

POLS 184 (18795/18796)

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Summer 2012

TH 216

University of Illinois at Chicago

TR 1:30-4:00

## Introduction to International Relations

This course provides an introduction and overview of the main theoretical worldviews of International Relations: Realism, Liberalism, Marxist-Radicalism, and Constructivism. Major issues of International Relations will be explored within the political, economic, security, and social relations that take place between states and other actors. These issues include diplomacy, conflict, globalization, imperialism, international trade, cooperation, organization, law and Peace. Group projects, a (analog) diplomacy simulation, lectures, discussions, and film will be used to explore the issues and concepts of International Relations.

### Course Goals

By the end of this course each student should be able to:

1. Understand the competing worldviews of International Relations, their central concepts, values, typical forecast, prescriptions, and limitations.
2. Be familiar with and able to discuss the major challenges that confront relations between states and prospects for global stability and prosperity.
3. Be able to critically evaluate U.S. policy in a global context.

### Books and Readings

All required readings are accessible via the UIC Library online. Students will need their university user name and password to access online academic journals directly in order to access required articles.

Hans J. Morgenthau. 1993. "Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace." Brief Edition. McGraw-Hill. **(Recommended for IR majors)**

## Office Hours and Contact Info

Office	1170A BSB
Office Hours	12:30-1:30 Tuesday and Thursday and by appointment
Email	<a href="mailto:jvanbe1@uic.edu">jvanbe1@uic.edu</a>

## Course Requirements

Map Quiz 10%

Discussion Paper (5-6 pages) 20%

Movie Review (5-6 pages) 20%

Final Exam 30%

Participation 20%

## The Course

The course is divided into four main sections covering Realism, Liberalism, Marxist-Radicalism, and Constructivism. Each section will cover the political, economic, security, and social understandings of international affairs provided by these four competing IR worldviews.

Each day of class will begin with a discussion of current events. Each student is required to keep up with international news and to participate in class discussions. Suggested online news sources include, but are not limited to, the New York Times, Foreign Policy, the Economist, the BBC, and Al Jazeera. Avoid regional newspapers like the Chicago Tribune or Sun-Times. Special attention should be given to current events relevant to class topics.

There will be short lectures going over the concepts and issues to be discussed for the day. Class will then move on to a group project, simulation or film, which illustrates an issue of international relations. Being able to work well with others is an important skill to develop and group projects will challenge your communication and problem solving abilities. Students will be evaluated by the quality and consistency of their participation in class discussions and group projects, two paper assignments, a map quiz, and final exam.

## Map Quiz

Being able to think about and discuss issues of International Relations requires some basic knowledge of political geography. Students will complete a “blind” political geography quiz identifying 20 of the world’s nation-states on Thursday June 28. The Map Quiz will be worth 10 points and counts for 10% of your final grade.

## Discussion Paper

Each student will sign up to write a discussion paper based on one of the weekly readings. These papers should be in essay format i.e. have an introduction, body, conclusion and, if citing outside sources, a bibliography. The paper should range from 5 to 6 pages in length and be double-spaced. The first section of your paper should give a summary of the position taken by the author, the second section should discuss the evidence used to confirm the author’s position, and finally, discuss your own opinion and assessment of the reading and how it fits within the broader issues discussed in class. The discussion paper will be worth 20 points and represents 20% of your final grade. Due Tuesday July 10.

## Movie Review

Each student will sign up to write a movie review based on one of the movies or TV shows viewed in class. These reviews should follow essay formatting i.e. have an introduction, body, and, conclusion. The review should range from 5 to 6 pages in length and be double-spaced. The first section of your review should give a brief summary of the movie (no more than 1 page); the second section should identify and discuss the movie’s significance for International Relations (what IR issues does it tackle and what theoretical worldview does it evoke?), and finally, discuss your own opinion and assessment of the movie, both the relevance and effectiveness of its IR message. The movie review will be worth 20 points and represents 20% of your final grade. Due Tuesday July 24.

## Final Exam

The final examination is Thursday August 2 and will consist of three parts: identification, short answer, and essay. All questions will derive from assigned readings, lectures, and anything viewed and discussed in class. You will be expected to write a coherent, well thought out essay incorporating issues and concepts discussed in class. The Final Exam will be worth 30 points and represents 30% of your final grade.

## Participation

Participation is showing up and contributing to class regularly. Asking questions, bringing up news articles or following up on points discussed in class counts towards your participation grade. In order to meaningfully participate students must keep up with scheduled readings, classes, and stay abreast of international news. **Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.** Students that are absent will be expected to notify the instructor ahead of time (at least a day in advance) or in cases of emergency have appropriate documentation. Assignments handed in late will not be accepted without documentation. Because this class is on a condensed schedule attendance is critical. **After two unexcused absences each additional unexcused absence will result in the drop of half a letter grade.** Participation will be worth 20 points and represents 20% of the final grade.

## Course Outline

- A. Realism
  - 1. Classical Realism
  - 2. Real Politik, Balance of Power, and Mercantilism
  - 3. The National Interest and Security Dilemmas
  - 4. Structural and Offensive Realism
- B. Liberalism
  - 1. Classical Liberalism
  - 2. Democracy and Capitalism
  - 3. International Institutions and Agreements
  - 4. Neoliberal Institutionalism
- C. Marxist-Radicalism
  - 1. Dependency Theory
  - 2. Class Conflict
  - 3. World Systems Analysis
  - 4. Revolution
- D. Constructivism
  - 1. Identity, Norms, and Culture
  - 2. The Agent Structure Debate
  - 3. Inter-subjective Understanding
  - 4. Social Contingency

## Academic Integrity

UIC is committed to providing an environment in which research and learning can flourish. This requires academic integrity. Students are expected to be familiar with and follow the guidelines regarding UIC standards of academic integrity.

## Schedule of Course Readings, Viewings, and Assignments

June 12 Tues: First day of class, hand out syllabus, **sign up for Discussion Paper and Movie Review assignments.**

June 14 Thurs: John Mearsheimer. 2005. E.H Carr vs. Idealism: The Battle Rages On. *International Relations* 19: 138-152. Group project.

June 19 Tues: Robert Jervis. 2011. Force In Our Times. *International Relations* 25: 403-425. Watch "Dr. Strangelove" (1964) 95 minutes.

June 21 Thurs: Chris Brown. 2009. Structural Realism, Classical Realism and Human Nature. *International Relations* 23: 257-270. Watch "Fog of War" (2003) 107 minutes.

June 26 Tues: William C. Wohlforth. 2011. Gilpinian Realism and International Relations. *International Relations* 25: 499-511. Group project.

June 28 Thurs: **Map quiz**; Francis Fukuyama. 1991. Liberal Democracy as a Global Phenomenon. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 24(4): 659-664. Watch "The Moral Dimension" and "The Devil You Know" from Yes, Minister (1980) 60 minutes.

July 3 Tues: Michael Doyle. 1986. Liberalism and World Politics. *The American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1151-1169. Watch "The Grand Design" and "A Victory for Democracy" from Yes, Prime Minister (1980) 60 minutes.

July 5 Thurs: David Lake. 1992. Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War. *The American Political Science Review* 82(1): 24-37. AND Graham T. Allison. 1969. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Middle Crisis. *The American Political Science Review* 63(3): 689-718. Watch "13 Days" at home (2000) 145 minutes. **No Class.**

July 10 Tues: Lars-Erik Cederman. 2001. Back to Kant: Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace as a Macrohistorical Learning Process. *The American Political Science Review* 95(1): 15-31. Group project. **Turn in Discussion Paper.**

July 12 Thurs: James Caporaso. 1978. Dependence, Dependency, and Power in the Global System: A Structural and Behavioral Analysis. *International Organization* 32(1): 13-43. Group project.

July 17 Tues: Immanuel Wallerstein. 1974. The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16(4): 387-415. Watch "Battle of Algiers" (1966) 125 minutes.

July 19 Thurs: Tony Smith. 1979. The Underdevelopment of Development Literature: The Case of Dependency. *World Politics* 31(2): 247-288. Group project.

July 24 Tues: Alexander Wendt. 1992. Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46(2):

391-425. Group project. **Turn in Movie Review.**

July 26 Thurs: Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732. Prepare for Diplomacy simulation.

July 31 Tues: Richard K. Ashley. 1984. The Poverty of Neorealism. *International Organization* 38(2): 225-286. **Diplomacy simulation** and Review for the final exam.

August 2 Thurs: Last Day of Class, **Final Exam**