

PO8049: International Politics
Michaelmas Term 2021
Arts Building C2.043, Thurs 15:00–17:00

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1 Description & Objectives

This graduate seminar offers an overview of major theories and analytical approaches in the field of international relations. Each week we will cover a particular theoretical lens or approach through which scholars have sought to make sense of the international environment. The readings in this module reflect research that aims to provide logically consistent and empirically supported explanations of outcomes in world politics. The overarching objective of the seminar is for students to become acquainted with scientific approaches to the study of international relations on a wide range of issue areas. My hope is for this module to also serve as a solid foundation for the development of dissertation research questions and design.

2 Module Requirements and Policies

2.1 Class Discussion (15%)

Student participation in class discussion and debate on the readings is a central element of the seminar. Students are expected to have read all required readings and to have acquired detailed knowledge and developed informed critiques of the readings prior to the class meeting. The objective of class discussion will be to critically assess the readings and offer insights on what direction new research could and should proceed in the field. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their input in class discussion and debate. Those who are deemed to be falling behind in class participation may be asked to submit additional response papers.

Some questions to keep in mind while reading: What are the central theories discussed in the study? Are the assumptions of the theory consistent or do they contradict each other? If the study seeks to test a theory with evidence, what are the findings? How would you rate the quality of the test, e.g. do the data adequately measure the theoretical concepts; is the design strong enough to adequately test the theory? Are there cases that the author has overlooked? How would you go about re-designing the test to overcome any limitations? Can the study be extended to cover other issue areas; if so, which ones?

2.2 Oral Presentation (5%)

Students will be required to give a 10 minute oral presentation of one response paper during the term. This means that if you are presenting in a given week, you must submit a response paper by the Sunday before the meeting. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during the first meeting. Presentations will be evaluated based on the quality of content and execution: organization, demonstrated subject knowledge, effective use of visual aids, engagement with audience, eye contact, and elocution. For some tips on effective execution of an oral presentation, see: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1857815/>.

2.3 Response Papers (30%): 2 required

Students will be required to submit two (2) response papers over the duration of the term. Response papers are not mere descriptions or summaries of the readings, but rather offer critiques and/or provide connections with studies from other weeks' readings. Examples might include a critical evaluation of research design and suggestions for overcoming limitations, discussion on the assumptions of a theoretical approach, possible extensions of a theory, and/or critical evaluation of an empirical analysis. Response papers must engage with the required readings from the week, but may also include the suggested readings as well. Submitted response papers may be circulated in class to add to the discussion.

The required length of the response papers is between 600-800 words, double-spaced pages. The deadline for submission on turnitin.com is **6 PM on the Sunday before class**. Late submissions will not be accepted. You may not submit more than one response paper per week. Submission of response papers must comply with the following schedule:

- One paper due between weeks 2-6
- One paper due between weeks 7-12

2.4 Policy Brief (20%)

Taking the role of policy analyst, your task is to prepare a concise and structured policy brief advising the head of a government agency (e.g. U.S. Department of State, Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U.K. Department for International Development, etc.), an intergovernmental organization (e.g., UNICEF), or a transnational advocacy network (e.g., Greenpeace, Human Rights Watch, etc.) on why and how existing policy regarding a current world affairs issue should be changed and/or what new policy should be implemented. The objective of the policy brief is to encourage you to apply the theoretical frameworks and analytic approaches discussed in class to practical use. This brief should not be just a summary of the issue (assume that the reader watches the news), but rather a theoretically informed and evidence based analysis of current policy effectiveness and advice on new policy.

The length of the policy brief is between 1,000 words, double-spaced pages. The policy brief must also include an executive summary of up to 200 words (does not count to overall word count). Be sure that the brief makes a clear argument, that it is focused, and that it is supported by theory and existing research in the literature. The deadline for submission on turnitin.com is **6 PM on Monday, November 8th**.

2.5 Research Proposal (30%)

Students will be required to submit a long paper at the end of the term. The objective of the paper is to lay out a research design for a larger empirical project which seeks to explain variation in any outcome related to world politics. The paper must formulate a clear research question, connect a theory or theories covered in class to the outcome to be studied, derive a set of hypotheses which will be tested empirically, discuss how the test will be conducted (as well as how concepts will be measured and how the relevant data will be collected), and offer an informed discussion on the expected results of the test. The ultimate goal of the paper is to provide a solid foundation for the development of your dissertation.

The length of the paper should be between 2000 words (including reference list, footnotes, and title page), double-spaced pages. The deadline for submission on turnitin.com is **6 PM on Monday, December 13th**.

2.6 Written Work Submission Guidelines

All written assignments are to be submitted Blackboard.

2.6.1 Academic & Professional Ethics

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others' ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar>). If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one's character. In addition, we strongly recommend that you visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for more information on what *is* and *is not* plagiarism. Lastly, students are required to only submit "new work" in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

2.7 Syllabus Modification Rights

I reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although I may add reading assignments as well.

3 Readings

All required readings and suggested readings will be available on the Blackboard site of the course. This class does not have a textbook. Readings consist of peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and articles from journals intended for wider audiences. Excellent introductions to the scientific study of international politics include the following:

- Bueno de Mesquita, B. (2013). *Principles of international politics*. CQ press.
- Frieden, J. A., Lake, D. A., & Schultz, K. A. (2013). *World politics: interests, interactions, institutions*. New York: WW Norton. 2nd Edition.

4 Course Outline

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16/12/19	<i>Research proposal due, 6PM</i>	

5 Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to the Field

Required:

1. Mearsheimer, J. J., Walt, S. M. (2013). Leaving theory behind: Why simplistic hypothesis testing is bad for International Relations. *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(3), 427–457.
2. Lake, D. A. (2013). “Theory is dead, long live theory.” *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(3), 567-587.
3. Jackson, P. T., Nexon, D. H. (2013). International theory in a post-paradigmatic era: From substantive wagers to scientific ontologies. *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(3), 543-565.
4. Colgan, Jeff D. ”American Perspectives and Blind Spots on World Politics.” *Journal of Global Security Studies* 4, no. 3 (2019): 300-309.

Week 2. The Realist School

Required:

1. Mearsheimer, J. J. (2001). *The tragedy of great power politics*. WW Norton & Company. cc. 1-2.
2. Monteiro, N. P. (2012). Unrest assured: Why unipolarity is not peaceful. *International Security*, 36(3), 9-40.
3. Rathbun, Brian. "A rose by any other name: Neoclassical realism as the logical and necessary extension of structural realism." *Security Studies* 17, no. 2 (2008): 294-321.

Suggested:

- Waltz, K. N. (2001). *Man, the state, and war: a theoretical analysis*. Columbia University Press. cc. 4,6,&8.
- Legro, J. W., & Moravcsik, A. (1999). Is anybody still a realist?. *International Security*, 24(2), 5-55.
- Ashley, R. K. (1984). "The poverty of neorealism." *International Organization*, 38(02), 225-286.
- Milner, H. (1991). "The assumption of anarchy in international relations theory: a critique." *Review of International Studies*, 17(1), 67-85.

Week 3. Rationalist Perspective

Required:

1. Kydd, Andrew H. "Methodological individualism and rational choice." In *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*. 2008.
2. Schelling, T. C. (1967). *Arms and Influence*. Yale University Press. cc. 1-2.
3. Freedman, L., & Karsh, E. (1991). "How Kuwait Was Won: Strategy in the Gulf War." *International Security*, 5-41.
4. Snidal, D. (1985). The game theory of international politics. *World Politics*, 38(1), 25-57.

Suggested:

- Lake, D. A., & Powell, R. (Eds.). (1999). *Strategic choice and international relations*. Princeton University Press. cc. 1-3.
- Fearon, J. D. (1994). "Domestic political audiences and the escalation of international disputes." *American Political Science Review*, 88(3), 577-592.
- Fearon, J. D. (1995). "Rationalist explanations for war." *International organization*, 49(03), 379-414.
- Bueno de Mesquita, B. (1988) "The Contribution of Expected Utility Theory to the Study of International Conflict." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 18(8): 629-652.

Week 4. Ideas, Culture, and Identity

Required:

1. Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (2001). "Taking stock: the constructivist research program in international relations and comparative politics." *Annual review of political science*, 4(1), Read 391-404, review rest.
2. Finnemore, M. (1996). *National interests in international society*. Cambridge University Press. pp. 1-33.
3. Haas, M. L. (2005). *The ideological origins of great power politics, 1789-1989*. Cornell University Press. pp. 1-39.

Suggested:

- Wendt, A. (1992). "Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics." *International organization*, 46(02), 391-425.
- Wendt, A. (1999). *Social theory of international politics*. Cambridge University Press. cc. 3&6.
- Ruggie, J. G. (1998). "What makes the world hang together? Neo-utilitarianism and the social constructivist challenge." *International organization*, 52(4), 855-885.

Week 5. Psychological Approaches

Required:

1. Organski, Kertzer, Joshua D., and Dustin Tingley. "Political psychology in international relations: beyond the paradigms." *Annual Review of Political Science* 21 (2018): 319-339.
2. Yarhi-Milo, Keren. "In the eye of the beholder: How leaders and intelligence communities assess the intentions of adversaries." *International Security* 38, no. 1 (2013): 7-51..
3. Rathbun, Brian C., Joshua D. Kertzer, Jason Reifler, Paul Goren, and Thomas J. Scotto. "Taking foreign policy personally: Personal values and foreign policy attitudes." *International Studies Quarterly* 60, no. 1 (2016): 124-137.
4. Horowitz, Michael, Rose McDermott, and Allan C. Stam. "Leader age, regime type, and violent international relations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49, no. 5 (2005): 661-685.

Suggested:

- Mercer, Jonathan. "Rationality and psychology in international politics." *International organization* 59, no. 1 (2005): 77-106.
- McDermott, Rose. *Political psychology in international relations*. University of Michigan Press, 2004.
- Levy, Jack S. "Political psychology and foreign policy." (2003).

Week 6. International Institutions

Required:

1. Keohane, R. O. (2005). *After hegemony: Cooperation and discord in the world political economy*. Princeton University Press. cc. 1, 4-6.
2. Goldstein, J. L., Rivers, D., & Tomz, M. (2007). "Institutions in International Relations: Understanding the Effects of the GATT and the WTO on World Trade." *International Organization*, 61(1), 37-67.
3. Downs, G. W., Rocke, D. M., & Barsoom, P. N. (1996). "Is the good news about compliance good news about cooperation?." *International Organization*, 50(03), 379-406.

Suggested:

- Martin, L. L., & Simmons, B. A. (1998). "Theories and empirical studies of international institutions." *International Organization*, 52(4), 729-757.
- Koremenos, B., Lipson, C., & Snidal, D. (2001). "The rational design of international institutions." *International organization*, 55(4), 761-799.
- Grieco, J. M. (1988). "Anarchy and the limits of cooperation: a realist critique of the newest liberal institutionalism." *International organization*, 42(3), 485-507.
- Phelan, W. (2012). "What Is *Sui Generis* About the European Union? Costly International Cooperation in a Self-Contained Regime." *International Studies Review*, 14(3), 367-385.
- Von Stein, J. (2005). "Do treaties constrain or screen? Selection bias and treaty compliance." *American Political Science Review*, 99(4), 611-622.

Week 8. Domestic Groups and State Behavior

Required:

1. Moravcsik, A. (1997). "Taking preferences seriously: A liberal theory of international politics." *International organization*, 51(4), 513-553.
2. Putnam, R. D. (1988). "Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games." *International organization*, 42(3), 427-460.
3. Kaufmann, C. D., & Pape, R. A. (1999). "Explaining costly international moral action: Britain's sixty-year campaign against the Atlantic slave trade." *International Organization*, 53(4), 631-668.
4. Oakes, A. (2006). "Diversionary war and Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands." *Security Studies*, 15(3), 431-463.

Suggested:

- Frieden, J. A. (1991). Invested interests: the politics of national economic policies in a world of global finance. *International Organization*, 45(04), 425-451.
- Scheve, K. F., & Slaughter, M. J. (2001). What determines individual trade-policy preferences?. *Journal of International Economics*, 54(2), 267-292.
- Mansfield, E. D., & Mutz, D. C. (2009). Support for free trade: Self-interest, sociotropic politics, and out-group anxiety. *International Organization*, 63(03), 425-457.
- Hiscox, M. J. (2002). Commerce, coalitions, and factor mobility: Evidence from congressional votes on trade legislation. *American Political Science Review*, 96(03), 593-608.
- Krasner, S. D. (1972). "Are bureaucracies important? (or Allison Wonderland)." *Foreign Policy*, 159-179.
- Levy, J. S., & Vakili, L. I. (1992). "Diversionary action by authoritarian regimes: Argentina in the Falklands/Malvinas case." In *The internationalization of communal strife* (ed. Midlarsky, M. I.), New York: Routledge, pp. 118-46.
- Gartner, S. S., & Segura, G. M. (1998). "War, casualties, and public opinion." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 42(3), 278-300.

Week 9. Domestic Institutions and State Behavior

Required:

1. Schultz, K. A. (1999). Do democratic institutions constrain or inform? Contrasting two institutional perspectives on democracy and war. *International Organization*, 53(2), 233-266.
2. Milner, H. V., & Kubota, K. (2005). "Why the move to free trade? Democracy and trade policy in the developing countries." *International organization*, 59(1), 107-143.
3. Spruyt, Hendrik. *Ending empire: Contested sovereignty and territorial partition*. Cornell University Press, 2005 cc 1-2.
4. Colgan, Jeff D., and Jessica LP Weeks. "Revolution, personalist dictatorships, and international conflict." *International Organization* 69, no. 1 (2015): 163-194.

Suggested:

- Person, T., & Tabellini, G. (2004). Constitutions and economic policy. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 75-98.
- Evans, C. L. (2009). A protectionist bias in majoritarian politics: An empirical investigation. *Economics & Politics*, 21(2), 278-307.
- Kennedy, P. M. (1981). "Strategy versus finance in twentieth-century Great Britain." *The International History Review*, 3(1), 44-61.
- Bernhard, W., & Leblang, D. (1999). "Democratic institutions and exchange-rate commitments." *International Organization*, 53(1), 71-97.
- Cuervo-Cazurra, A. (2006). "Who cares about corruption?" *Journal of International Business Studies*, 37(6), 807-822.
- MacIntyre, A. (2001). "Institutions and investors: The politics of the economic crisis in Southeast Asia." *International Organization*, 55(1), 81-122.
- De Soto, H. (2003). *Mystery of capital: why capitalism triumphs in the West and fails everywhere else*. Basic books.
- Broz, J. L. (2002). Political system transparency and monetary commitment regimes. *International Organization*, 56(04), 861-887.

Week 10. Transnational Politics

Required:

1. Keck, M. E., & Sikkink, K. (1998). *Activists beyond borders: Advocacy networks in international politics* (Vol. 35). Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. cc. 1-3.
2. Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (1998). "International norm dynamics and political change." *International organization*, 52(04), 887-917.
3. Tannenwald, N. (1999). "The nuclear taboo: The United States and the normative basis of nuclear non-use." *International Organization*, 53(03), 433-468.
4. Farrell, H., Newman, A. L. (2019). Weaponized Interdependence: How Global Economic Networks Shape State Coercion. *International Security*, 44(1), 42-79.

Suggested:

- Hathaway, O. A. (2002). "Do human rights treaties make a difference?." *Yale Law Journal*, 1935-2042.
- Hathaway, O. A. (2007). "Why do countries commit to human rights treaties?." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(4), 588-621.
- Hafner-Burton, E. M. (2005). "Trading human rights: How preferential trade agreements influence government repression." *International Organization*, 59(3), 593-629.

Week 11. Hierarchy and Order

Required:

1. Mattern, J. B., Zarakol, A. (2016). Hierarchies in world politics. *International Organization*, 70(3), 623-654.
2. Musgrave, P., Nexon, D. H. (2018). Defending hierarchy from the moon to the Indian Ocean: Symbolic capital and political dominance in early modern China and the Cold War. *International Organization*, 72(3), 591-626.
3. Phillips, A., Sharman, J. C. (2015). Explaining durable diversity in international systems: State, company, and empire in the Indian Ocean. *International Studies Quarterly*, 59(3), 436-448.
4. Kang, D. C. (2004). Hierarchy, balancing, and empirical puzzles in Asian international relations. *International Security*, 28(3), 165-180.

Suggested:

- McConaughy, M., Musgrave, P., Nexon, D. H. (2018). Beyond anarchy: Logics of political organization, hierarchy, and international structure. *International Theory*, 10(2), 181-218.
- Ikenberry, G. J. (2019). *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars, New Edition-New Edition* (Vol. 161). Princeton University Press.
- Lake, D. A. (2009). *Hierarchy in international relations*. Cornell University Press.
- Bull, H. (2012). *The anarchical society: a study of order in world politics*. Macmillan International Higher Education.
- March, J. G., Olsen, J. P. (1998). The institutional dynamics of international political orders. *International organization*, 52(4), 943-969.
- MacDonald, P. K. (2018). Embedded authority: a relational network approach to hierarchy in world politics. *Review of International Studies*, 44(1), 128-150.

Week 12. International Systems Change

Required:

1. Spruyt, H. (1994). Institutional selection in international relations: state anarchy as order. *International Organization*, 48(4), 527-557.
2. Branch, J. (2011). Mapping the sovereign state: Technology, authority, and systemic change. *International Organization*, 65(1), 1-36.
3. Buzan, B., Lawson, G. (2013). The global transformation: The nineteenth century and the making of modern international relations. *International Studies Quarterly*, 57(3), 620-634.

Suggested:

- Philpott, D. (2000). The religious roots of modern international relations. *World Politics*, 52(2), 206-245.
- Teschke, B. (2003). *The myth of 1648: class, geopolitics, and the making of modern international relations*. Verso.
- Osiander, A. (2001). Sovereignty, international relations, and the Westphalian myth. *International organization*, 55(2), 251-287.
- Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (1998). "International norm dynamics and political change." *International organization*, 52(04), 887-917.