

POLI 160A: Theories of International and World Politics
Fall 2014

MWF 2:00-3:10, Merrill Acad 102

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Office Hours: W 10:00-12:00, and by appointment

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Course Description This course offers an overview of the major theoretical traditions, analytical approaches, and scholarly debates relating to the study of international and world politics. International relations (IR) theory provides a range of premises, concepts, and propositions that can help us explain and evaluate events in world politics. Students will critically appraise competing theoretical viewpoints, but the goal is not to identify the single “correct” explanation or perspective. Rather, this course aims to equip students with some of the tools necessary to analyze real-world events from multiple angles. Note: The focus of this course is not current or historical events per se, though these may be used to illustrate the theoretical arguments presented.

Course Requirements Students should attend lectures and participate actively in discussion sections. Each student will prepare two short essays, each 4-5 pages, based on the lecture and reading materials. The first essay will be assigned on October 20 and due on October 27. The second essay will be assigned on November 21 and due on December 5. In addition, there will be two exams. The midterm exam will be given in class on November 5, and the final exam will be held on December 16.

Attendance & Participation	15%
Two Short Essays (15% each)	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	35%

Required Texts The following book is required and available for purchase at the Bay Tree Bookstore. It has also been placed on reserve at McHenry Library.

Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, 5th ed.
(Boston: Longman, 2012).

All other readings are available electronically via [eCommons](#) and UC-eLinks.

Policies

- *Readings*: You should arrive at every class having carefully read the assigned readings. This will be necessary for you to follow the lectures, ask questions, and participate in discussion sections. Your understanding of the readings will be assessed in the essays and exams.
- *Attendance*: Attendance is mandatory. You must arrive on time and stay for the duration of every lecture and discussion section. More than one unexcused absence will result in a lower course grade. If you must miss a class due to religious observance, conflict with an extracurricular activity, illness, or a genuine family emergency let your TA know as soon as you possibly can.
- *Participation*: Your participation ensures that everyone benefits as much as possible from the course. Your participation grade will reflect the quality (not merely the quantity) of the remarks and questions you raise in class. All participants are expected to listen attentively and respond respectfully to others.
- *Written Assignments*: Each written assignment must be submitted in hard copy on the day and time indicated below. Any essay not submitted on time will be reduced by one full letter grade for every day that it is late. If you wish to contest a grade given by a TA, you must explain in writing (within one week) why your grade is inaccurate in light of the comments you received. Contested grades may be adjusted by the professor upward, downward, or not at all.
- *Disciplinary Communication (DC) Requirement*: In the Politics major, the university's DC requirement is fulfilled by completing any three of your required four core courses (105A, B, C, D; 120A, B, C; 140A, B, C, D; 160A, B, C). The goal of the DC requirement is to ensure that you acquire the skills in writing and other forms of communication necessary for your major. The central goals of the core courses are breadth of knowledge within the major and training and improvement in writing. You should see the core courses as a progressive and cumulative process requiring sustained attention to the form and quality of your writing. Another form of disciplinary communication is speaking and discussion. You are encouraged to work on the clarity and quality of your contributions to section and lecture discussions.
- *Citation and Documentation of Sources in Papers*: All courses in the Politics Department use one of two standard forms of citation: (a) parenthetical/in-text citations, or (b) footnotes. For the in-text system, the department follows the *Modern Language Association* (MLA). For footnotes, use the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Familiarize yourself with the style guides for the two systems, provided on the Politics Department website at politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.html.
- *Students with Disabilities*: If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me during office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

- *Academic Conduct*: Academic integrity is taken very seriously. All written work you submit for this class must represent your own work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the university's policies on academic integrity (ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity).

Course Outline

Introduction – Oct 3, 6

(Oct 6: Discussion sections begin)

- V&K: “Chapter 1: Thinking About IR Theory,” p. 1-18.
- V&K: James Rosenau, “Thinking Theory Thoroughly,” p. 19-26.
- V&K: Thomas C. Walker, “The Perils of Paradigm Mentalities: Revisiting Kuhn, Lakatos, and Popper,” p. 27-34.

Realism & Neorealism – Oct 8, 10, 13

- V&K: “Chapter 2: Realism: The State and Balance of Power,” p. 39-82.
- V&K: Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” p. 83-87.
- V&K: Niccolò Machiavelli, “On Princes and the Security of Their States,” p. 88-90.
- V&K: Thomas Hobbes, “Of the Natural Condition of Mankind,” p. 90-93.
- V&K: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “The State of War: Confederation as Means to Peace in Europe,” p. 93-96.
- V&K: Kenneth N. Waltz, “Explaining War: The Levels of Analysis,” p. 96-109.
- V&K: Joseph S. Nye, Jr. “Hard and Soft Power in American Foreign Policy,” p. 109-117.

Liberalism & Neoliberal Institutionalism – Oct 15, 17, 20

(Oct 20: First essay assignment handed out)

- V&K: “Chapter 3: Liberalism: Interdependence and Global Governance,” p. 129-166.
- Andrew Moravcsik, “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics,” *International Organization* 51, no. 4 (1997): 513–553.
- Immanuel Kant, “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch,” in *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays on Politics, History, and Morals*, trans. Ted Humphrey (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983), p. 111–119.
- Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” *American Political Science Review* 80, no. 4 (1986): 1151–1169.
- V&K: Stephen G. Brooks, “Producing Security,” p. 167-176.
- V&K: Robert O. Keohane, “Beyond the Tragedy of the Commons,” p. 176-180.

Rationalism – Oct 22, 24, 27*(Oct 27: First essay due in class at 2:00pm)*

- David A. Lake and Robert Powell, “International Relations: A Strategic Choice Approach,” in *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), p. 3–38.
- Thomas C. Schelling, “The Manipulation of Risk,” in *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966), p. 92–125.
- James D. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (1995): 379–414.
- Robert Axelrod, “The Problem of Cooperation,” in *The Evolution of Cooperation* (New York: Basic Books, 1984), p. 3–24.

Constructivism – Oct 29, 31, Nov 3

- V&K: “Chapter 6: Constructivist Understandings,” p. 277-301.
- V&K: Alexander Wendt, “Constructing International Politics,” p. 302-308.
- James Fearon and Alexander Wendt, “Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View,” in *Handbook of International Relations*, ed. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons (London: Sage, 2002), p. 52–72.
- V&K: Martha Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” p. 309-316.
- Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: Introduction,” in *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), p. 1–38.

Nov 5: Midterm Exam in class**Economic Structuralism & Postcolonialism – Nov 7, 10**

- V&K: “Chapter 4: Economic Structuralism: Global Capitalism and Postcolonialism,” p. 189-218.
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (Signet Classic, 1998), p. 49–65.
- V&K: J. A. Hobson, “The Economic Taproot of Imperialism,” p. 219-222.
- V. I. Lenin, *Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism: A Popular Outline* (Foreign Languages Press, 1965), p. 104–118 & 148–155.
- V&K: Immanuel Wallerstein, “The Modern World-System as a Capitalist World-Economy,” p. 227-233.
- V&K: Barbara Bush, “Culture and Imperialism,” p. 222-226.
- Arlene Tickner, “Seeing IR Differently: Notes from the Third World,” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 32, no. 2 (2003): 295–324.

Critical Theory & Postmodernism – Nov 12, 14, 17

- V&K: “Chapter 7: Positivism, Critical Theory, and Postmodern Understandings,” p. 322-338.
- V&K: Ken Booth, “Critical Explorations and the Highway of Critical Security Theory,” p. 339-348.
- Francis A. Beer and Robert Hariman, “Realism and Rhetoric in International Relations,” in *Post-Realism: The Rhetorical Turn in International Relations*, ed. Francis A. Beer and Robert Hariman (East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1996), p. 1–30.
- V&K: David Campbell, “Writing Security,” p. 348-355.
- Robert W. Cox, “Social Forces, States, and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory,” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10, no. 2 (1981): 126–155.
- Yosef Lapid, “The Third Debate: On the Prospects of International Theory in a Post-Positivist Era,” *International Studies Quarterly* 33, no. 3 (1989): 235–254.

Feminism – Nov 19, 21

(Nov 21: Second essay assignment handed out)

- V&K: “Chapter 8: Feminist Understandings in IR Theory,” p. 360-370.
- V&K: J. Ann Tickner, “Why Women Can’t Rule the World: International Politics According to Francis Fukuyama,” p. 380-385.
- V&K: Iris Marion Young, “The Logic of Masculinist Protection: Reflections on the Current Security State,” p. 371-379.
- Birgit Locher and Elisabeth Prügl, “Feminism and Constructivism: Worlds Apart or Sharing the Middle Ground?,” *International Studies Quarterly* 45, no. 1 (2001): 111–129.
- Terrell Carver et al., “Gender and International Relations,” *International Studies Review* 5, no. 2 (2003): 287–302.

Cognitivism & Decision-Making – Nov 24, 26, Dec 1

- Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, “Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In,” *International Security* 25, no. 4 (2001): 107–146.
- Robert Jervis, “Perception and the Level of Analysis Problem,” in *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), p. 13–31.
- Neta C. Crawford, “The Passion of World Politics: Propositions on Emotion and Emotional Relationships,” *International Security* 24, no. 4 (2000): 116–154.
- Graham T. Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *American Political Science Review* 63, no. 3 (1969): 689–718.

Normative Theory – Dec 3, 5

(Dec 5: Second essay due in class at 2:00pm)

- V&K: “Chapter 9: Normative IR Theory: Ethics and Morality,” p. 391-414.
- V&K: Immanuel Kant, “Morality, Politics, and Perpetual Peace,” p. 415-420.
- V&K: E. H. Carr, “The Nature of Politics,” p. 421-424.
- V&K: John Rawls, “The Law of Peoples,” p. 425-430.
- Robert E. Williams Jr. and Dan Caldwell, “Jus Post Bellum: Just War Theory and the Principles of Just Peace,” *International Studies Perspectives* 7, no. 4 (2006): 309–320.
- V&K: Barack Obama, “On War and Peace – The Nobel Peace Prize Speech,” p. 430-436.

Conclusions – Dec 8, 10, 12

- Ole Wæver, “Still a Discipline After All These Debates?,” in *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, ed. Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), p. 306–327.
- Steve Smith, “The United States and the Discipline of International Relations: Hegemonic Country, Hegemonic Discipline,” *International Studies Review* 4, no. 2 (2002): 67–85.
- Stefano Guzzini, “The Significance and Roles of Teaching Theory in International Relations,” *Journal of International Relations and Development* 4, no. 2 (2001): 98–117.

Dec 16: Final Exam at 7:30-10:30pm