Theory of International Relations
Fall Semester, 2012

Course Type: 3 Unit Core Course
Department: Institute of China and Asia-Pacific Studies
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Classroom: Social Science Building #2007

Course Description
This course is designed to advance doctoral students further to the major theoretical discussions and debates, the origins, evolution, and current status, among various theories in the fields of IR. We will explore a variety of different and often contradictory worldviews and theoretical frameworks. For example, you will learn that there is no consensus in IR about the purposes of theory nor even about the existence of natural “laws” governing the processes we study. Students will master the core assumptions and methods of analysis of each school of thought. This course is also about critical thinking—the analysis and evaluation of theoretically and empirically grounded arguments about the world. Students will critically review the raison d’être of each theoretical perspective and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the descriptions, interpretations, explanations, predictions and policy prescriptions that these theories support.

Course Style
Seminar

Evaluation
Participation 20%
Class Discussion 20%
Presentation 20%
Midterm Report 20%
Final Report 20%

Participation
in seminar includes attendances, reading, as well as regular engagements with discussion during the semester.
**Midterm report**
is a complete research proposal on the research filed and topic you pick at the beginning of this class. Midterm is due by **noon November 21**. Here, complete proposal includes your research questions, research methods, issue background introduction, literature review, your initial argument and hypothesis, and your directions toward the end of semester in order to complete a term paper. The usual length is 20-25 pages.

**Presentation**
Students are required to give two presentations on any of the scheduled topics of this course. Presentation is one and half hour in length and has to cover all the readings of the chosen week. The presenter will also be responsible for leading class discussion and answering questions.

**Term paper**
will encourage independent research that looks more deeply at research questions raised from the course or any topic within the scope of international relations that interests you. You should consult with me on choice of topic. The usual length is 20-35 pages and please follow the writing format and style of 遠景季刊. It is due by **noon of January 16**. Please **DO NOT ask for an extension**.

**Appointment**
11:50-13:50 Tuesday and Wednesday, Center for Japanese Studies
**Course Readings**


**IR Theory in General**


**Realist Concepts**


**International Political Economy**


**Foreign Policy**


In addition, students are required to read online news such as *Defense News, Wall Street Journal, L.A. Times, New York Times, and Washington Post* in weekly basis and report and turn in one page news summary when coming to class. Students are also strongly encouraged to acquire the habit of independent (unassigned) reading of such journals as *International Organization, International Security, World Politics, Millennium* and *European Journal of International Relations*. 
Schedule
09/19 Introduction
Self-introduction, course overview, group up, sign up presentation topic, pick field of focus

I. Theory in General
09/26 Theoretical Approaches to International Relations
   D&P Ch.1
   IEK Talk: The Rise of South Korea

10/03 From Realist to Neorealist and Neoclassical Realist Theory
   D&P Ch.2

10/10 National Holiday, No Class Today!!!

10/17 System, Structure, Agent, and International Relations Theory
   D&P Ch.3

10/24 The Physical/Social/Environing Context: Constructing Reality
   D&P Ch.4

II. Realist Concepts
10/31 The Older Theories of Conflict and War
   D&P Ch.5
   IEK Talk: Topic TBA

11/07 Microcosmic Theories of Violent Conflict
   D&P Ch.6

11/14 Macrococsmic Theories of Violent Conflict: International War I
   D&P Ch.7, from Inside Versus Outside to the Correlates of War Project

11/21 Midterm Research Proposal Due by noon!!! No Class Today.

11/28 Macrococsmic Theories of Violent Conflict: International War II
   D&P Ch.7, from Arms Races to Democracies, War, and Peace
12/05 Theories of Deterrence: Arms Control and Strategic Stability I
   D&P Ch.8, from Historical Background to Nuclear Deterrence
   Talk: Professor Ryunoshin Kamikawa, Osaka University, Topic TBA

12/12 Theories of Deterrence: Arms Control and Strategic Stability II
   D&P Ch.8, from Empirical Studies of Deterrence to Deterrence in the 21st Century

   III. International Political Economy

12/19 International Political Economy I
   D&P Ch.9, from Mercantilism to Critique of Marxists and Neo-Marxists

12/26 International Political Economy II
   D&P Ch.9, from Imperialism as Political Slogan to the Global Financial Crisis

01/02 Theories of International Cooperation and Integration
   D&P Ch.10

   IV. Foreign policy

01/09 Decision-Making Theories: Choice and the Unit Level Actor
   D&P Ch.11

01/16 International Relations Theory: Into the Third Millennium
   D&P Ch.12

01/16 Term Paper Due by Noon!!!