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Office Hours: Tue, 02:00 - 04:00 pm or by appointment

PolS 384 International Relations Theory
Fall 2008
Room 1115, BSB
Thu, 02:00 - 04:30 pm

Note: I will go over the grading policy below very carefully on the first day of class (i.e., August 28). The policy will become effective from the second day (i.e., September 4). This means that if you do not show up to class on September 4 (e.g., because of late registration), you will lose two points for absence and three points for the first reading summary. There will be no exceptions.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to offer a broad overview of international relations theory. We will take great care to examine eight different IR theories in detail. Each will express fairly simple ideas, but the mechanics of each theory can at times be analytically complex. To build a critical understanding of these works, you will find it best to read through the material *slowly and carefully*. It will often be necessary to re-read portions of the most essential material. While each of the readings we examine helped to initiate an energetic research tradition in international relations, we will still discover weaknesses in each of these undertakings. To appreciate these weaknesses (and, of course, the strengths), you must be prepared to invest a great deal of intellectual energy.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are no required textbooks for this course. However, you are required to purchase a packet of course reading materials.

GRADING POLICY

Class Attendance (8 points): Regular attendance is required of all students. Attendance is one of the most important measures of your interest and desire to do well academically. Your attendance helps me facilitate better discussions, and your fellow students benefit from your ideas and experiences. **Without appropriate documentation, each absence will cost you two points. If you fail to attend more than three times, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. If you fail to attend more than FIVE times, your course grade will be an F. There will be no exceptions. If you come late twice (i.e., after I check the class attendance), it will be counted as one absence.**

Class Participation (11 points): You are expected to actively participate in class discussion. Participation includes thoughtful comments, sophisticated questions about readings, clear evidence of active listening to your fellow students, and other valuable contributions to classroom discussion.

Ten Thursday Reading Summaries (3 points each): Their purpose is to help you begin pondering your take-home exams. Each summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

Three Take-Home Exams (17 points each): Their purpose is to allow you to demonstrate your understanding of international relations theories. Each answer must include an introduction, body, and conclusion. They must be five pages long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

Three Extra-Credit Assignments (1 point each): Their purpose is to get you to critically think about three movies, A Beautiful Mind in terms of theory building, Inside Islam (History Channel), and Wag the Dog in terms of the diversionary theory. If you do not attend the movie sessions, your reviews will not be accepted. Each movie review must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

Class Discussion Leadership for Additional Extra Credit (2 points each): Students who volunteer for leading a class discussion will receive 2 points per discussion.

The grading scale is as follows: A (> 90); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60)

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

Late work: I am willing to help solve almost any special problem or concern you might have with this course. However, this is only possible if you talk to me about it *in advance* of assignment due dates. Extensions for assigned work will be granted only for documented medical or family emergencies. In sum, if you anticipate difficulty submitting assigned work by the specified due date because of illness or other emergency, extensions are possible only when you:

- contact me in advance **by email only**
- provide me with appropriate documentation **within one week after the due date**

Extremely important: For the record, you must keep our email exchanges for extensions granted *in your email account* (i.e., both your request email to me and my grant email to you). If you fail to present both emails, your claim will not be supported. This means that for your own protection, you can delete our email exchanges from your email account 45 days after you are officially able to check your final course grade on line.

Computer-related problems: Ultimately, you are responsible for backing up your own work and caring properly for your own computing equipment. I may grant extensions for assignments due to computer-related problems, but only in the rarest of circumstances. First, I will not entertain any requests for extensions due to computer-related problems made to me within 12 hours of the paper's due date. If you expect computer difficulties to make it impossible for you to submit a paper by the due date (and that due date is not within 12 hours) contact me and we will discuss alternative arrangements for you.

Accommodations for disabilities: Students with disabilities must inform me of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

Academic dishonesty: The University expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, including being dropped from the course with a grade of “F.”

Classroom etiquette: You are expected to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct. In order to insure an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all: (1) please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class; even one or two conversations quickly create distractions for other students; (2) no cell phone calls, incoming or outgoing, are allowed in this class; please turn off your cell phone or set to vibrate; and (3) please do not come to class late. Also, please do not leave class early; if you must do so, tell me beforehand and arrange to sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 28: What Are We Going To Learn?

September 4: The first Thursday reading summary on the readings for September 4, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

September 4: Introduction

- Burchill, Scott, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit, and Jacqui True. 2005. 3rd Ed. *Theories of International Relations*. New York: Palgrave. 1-28.
- Kolodziej, Edward. 2005. *Security and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 11-47.

September 11: The second Thursday reading summary on the readings for September 11, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

September 11: Realism

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3rd Ed. 29-54.

September 18: The third Thursday reading summary on the readings for September 18, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

September 18: Liberalism

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3rd Ed. 55-83.

September 25: Theory Building

- A Beautiful Mind

September 25: The first take-home exam due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

Choose and answer one of the two following questions:

- 1) What are the main assumptions of realism and liberalism? How are they the same? Which theory is more convincing to you and why?
- 2) Evaluate the capacity of realism and liberalism to explain the rise, evolution, and collapse of the Cold War bipolar system.

The answer must include an introduction, body, and conclusion. It must be five pages long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 2: The first movie review due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The movie review must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 2: The fourth Thursday reading summary on the readings for October 2, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 2: The English School

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3rd Ed. 84-109.

October 9: The fifth Thursday reading summary on the readings for October 9, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 9: Terrorism

- Rapoport, David. 2004. "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism." In Audrey Kurth Cronin and James Ludes. Eds. *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press. 46-73.
- Wright, Lawrence. June 2, 2008. "The Rebellion Within: An Al Qaeda Mastermind Questions Terrorism." *The New Yorker*. 1-15.

October 16: The sixth Thursday reading summary on the readings for October 16, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 16: Suicide Terrorism

- Ashworth, Scott, Joshua D. Clinton, Adam Meirowitz, and Kristopher W. Ramsay. 2008. "Design, Inference, and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 269-273.
- Pape, Robert A. 2008. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102 (2): 275-277.
- Pape, Robert A. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97 (3): 343-361.

October 23: Understanding Islam

- Inside Islam (History Channel)

October 23: The second take-home exam due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

Answer the following question:

Assess the argument that suicide attacks are a strategic response by terrorist groups confronting foreign occupation by democratic states.

The answer must include an introduction, body, and conclusion. It must be five pages long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 30: I will give you a mid-semester report card that contains your score in each component of the grading policy up until today. I will ask you to check your score very carefully and then to return to me the card with your signature on it by November 6. If you find some inaccuracy in your score, you must bring it to my attention by November 6.

October 30: The second movie review due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The movie review must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 30: The seventh Thursday reading summary on the readings for October 30, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

October 30: Statistical Empiricism

- Sprinz, Detlef F. and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias. 2004. "Introduction: Methodology in International Relations Research. In Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias. Eds. *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. 1-16.

- Braumoeller, Bear F. and Anne E. Sartori. 2004. "The Promise and Peril of Statistics in International Relations. In Detlef F. Sprinz and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias. Eds. *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. 129-151.

November 6: The eighth Thursday reading summary on the readings for November 6, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

November 6: Constructivism

- Kolodziej, Edward A. 2005. 259-304.

November 13: The ninth Thursday reading summary on the readings for November 13, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

November 13: The Democratic Peace Theory

- Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. From Democratic Peace to Kantian Peace. 43-79.

November 20: The tenth Thursday reading summary on the readings for November 20, due by 2:00 pm (i.e., before the class begins)

The summary must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

November 20: The Diversionary Theory

- Levy, Jack S. 1989. "The Diversionary Theory of War: A Critique." In Manus I. Midlarsky. Ed. *Handbook of War Studies*. Boston, MA: Unwin Hyman. 259-288.

November 27: Thanksgiving Day. University Closed

December 4: The Diversionary Theory Revisited

- Wag The Dog

December 9: The third movie review due by 2:00 pm

The movie review must be one page long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

December 9: The third take-home exam due by 2:00 pm

Choose and answer one of the three following questions:

- 1) What are the main assumptions of constructivism? Evaluate the capacity of the theory to explain why nations go to war.
- 2) What are the main arguments of the democratic peace and diversionary theories? Evaluate the capacity of the two theories to explain why nations go to war.

The answer must include an introduction, body, and conclusion. It must be five pages long, typed, double-spaced, in the **Times New Roman** font and the **12** point font size, with **1** inch margins on standard letter-size paper.

The first Thursday reading summary

Introduction

Body

Conclusion

September 25, 2008

SAMPLE FORMAT

Your Name

The first take-home exam: 1) What are the main assumptions of realism and liberalism? How are they the same? Which theory is more convincing to you and why?

About a half page long for Introduction

About four pages long for Body

About a half page long for Conclusion

October 2, 2008

SAMPLE FORMAT

Your Name

The first movie review

Introduction

Body

Conclusion