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**PolS 384 International Relations Theory**  
**Spring 2007**  
**Room 1115, BSB**  
**M and W, 02:00 - 03:15pm**

**Note: I will go over the grading policy below very carefully on the first day of class (i.e., January 17). The policy will become effective from the second day (i.e., January 22). This means that if you do not show up to class on January 22 (e.g., because of late registration), you will lose one point for absence and three points for the first Monday 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 each of the ten 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 books 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**

The two required textbooks are as follows:

Burchill, Scott, Andrew Linklater, Richard Devetak, Jack Donnelly, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit, and Jacqui True. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. *Theories of International Relations*. New York: Palgrave.

Kolodziej, Edward. 2005. *Security and International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **GRADING POLICY**

*Class Attendance (5 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 one point. If you fail to attend more than five times, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. 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.

*Eleven Monday 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.

The due date for each summary is *January 22, 29, February 5, 19, 26, March 5, 12, April 2, 9, 16, and 23.*

*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.

The due date for each exam answer is *February 14, March 21, and May 7.*

*Three Extra-Credit Assignments (1 point each):* Their purpose is to get you to critically think about three Hollywood movies, *A Beautiful Mind* in terms of theory building, *Mouse that Roared* in terms of realism, 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.

The due date for each review is *February 19, April 2, and May 7.*

*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

**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**

### **January 17: What Are We Going To Learn?**

**January 22:** The first Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **January 22 and 24: Introduction**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 1-28.
- Kolodziej, Edward A. 2005. 11-47.

**January 29:** The second Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **January 29 and 31: Realism**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 29-54.

**February 5:** The third Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **February 5 and 7: Liberalism**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 55-83.

### **February 12 and 14: Theory Building**

- A Beautiful Mind

**February 14:** The first take-home exam due by 2:00pm (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.

**February 19:** The first movie review due by 2:00pm (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.

**February 19:** The fourth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

**February 19 and 21: The English School**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 84-109.

**February 26:** The fifth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

**February 26 and 28: Marxism**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 110-136.

**March 5:** The sixth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

**March 5 and 7: Feminism**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 213-234.

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.

**March 12:** The seventh Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

**March 12 and 14: Green Politics**

- Burchill, Scott et al. 2005. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 235-257.

### **March 19 and 21: The Way The Realist World Works**

- Mouse That Roared

**March 21:** The second take-home exam due by 2:00pm (i.e., before the class begins)

Answer the following question:

Choose one from the four international relations theories above (i.e., the English School, Marxism, Feminism, and Green Politics) and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses in explaining contemporary international phenomena.

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.

### **March 26 and 28: Spring Break. University Closed**

**April 2:** 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 April 6. If you find some inaccuracy in your score, you must bring it to my attention by April 6.

**April 2:** The second movie review due by 2:00pm (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.

**April 2:** The eighth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **April 2 and 4: Behavioralism**

- Kolodziej, Edward A. 2005. 227-258.

**April 9:** The ninth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **April 9 and 11: Constructivism**

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

**April 16:** The tenth Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **April 16 and 18: The Democratic Peace Theory**

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

**April 23:** The eleventh Monday reading summary due by 2:00pm (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.

### **April 23 and 25: 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.

### **April 30 and May 2: The Diversionary Theory Revisited**

- Wag The Dog

**May 7:** The third movie review due by 2:00pm

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.

**May 7:** The third take-home exam due by 2:00pm

Choose and answer one of the three following questions:

- 1) Why is a behavioral or rational and constructivist explanation of security better characterized as an *approach* rather than as a *paradigm* for international relations and security studies?
- 2) What are the main assumptions of behavioralism and constructivism? Evaluate the capacity of the two theories to explain why nations go to war.
- 3) 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.

January 22, 2006

**SAMPLE FORMAT**

Seung-Whan Choi

The first Monday reading summary

Introduction

Body

Conclusion



February 14, 2006

**SAMPLE FORMAT**

Seung-Whan Choi

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

February 19, 2006

**SAMPLE FORMAT**

Seung-Whan Choi

The first movie review

Introduction

Body

Conclusion