. Student Disabilities. Students with disabilities should notify me immediately so that I can make the appropriate accommodations. Please see the university's policies on students with disabilities.

Schedule

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION, PUZZLES, LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

January 29

Walt, Stephen M. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy*, No. 110 (Spring 1998).

J. David Singer, "The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics* 14 (October 1961): 77-92.

WEEK 2: POWER and REALISM

February 5

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 13. Available online at <http://www.constitution.org/th/leviatha.htm> (search for "Chapter XIII")

Morgenthau, 'Six Principles of Political Realism' in *Politics among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*, 1985.

Waltz, "The Emerging Structure of International Relations," *International Security* (Fall 1993): 44-79.

Kenneth Waltz. 2000. Structural Realism after the Cold War. *International Security*. 25:1 (2000): 5-41

WEEK 3: OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE NEOREALISM & POWER TRANSITION THEORY

February 12

Stephen van Evera. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security*. 22:4 (Spring): 5-43.

Glenn H. Snyder, "Mearsheimer's World -- Offensive Realism and the Struggle for Security," *International Security* 27 (Summer 2002): 149-173.

William Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (1999): 5-41.

Layne, Christopher. 1993. The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise. *International Security* 17 (4):5-51

Randal Schweller and Xiaoyu Pu. 2011. "After Unipolarity: China's Vision of International Order in an Era of U.S. Decline." *International Security*. 36:1 (Summer 2011)

Aaron Friedberg, "The Future of US-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security*, Fall 2005: 7-45.

WEEK 4: RULES, REGIMES, INSTITUTIONS

February 19

Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace* (1795): <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm>

John Owen. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security*, Fall 1994: 87-125.

Chan, Steve, "In Search of Democratic Peace: Problems and Promise," *Mershon International Studies Review*, 41:1 (May 1997), 59-91

Ikenberry, G. John. 1998. Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order. *International Security* 23 (3):43-78.

Stephen D. Krasner, "Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables," *International Organization* 36 (Spring 1982): 185-206.

Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane, "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," in Kenneth Oye, ed., *Cooperation Under Anarchy*, reprinted from *World Politics* 38 (October 1985): 226-254

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* 19 (Winter 1994/95): 5-49.

WEEK 5: IDEAS, NORMS, & SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

February 26

Hedley Bull, "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach," *World Politics* 18 (April 1966): 361-377.

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

Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. "Power in International Politics" *International Organization*. 59:1 (2005): 39-75.

Audie Klotz, "Norms Reconstituting Interests: Global Racial Equality and U.S. Sanctions against South Africa," *International Organization* 49 (Summer 1995): 451-478

Ethan A. Nadelman, "Global Prohibition Regimes: The Evolution of Norms in International Society," *International Organization* 44 (Autumn 1990): 479-526

WEEK 6: MARXISM AND CRITICAL THEORY

March 5

Marx & Engels, "The Communist Manifesto" 1848

Gill, Stephen (1995) 'Globalisation, Market Civilisation and Disciplinary Neo-liberalism', *Millennium* 24(3): 399-423.

Robert Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 10: 126-155 (1981)

Brian Jones. Imperialism and the Highest Form of Capitalism. *International Socialist Review*, 44 (2005) <http://www.isreview.org/issues/44/imperialism.shtml>

Yosef Lapid, "The Third Debate: On the Prospects of International Theory in a Post-Positivist Era," *International Studies Quarterly* 33 (1989): 235-254.

Wallerstein, Immanuel (1974) 'The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System', *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16(4): 387-415.

WEEK 7: POSTMODERN THEORY

March 12

Richard K. Ashley and R. B. J. Walker, "Reading Dissidence/Writing the Discipline: Crisis and the Question of Sovereignty in International Studies," *International Studies Quarterly* 34 (September 1990): 367-416.

Suganami, Hidemi (1999) 'Agents, Structures, Narratives', *European Journal of International Relations* 5(3): 365-386

Edkins, Jenny and Zehfuss, Maja (2005)'Generalising the International', *Review of International Studies*, 31(3): 451-472

Cristian Bueger and Frank Gadinger, "The Play of International Practice," *International Studies Quarterly* 2015

WEEK 8: GENDER & IDENTITY

March 19

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

Carpenter, Charli (2002) 'Gender Theory in World Politics: Contributions of a Nonfeminist Standpoint', *International Studies Review* 4(3): 152-165

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

Enloe, "Wielding Masculinity inside Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo" in *Globalization and Militarism*, 2005.

WEEK 9: *SPRING BREAK*

March 29 - April 2

WEEK 10: DEBATES & GAMES (*Midterm Due*)

April 9

Goddard, Stacie E., and Daniel H. Nexon (2005) 'Paradigm Lost? Reassessing Theory of International Politics' *European Journal of International Relations* 11(1): 9-61

Jennifer Sterling-Folker, "Competing Paradigms or Birds of a Feather? Constructivism and Neoliberal Institutionalism Compared," *International Studies Quarterly*, 44: 97-119 (2000)

David A. Lake, "Theory is Dead, Long Live Theory: The End of the Great Debates and the Rise of Eclecticism in International Relations," *European Journal of International Relations* 19, 3 (2013), pp.567-587.

David A. Lake, "Why Isms are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress," *International Studies Quarterly* 55, 2 (2011), pp.465-480

WEEK 11: SUPER & SUBSTATE ACTORS

April 16

Sen, Amartya. "How to Judge Globalism" (2002) <http://prospect.org/article/how-judge-globalism>

Saskia Sassen. "Globalization or Denationalization." *Review of International Political Economy*, February 2003. .

Michele Acuto (2013) *City Leadership in Global Governance*. *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*: July-September 2013, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 481-498.

Helmut Philipp Aust "Shining Cities on the Hill? The Global City, Climate Change, and International Law" *The European Journal of International Law* Vol. 26 no. 1 EJIL (2015), Vol. 26 No. 1, 255-278 <http://www.ejil.org/pdfs/26/1/2570.pdf>

Joel Day (2018 - *Working Paper*) *Cities as Epistemic Communities of Practice in International Security Governance*

WEEK 12:NONSTATE ACTORS

April 23

Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism," *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (2006): 49-79.

Bin Laden, "Letter to America" 1996

George Bush Speech to West Point (2002)

<http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/bush-graduation-speech-speech-text/>

Barack Obama, 'Cairo Speech (A New Beginning)' 2009

Idean Salehyan, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and David E. Cunningham, "Explaining External Support for Insurgent Groups," *International Organization* 65, 4 (2011), pp.709-744.

WEEK 13: WAR & INTER-NATIONAL CONFLICT

April 30

Levy, J.S. "The Causes of War and Conditions of Peace," *Annual Review of Political Science* 1 (1998), pp. 139-165.

Fearon, J. "Rationalist Theories of War," *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (1995).

Oye, K. "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies," *World Politics* 38, no. 1 (October 1985)

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

WEEK 14: WAR & INTRA-NATIONAL CONFLICT

May 7

Annan, Kofi. "The New World Disorder: Challenges for the UN in the 21st Century," David Hamburg Lecture, Foreign Policy Association, October 2014

James Fearon and David Laitin. 2004. "Neotrusteeship and the Problem of Weak States," *International Security* 28 (4): 5-23.

Lee Ann Fujii, "The Power of Local Ties: Popular Participation in the Rwandan Genocide," *Security Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (2008)

Charli Carpenter, "Women, Children and Other Vulnerable Groups: Gender, Strategic Frames, and the Protection of Civilians as a Transnational Issue," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (June 2005).

WEEK 15: GLOBAL or INDIVIDUAL?

May 14

John G. Ruggie, "Reconstituting the Global Public Domain," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 10 (2004): 499-531

Knud Eric Jorgensen, "Continental IR Theory: The Best Kept Secret," *European Journal of*

International Relations, vol. 6:1 (2000)

Giorgio Shani, "Toward a Post-Western IR: The Umma, Khalso Panth, and Critical International Relations Theory," *International Studies Review*, vol. 10: 4 (2008)

Elizabeth N. Saunders, "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy," *International Security* 34, 2 (2009), pp.119-161.

Keren Yarhi-Milo, "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Assess the Intentions of Adversaries," *International Security* 38, 1 (2013), pp.7-51.

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM

Due May 21