

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

James E. Dougherty and Robert L. Pfaltzgraff, Jr., 2001, *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey*, Addison Wesley Longman, Inc.

IR Theory in General

Robert O. Keohane ed., 1986, *Neorealism and Its Critics*, New York: Columbia University Press.

David A. Baldwin ed., 1993, *Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Martin Hollis and Steve Smith, 1990, *Explaining and Understanding International Relations*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Realist Concepts

Robert Gilpin, 1981, *War and Change in World Politics*, Melbourne: Cambridge University Press.

Stephen M. Walt, 1987, *The Origins of Alliances*, New York: Cornell University Press.

Barry Buzan, Charles Jones, and Richard Little, 1993, *The Logic of Anarchy: Neorealism to Structural Realism*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Stephen D. Krasner ed., 1983, *International Regimes*, New York: Cornell University Press.

International Political Economy

Stephan Haggard, 1990, *Pathways from the Periphery: The Politics of Growth in the Newly Industrializing Countries*, New York: Cornell University Press.

Foreign Policy

Judith Goldstein and Robert O. Keohane ed., 1993, *Ideas and Foreign Policy: Beliefs, Institutions, and Political Change*, New York: Cornell University Press.

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 Macrocosmic 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 Macrocosmic 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!!!**