

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

POL 9511B

Venue: 4105 Social Science Centre

Time: Tuesdays 12:30-2:20 pm

## **Instructor:**

Radoslav Dimitrov, Ph.D.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to the academic study of international relations (IR). Scholars look at world politics through a variety of theoretical perspectives, and often disagree with each other on important questions. What factors shape international processes and outcomes? What are the prospects of global governance? Is social change possible? How should we study world politics? Academic schools of thought give dissimilar answers to such questions.

The course is designed to be demanding and rewarding. You will gain knowledge of theoretical perspectives on IR; key concepts such as norms, power, and institutions; and the practice of international diplomacy. Throughout the semester, attention will be given to epistemological and methodological issues in social scientific research. This syllabus includes supplementary material that can be used as a starting point for further inquiry.

There are things you may find disappointing. Some readings make only scant references to actual events and developments in world politics. There is too much material to read and not enough time to adequately discuss it all. We may not pay enough attention to topics you like; we may spend too much time on topics you dislike. The distinctions between schools of thought are not always clear-cut and there are few neat divisions. In considering various perspectives, you may want to be told where the truth lies, rather than be encouraged to tolerate ambiguity and accept the pluralism of the field.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The first objective of the course is to accumulate knowledge of the main schools of thought in the study of world politics. We will learn the propositions these schools make about IR, the research methods they employ, and the points of agreement and disagreement between them. The second goal is to foster your intellectual growth by developing deeper understanding and refining critical reading and thinking skills and by sharpening your ability to engage in abstract thinking. Third, you will develop appreciation of the multiplicity of possible perspectives on the social world. You will enhance your awareness that there is more than one way of making sense of the 'real world'. Information about current events can be interpreted differently by different observers and can be used to make dissimilar conclusions about what shapes the world.

Each week, as you read for this course, think of the following questions. What event/development do the authors seek to explain? How do they interpret the political phenomenon? What kind of evidence supports the argument? Which are the key concepts and how exactly are they defined? How are causes and effects observed?

## ASSIGNMENTS:

### **Participation 20 %**

Regular attendance and participation is essential for your success in this course. Please come to each class session prepared to discuss the readings in-depth. This requires you arrive with a list of three questions related to the readings for the week, and with clearly formulated views on the central arguments and contributions of the publications.

### **Professional development paper (15 pages) 40 %**

Master's students: "MRP prospectus" Write a mini version of a Master's Research Paper on an issue in IR of your choice. Lay out an interesting question related to one empirical case and sketch how one might go about answering it. Present enough evidence to support a tentative argument. The argument does not have to be original; you could rely on course readings to develop a hypothesis. This could be an elaboration, extension, or different application of an argument in the published literature.

Doctoral students: Publication Write an article for the journal *International Studies Review*, a peer-review academic journal. The paper has to make a review of the literature in one realm of IR. This realm can be a school of thought or a policy issue area (humanitarian intervention, small arms control, foreign aid, refugees management, etc.). Your paper has to mimic closely the review articles that appear in *ISR* in both substance and style.

### **Presentation 20 %**

Graduate training includes preparation for participation in professional academic life. Presentation skills are essential in professional settings. Please prepare a presentation of your research paper and deliver it in class. The presentation has to be the standard 15 minutes you have at academic conferences. You have to answer challenging questions from the audience that include critiques of your research design, methods and central arguments.

### **Optional extra credit: Source hunting (max 5 points)**

Finding good sources of information is an essential skill in today's world. Please select one additional reading for each topic that matches the quality of the other readings.

### **GRADING**

Participation:	20 %
Research paper:	60 %
Presentation:	20 %

### **LATE-ENTRY POLICY**

The policy is simple: *don't*. Early papers are ok: if you cannot be present to submit the research paper on time, earlier paper submission is required. Please treat the paper as a job application and meet the deadline. In case of grave and unavoidable circumstances (death in the family, grave illness), arrangements can be made to submit assignments at

alternative times. Proper documentation must be provided, and the instructor must be notified ASAP (depending on the nature of the emergency). Examples of what does not qualify as unavoidable circumstance: hangover, broken heart, lack of intellectual inspiration, having a cold, having one's car stolen, damaged or broken in, malfunctioning alarm clock or computer equipment, inauspicious daily horoscope.

### CONSULTATIONS

Office hours provide you with a good opportunity to discuss issues and deepen your understanding of course material. Experience shows that such consultations tend to improve students' preparation for exams. I encourage you to talk to me and the teaching assistant throughout the year about course content and expectations. If you have any special needs, medical or family emergencies, please let me know and we will work together to make it work.

### READINGS:

Journal articles are compiled in electronic format on a memory stick; please borrow the stick the instructor and download them on your computer.

Books on reserve The following books are available on reserve at Weldon library:

- \* Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations* (New York: Knopf 1978).
- \* John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W.W. Norton, 2001).
- \* Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (Princeton University Press 1993).
- \* Andreas Hasenclever, Peter Mayer and Volker Rittberger, *Theories of International Regimes* (Cambridge University Press 1997).
- \* Giulio M. Gallarotti, *The Power Curse: Influence and Illusion in World Politics* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner 2010).

Recommended classics (not required)

- \* Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony* (Princeton University Press 1984).
- \* David A. Baldwin (ed.) *Neorealism and Neoliberalism* (Columbia UP 1993).
- \* Stephen Krasner (ed.) *International Regimes* (Ithaca, N.J.: Cornell UP, 1983).
- \* Robert O. Keohane (ed.) *Neorealism and Its Critics* (New York: Columbia UP, 1986).
- \* Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge UP 1999).

### Key IR journals to be aware of:

<i>International Organization</i>	<i>Human Rights Quarterly</i>
<i>International Security</i>	<i>Millennium</i>
<i>International Studies Quarterly</i>	<i>Review of Int'l Political Economy</i>
<i>International Studies Review</i>	<i>Review of International Studies</i>
<i>European Journal of International Relations</i>	<i>Security Studies</i>
<i>Global Environmental Politics</i>	<i>World Politics</i>
	<i>Foreign Affairs</i>

**Worth at least periodic attention:**

*Global Governance*  
*Cooperation and Conflict*  
*Ethics in International Affairs*  
*Canadian Journal of Political Science*  
*International Affairs*  
*International Interactions*  
*International Journal*  
*International Negotiation*

*International Politics*  
*International Studies Perspectives*  
*Journal of Conflict Resolution*  
*Journal of International Affairs*  
*Journal of Peace Research*  
*Journal of World-System Research*  
*Mershon International Studies Review*  
*Review*

**IR articles also appear in general political science journals**

*American Political Science Review*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Australian Journal of Political Science*  
*British Journal of Political Science*  
*Canadian Journal of Political Science*  
*Comparative Politics*  
*Comparative Political Studies*  
*Economics and Politics*  
*International Political Science Review*

*Journal of Politics*  
*Journal of Theoretical Politics*  
*International Negotiation*  
*Policy Sciences*  
*Political Geography*  
*Political Psychology*  
*Political Research Quarterly*  
*Political Science Quarterly*  
*Politics and Economics*  
*Polity*

**COURSE CALENDAR**


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JANUARY 5	<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b>          Scope and content of course, significance of topic and course expectations. What will I learn, why does it matter, and how difficult will it be?</p>
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JANUARY 12	<p><b>THE ACADEMIC STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b></p> <p>Ole Waever, "The sociology of a not so international discipline: American and European developments in international relations," <i>International Organization</i> vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998), pp. 687-727.</p> <p>Peter Katzenstein, Robert O. Keohane, and Stephen D. Krasner, "International Organization and the Study of World Politics," <i>International Organization</i> vol. 52, no. 4 (Autumn 1998), pp. 645-685.</p>
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JANUARY 19	<p><b>REALISM AND NEOREALISM</b></p> <p>Morgenthau, Hans J. <i>Politics Among Nations</i>. New York: Knopf.  <u>Resource room reserve. Read chapters 1, 3, 4, and 11: "A Realist Theory of International Politics;" "Political Power;" "The Struggle for Power,"</u>          and "The Balance of Power"</p>

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Legro, Jeffrey, Andrew Moravcsik. "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* 24, no. 2 (1999): 5-55.

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JANUARY 26      **NEOREALISM (continued)**

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001). Resource room reserve. Read key chapters, skim the rest

Kenneth Waltz, "Structural realism after the Cold War," *International Security* vol. 25, no. 1 (2000), pp. 5-41.

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FEBRUARY 2      **NEOLIBERAL INSTITUTIONALISM**

Axelrod, Robert, and Robert O. Keohane. "Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38: 226-54

John Duffield, "What are International Institutions?" *International Studies Review* vol. 9, no. 1 (Spring 2007), pp. 1-22.

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FEBRUARY 9      **THE REALIST-NEOREALIST DEBATE**

Powell, Robert. "Neorealism and Neoliberalism: The Contemporary Debate." *International Organization* Spring 1994: 313-344.

Mearsheimer, John. "The False Promise of International Institutions." *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994): 5-49.

Keohane, Robert O., and Lisa L. Martin. "The Promise of Institutionalist Theory: Response to John Mearsheimer" *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): 39-51.

*FEBRUARY 16 READING WEEK: NO CLASS*

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FEBRUARY 23      **REGIME THEORY**

Andreas Hasenclever, Peter Mayer and Volker Rittberger, *Theories of International Regimes* (Cambridge University Press 1997). Read thoroughly chapters 1 and 2; skim the rest. Resource room

Radoslav S. Dimitrov, Detlef Sprinz, Gerald DiGiusto and Alexander Kelle, "International Nonregimes: A Research Agenda." *International Studies Review* vol. 9, no. 2 (summer 2007), pp. 230-258.

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 MARCH 1

**DEMOCRATIC PEACE THEORY**

Russett, Bruce. *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1993.  
Resource room

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 Date to be  
 announced

**ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**


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MARCH 8

**CONSTRUCTIVISM**

Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (1992): 391-425.

Ted Hopf, "The promise of constructivism in international relations theory," *International Security* vol. 23, no. 1 (1998), pp. 171-2000.

John Mueller and Mark Stewart, "The Terrorism Delusion," *International Security* vol. 37, no. 1 (Summer 2012), pp. 81-110.

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MARCH 15

**NORMS IN WORLD POLITICS**

David Halloran Lumsdaine, *Moral Vision in International Politics: The Foreign Aid Regime, 1949-1989* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1993). Reserve room: Read chapter 2, skim the rest.

Adam Bower, "Norms without the great powers," *international Studies Review* 17 (2015), 347-373.

Radoslav S. Dimitrov, "Hostage to Norms: States, Institutions and Global Forest Politics," *Global Environmental Politics* 5, no. 4 (2005).

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MARCH 22

**POWER AND SUCCESS IN WORLD POLITICS**

Giulio M. Gallarotti, *The Power Curse: Influence and Illusion in World Politics* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner 2010). Read chapter 1, 2 and 4.

Thomas Diez and Ian Manners, "Reflecting on normative power Europe," pp. 173-188 in *Power in World Politics* (Routledge 2007).

Radoslav S. Dimitrov, "The politics of persuasion," chapter in *Handbook of Global Environmental Politics* edited by Peter Dauvergne (Edward Elgar 2012), pp. 72-86.

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