

PLS550

IR Core Seminar

Fall 2019 | F 12:00–15:00 | Room 8.309

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a firm foundation of the subfield of international relations and prepare them for advanced study in this sub-field of political science. International Relations concerns itself with explaining the behavior of states and other actors in the international system. As such, there is no overarching theory of world politics. This course lays the foundation for all subsequent international relations courses, since all scholars in the subfield face the same theoretical and methodological issues regardless of their empirical interests. Taking this course should help you learn to think about international relations like a political scientist

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

At the end of this course, you should not only have a working knowledge of major theoretical approaches of international relations, but also be in a position to critically evaluate theoretical and empirical claims of IR scholarship. This course has the following learning objectives:

- Students will gain a substantive knowledge of one or more primary subfields within the discipline of political science.
- Students will demonstrate their synthesis of a body of literature by producing a coherent literature review.
- Students will learn to work independently.
- Students will be able to present research ideas and findings in a coherent and organized manner.
- Students will be able to make their own evidence-based arguments.
- Students will be able to generate hypotheses and design research to test them.
- Students will become proficient analyst of real politics in oral and written formats.

Textbooks

Students must be prepared for each class by fully digesting assigned readings for the week (see the course schedule). Read the recommended books in below on your own to better prepare yourself for the seminar.

- ❖ Reus-Smit, C. and D. Snidal, eds. 2008. *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (Oxford University Press).
- ❖ Katzenstein, Peter J. 1996. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (Columbia University Press).
- ❖ Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict* (Oxford University Press)

All required readings from journal articles and book chapters will be available via the course Moodle.

Course Requirements

Weekly question memo Each student will be required to submit a weekly discussion question memo via Moodle. This memo will be due on *Wednesday 12:00 pm* for our Friday class. The discussion question memo is meant to guide your questions and the discussion we will have in class. I will use the questions from these memos to structure class discussion. A sample of this discussion memo will be shared with students and uploaded to Moodle. These memos are an important part of the learning and writing process. They are graded as having been complete. If you fail to turn in these memos or turn them in late, I will deduct from your final grade.

Weekly response papers Each student is required to write 10 response papers during the course. No paper is due on Week 1 or in Week 15. This allows students to individually choose to miss two papers. Or alternatively, if a student turns in more than 10 papers, the grade will be based on the best 10 (of a potential 12) papers that were turned in.

A research design paper The purpose of this class is to give you a substantive background in international relations and to advance your ability to write a thesis. The final paper for the course is a term paper that builds the front end of a research project. This means you will have a research question, literature review, theory and hypotheses and a plan for how you will test those hypotheses. You will be required to turn in elements of this research design throughout the semester for grading and feedback.

Formatting your work All written work should be turned in electronically via the course Moodle. Response papers and the constituent pieces of the final paper must be turned in as a hard copy at the beginning of class. All written assignments should be formatted in a single-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font with one-inch margins. Work should be left-justified, and each paper should have your name in the upper left corner and page numbers in the bottom center.

You will likely be doing similar work in your other graduate seminars. In this course you will choose a topic related to IR. Besides learning how to write and the substantive issues of political science, the most important thing for you to do during this first year of graduate school is to find your thesis topic. The more work you can do on that in your courses, the better off you will be during year 2.

Grading Policy

General rules Grading for graduate students is different than grading for undergraduate students. Your role is shifting from being a student to becoming a researcher. I assume that all of you are here because you are interested and motivated in studying political science *and* that you desire to be proficient in some sub-fields of political science. My grading in this course is to give you a general idea of whether your work meets expectations of such desire. For graduate grades, you should be aware of the following rule:

A/A-	Your work is generally meeting the standards of graduate work. You are on the right track.
B/B+	Your work is meeting undergraduate standards but is still falling short in terms of depth of analysis, originality, and quality.
B-/C+	Your work has serious weaknesses and is not up to standard.
C and below	Your work is failing at the graduate level.

Feedback and grades During the semester I will mark each assignment with a letter grade or grade range. I am looking for your trajectory and improvement. Unlike undergraduate classes I am not compiling your percentage as the semester goes on. I am seeing what level your work is on generally and where you end up with the quality of your work by the end of the semester. I will provide written feedback on all work and will let you know if your work is falling below standard and if you are in danger of receiving a grade below a B in the course.

Late submissions and extension I *do not* accept late submissions, except for extreme circumstances. All written assignments must be submitted via the moodle, unless instructed otherwise. If your assignment is due in class, a hard-copy should be submitted at the *beginning* of the class. Extensions will be granted in a collective manner only. No one will get an extension individually for personal excuses.

Plagiarism This will never be tolerated. Students must be familiarized with the student code of conduct and the university regulations about academic misconduct. If you don't agree with the penalty imposed by the instructor, you can appeal to the SHS Disciplinary Committee. See the Academic Integrity Policy for more information.

Academic Integrity Policy

Official documents Students must become familiarized with the NU Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, which are available at the NU portal. It is your responsibility to know the procedure and basic rules and regulations pertaining to your study at NU.

Plagiarism I assume that you are familiar with the definition of plagiarism and its consequences. Again, graduate students are supposed to act professionally. If your work turns out to be plagiarism, you will be reported to the Director of Graduate Studies and the SHS Disciplinary Committee.

Attitude Students are responsible for their behavior as a responsible citizen and member of NU community. Use your common sense before you act to judge if your action to be taken is appropriate. I expect all student in this course will follow basic rules as illustrated in below, but not limited to. A serious violation of any of those will result in a disciplinary action.

- The official language of teaching/learning is English in this class.
- Students must show proper respect to each other.
- Physical and/or verbal violence is never tolerated under any circumstances.
- Both the instructor and students should comply to course policies as well as the University regulations

Other Policies

Participation This is not a lecture-based course. A seminar needs contributions from all participants. I expect each student to take part for the collective productivity of the course. If you do not contribute to the seminar, I will give you a warning. My warning may not penalize your grade but will do affect your reputation.

Attendance As a graduate student, it is your job to attend classes and seminars. I do not keep tracks of your attendance but I am still responsible to follow your trajectory in this course. If you miss three or more sessions, I believe that you are no longer interested in completing your MA degree here. Again, it will hurt your reputation.

Technologies in class You can use laptops and tablets for the purpose of studying. However, cell-phones are not allowed (no matter what apps you're running). Also, voice and/or video recording is also prohibited.

Communications If you need to talk to me outside the class, my door is open to you. Email me for set up an appointment if you cannot visit my office hours.

Assistance for physical/mental needs If a student needs a special attention due to his/her own physical or mental conditions, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in the beginning of the semester. If necessary, the instructor can demand official documentation on the student's condition. Upon such requests, the student should provide appropriate records/proofs of the condition. If not provided, the requests may not be considered at all.

Changes to syllabus The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. Any changes will be communicated in class and via Moodle.

Course Schedule

Course schedules are subject to change. Any changes will be notified at least one week prior to the original schedule. Books and articles are available at the NU library (★: required, ☆: recommended).

Week 1. Introduction

- The instructor's teaching philosophy and student introductions
- IR faculty visits (Dr. Willardson and Dr. Savevska will visit to give short talks on their research)
- Course expectations and format.

Week 2. Overview of Concepts, Approaches, and Theories

- ★ Katzenstein, Peter J., Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner. 1998. "International organization and the study of world politics," *International Organization* 52(4): 645-686.
- ★ Walt, Stephen M. 1998. "International relations: One world, many theories," *Foreign Policy*, 110, 29-46.
- ★ Barnett, Michael and Kathryn Sikkink. 2005. "From international relations to global society," in *Handbook*, chapter 3.
- ★ Cox, Robert W. 2008. "The point is not just to explain the world but to change it," in *Handbook*, chapter 4.
- ☆ Waltz, Kenneth. 2010. *Theory of International Politics*, Reissue edition (Waveland Press).

Week 3. No class (Constitution Day)

No class.

Week 4. Realism and Anarchy

- ★ Milner, Helen V. 1991. "The assumption of anarchy in international relations theory: A critique," *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.
- ★ Kegley, Charles W. 1993. "The Neoidealist Moment in International Studies? Realist Myths and the New International Realities," *International Studies Quarterly* 37(2): 131-146.
- ★ Mearsheimer, John J. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W.W. Norton & Company), chapters 2 and 10.
- ★ Donnelly, Jack. 2005. "The ethics of realism," in *Handbook*, chapter 8.
- ☆ Lake, David A. 1996. "Anarchy, hierarchy, and the variety of international relations," *International Organization* 50(1): 1-34.

Week 5. Liberalism and Institutions

- ★ Ikenberry, John G. 2001. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), chapters 2 and 3.
- ★ Gruber, Lloyd. 2005. "Power politics and the institutionalization of international relations," in Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, eds. *Power in Global Governance* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press), chapter 5.
- ★ Stein, Arthur A. 2005. "Neoliberal institutionalism," in *Handbook*, chapter 11.
- ★ Richardson, James L. 2005. "The ethics of neoliberal institutionalism," in *Handbook*, chapter 12.
- ☆ Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization* 51 (4): 513-553.
- ☆ Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton University Press)

Week 6. Constructivism and Identity

- ★ Katzenstein, Peter J. 1996. "Introduction: Alternative perspectives on national security," in *Culture*, chapter 1.
- ★ Jepperson, Ronald L., Alexander Wendt, and Peter J. Katzenstein. 1996. "Norms, identity, and culture in national security," in *Culture*, chapter 2.
- ★ Price, Richard and Nina Tannenwald. 1996. "Norms and deterrence: the nuclear and chemical weapons taboos," in *Culture*, chapter 4.
- ★ Abdelal, Rawi, Yoshiko M. Herrera, Alastair Iain Johnston, and Rose McDermott. 2006. "Identity as a Variable," *Perspectives on Politics* 4(4): 695-711.
- ☆ Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics," *International Organization* 46(2): 391-425.
- ☆ Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International norm dynamics and political change," *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917.

Week 7. Rational Choice and IR

- ★ Stein, Arthur A. 1990. *Why Nations Cooperate: Circumstance and Choice in International Relations* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press), chapter 2.
- ★ Kahler, Miles. 1998. "Rationality in International Relations," *International Organization* 52(4): 919-941.
- ★ Snidal, Duncan. 2002. "Rational choice and international relations," in Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse & Beth A. Simmons. eds. *Handbook of International Relations* (Sage Publications), chapter 4.
- ☆ Lake, David A. and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), chapters 1 and 2.
- ☆ Oye, Kenneth. 1985. "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy," *World Politics* 38(1): 124.

Week 8. Fall Break

No class

Week 9. Cognitive and Bureaucratic Approaches

- ★ Jervis, Robert. 1968. "Hypotheses on misperception," *World Politics* 20(3): 454-479.
- ★ Levy, Jack S. 1997. "Prospect theory, rational choice, and international relations," *International Studies Quarterly* 41(1): 87-112.
- ★ Mercer, Jonathan. 2010. "Emotion beliefs," *International Organization* 64(1): 1-31.
- ★ Yarhi-Milo, Keren. 2013. "In the eye of the beholder: How leaders and intelligence communities assess the intentions of adversaries," *International Security* 38(1): 7-51.
- ☆ Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review* 63(3): 689-718.
- ☆ Bendor, Jonathan and Thomas H. Hammond. 1992. "Rethinking Allison's model," *American Political Science Review* 86(2): 301-322.

Week 10. Bargaining, Coercion, and War

- ★ Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist explanations of war," *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
- ★ Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem," *International Organization* 60(1): 169-203.
- ★ Lake, David A. 2010/2011. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War," *International Security* 35(3): 7-52.

- ★ Sechser, Todd and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2013. “Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail,” *International Organization* 67(1):173-95
- ☆ Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict* (Harvard University Press), chapter 2.

Week 11. Domestic Politics and International Conflict (1)

- ★ Owen, John M. 1994. “How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace,” *International Security* 19(2): 871-25.
- ★ Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. “Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War,” *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.
- ★ Weeks, Jessica L. 2012. “Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict,” *American Political Science Review* 106(2):326-347.
- ★ Reiter, Dan and Allan C. Stam. 2002. *Democracies at War* (Princeton University Press), chapters 1 and 2.
- ☆ Bueno De Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. “An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace,” *American Political Science Review* 93(4): 791-807.
- ☆ Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. “Normative and structural causes of democratic peace, 1946-1986,” *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 624-638.

Week 12. Domestic Politics and International Conflict (2)

- ★ Solingen, Etel. 2007. “Pax Asiatica versus Bella Levantina: The Foundations of War and Peace in East Asia and the Middle East,” *American Political Science Review* 101(4): 757-780.
- ★ Tomz, Michael. 2007. “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach,” *International Organization* 61(4): 821-840
- ★ Fravel, M. Taylor. 2010. “The Limits of Diversion: Rethinking Internal and External Conflict,” *Security Studies* 19(2): 307-341.
- ★ Croco, Sarah. 2011. “The Decider’s Dilemma: Leader Culpability, War Outcomes, and Domestic Punishment,” *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 457-477.
- ☆ Weiss, Jessica Chen. 2013. “Authoritarian signaling, mass audiences, and nationalist protest in China,” *International Organization* 67(1): 1-35.

Week 13. The Politics of International Trade and Investment

- ★ Broz, J. Lawrence and Jeffrey A. Frieden. 2001. “The political economy of international monetary relations,” *Annual Review of Political Science*, 4, 317-343.
- ★ Hiscox, Michael J. 2001. “Class versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade,” *International Organization* 55(1): 1-46.
- ★ Rudra, Nita. 2002. “Globalization and the Decline of the Welfare State in Less Developed Countries,” *International Organization* 56(2): 411-445.
- ★ Hiscox, Michael J. 2006. “Through a glass and darkly: Framing effects and individuals’ attitudes toward international trade,” *International Organization* 60(3): 755-780.
- ☆ Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. “Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade,” *American Political Science Review* 81(4): 1121-1137.
- ☆ Naoi, Megumi and Ikuo Kume. 2011. “Explaining Mass support for Agricultural Protectionism: Evidence from a Survey Experiment during the Global Recession,” *International Organization* 65(4): 771-795.

Week 14. Economics and Security

- ★ Baldwin, David A. 1999/2000. “The sanctions debate and the logic of choice,” *International Security* 24(3): 80-170.

- ★ Drezner, Daniel W. 2009. "Bad debts: Assessing China's financial influence in great power politics," *International Security* 34(2): 7-45.
- ★ Davis, Christina L. and Sophie Muenier. 2011. "Business as usual? Economic responses to political tensions," *American Journal of Political Science* 55(3): 628-646.
- ★ Reed, William. 2003. "Information and economic interdependence," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47(1): 54-71.

Week 15. Student Project Presentations

Students will present their research design papers.