

**MSFS 510 International Relations Theory and Practice
Georgetown University, Fall 2011**

Prof. Victor Cha, Charles Kupchan, Kathleen R. McNamara, Daniel Nexon, Erik Voeten

Joint Lectures: Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:15 Reiss 112

Discussion Sections: Tuesday, 3:30-4:45

Section 1: McNamara, Intercultural Center 212

Section 2: Kupchan, Intercultural Center 210A

Section 3: Nexon, Walsh 398

Section 4: Cha, Car Barn 315

Section 5: Voeten, St. Marys 111

Learning Goals

This course is a graduate-level class on contemporary theories and issues in international relations. Students who complete this course will (a) gain deep knowledge of the dominant English- language theories of international relations; (b) be able to confidently assess the explanatory power of these theories in the study and practice of international politics; (c) engage in a sophisticated and effective way with the most pressing contemporary policy debates in international politics, and (d) develop the critical analysis, persuasion, and communication skills needed for professional success.

Learning Assessments

To ensure that these learning goals are achieved, you will be assessed in three ways. First, the course will demand your active and informed participation, and you will be evaluated on the quality of that participation (20% of total grade). Second, you will complete a mid-term exam (35%). You will write two essays, from a choice of questions, demonstrating your mastery of the foundational theories of international relations. This exam will be in the format of a take home exam that you will have two days to complete (October 19-21). Third, you will write a final paper. In this assignment, you will chose an outcome in international relations and contrast the power of several theories' explanations for the outcome observed. You will be assessed on your ability to crate a systematic and rigorous written analysis. Further details about these assignments will be given in class. To summarize, you will be responsible for:

1. Mid-Term Take Home Essay Exam, due by October 21 (35%)
2. Final Paper, due by December 19 (45%)
3. Discussion Section Participation (20%)

Please note that the main Blackboard website for the class is MSFS-510-C1.Fall2011: Intl Relatns Theory & Practice.Fall2011. You will also be enrolled in a BB website for your particular section, which will be “MSFS-510-01” through “-05.” Please check these frequently for updates as readings may change, materials may be added, or special discussion section tasks may arise.

Class Schedule and Readings

Analytic Frameworks

9/6 – Introduction

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories” *Foreign Policy*, (November 1, 2004).

Daniel W. Drezner, “Night of the Living Wonks: Towards an International Relations Theory of Zombies”, *Foreign Policy*, (July/August 2010).

9/13 – Anarchy & Realism (Cha)

Joshua C. Goldstein and John C. Pevehouse, “Realism” in *Principles of International Relations*, 1st Edition.

Robert Jervis, “Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma.”

John J. Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.”

Stephen M. Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning.”

Kenneth N. Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics.”

All four essays above are from *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 9th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)

9/20 – Liberalism & Cooperation (Kupchan)

Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs”

Stanley Hoffman, “The Uses and Limits of International Law”

Robert O. Keohane, “A Functional Theory of Regimes.”

All three essays above are from *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 6th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)

John Ikenberry, “Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order” *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 3, 43-78 (Winter, 1998-1999)

Robert D. Putnam, “The Logic of Two-Level Games” *International Organization*, Vol. 42, No. 3, 427-460, (Summer 1988)

9/27 – The Social Construction of World Politics (McNamara/Nexon)

Alex Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics" *International Organization* Vol. 46, No. 2, 391-425. (Spring 1992).

Finnemore and Barnett, "The Politics, Power and Pathologies of International Organizations," *International Organization* 52/4 (Autumn 1999).

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs*, (Summer, 1993).

Daniel H. Nexon and Iver B. Neumann, Introduction, *Harry Potter and International Relations*. (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006.)

The Principles in Action

10/4 – Democratic Peace & US Foreign Policy (Kupchan)

Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and War," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 1995).

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?," *The National Interest* (Summer 1999).

Charles A. Kupchan, "Enemies Into Friends," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 9, Issue 2, 120-134 (March/April 2010)

Sebastian Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace" *American Political Science Review* Vol. 97, No. 4, 585-602 (November 2003)

10/11 – International Institutions & Organizations (Voeten)

Kenneth Abbott and Duncan Snidal, "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. (1998).

Lisa Martin, "Interests, Power, and Multilateralism." *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 4, (Autumn 1992), pp. 765-792

Jon Pevehouse, "Democratization, Credible Commitments and Joining International Organizations" Chapter 1 in Daniel Drezner (ed) *Locating the Proper Authorities* (2002).

Erik Voeten "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability To Legitimize the Use of Force." *International Organization* (2005).

10/18 – International Law (Tony Arend, guest lecture)

Anthony Arend, *Legal Rules and International Society* (Oxford University Press, 1999) chs 2 & 4.

MID-TERM TAKE HOME EXAM AVAILABLE 10/19 AND DUE 10/21

10/25 – Sovereignty and Human Rights (Voeten)

Beth Simmons, “Introduction” and “Why International Law? The Development of the International Human Rights Regimes in the Twentieth Century” in *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics,” in *Activists Beyond Borders*. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1998.)

Andrew Moravcsik. “The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in postwar Europe.” *International Organization* (2000).

Jack Goldsmith and Stephen Krasner “The Limits of Idealism” *Daedalus* (2003).

11/1 – Deterrence Strategy & the 21st Century (Nexon)

Thomas C. Schelling. “The Threat that Leaves Something to Chance” in *Strategy of Conflict* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1960): 187-203

Henry Sokolski and Patrick Clawson, “Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran” Barry R. Posen, "Dealing with a Nuclear-Armed Iran" Both in *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 10th Edition (Ed. Art and Jervis)

James Russell and James J. Wirtz (2002) “A Quiet Revolution: The New Nuclear Triad” *Strategic Insight*.

Amy F. Woolf "Conventional Prompt Global Strike and Long-Range Ballistic Missiles: Background and Issues" Congressional Research Service, June 21, 2011 pp. 1-8 and 25-37.

Bruce Blair, Matt Brown, and Richard Burt; Josef Joffe and James W. Davis "Can Disarmament Work? Debating the Benefits of Nuclear Weapons" *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2011).

Recommended: Keir Lieber and Daryl Press, “The Nukes We Need” *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 2009).

11/8 – Markets, Power and the Historical Foundations of the Global Political Economy (McNamara)

Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*, (1944), chs 1-4, 15. SKIM

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, (2001 edition), Introduction by Joe Stiglitz, chs. 4-6. SKIM

John Ruggie, "International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order," *International Organization* 36/2 (Spring 1982), 379-416.

Dani Rodrik, "Feasible Globalizations" (July 2002).

Daniel W. Drezner, "Globalization and Policy Convergence" *International Studies Review* (2001).

Friedman, Thomas, "It's a Flat World, After All", *New York Times Magazine* (April 3, 2005).

11/15 – Crisis, Change & the Globalization of Finance (McNamara)

Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff, "This Time is Different: A Panoramic View of Eight Centuries of Financial Crisis" NBER Working Papers, (April 16, 2008).

Tony Porter, ch 4. "International Banking," ch 5 on "The Governance of Global Securities and Derivatives Markets," and ch 11 "Risk Politics and Financial Crisis" in *Globalization and Finance* (Cambridge: Polity, 2005.)

John Lancaster, "Melting Into Air: Before the financial system went bust, it went postmodern" *The New Yorker*, (November 10, 2008).

Joe Nocera. "Risk Management", *New York Times Magazine* (January 4, 2009), p. 24

Michael Lewis, "Wall Street on the Tundra" *Vanity Fair* (April 2009).

11/22 – American Primacy and World Order/Power Transition (Nexon)

Douglas Lemke, *Regions of War and Peace*, Chapter 2 ("Theoretical Origins")

William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World" *International Security* 24,1 (Summer 1999: 5-41)

John G. Ikenberry, "Liberal Internationalism 3.0" *Perspectives on Politics* 7,1 (March 2009:71-87)

Daniel H. Nexon, "What's This, Then? Romanes Eunt Domus?" *International Studies Review* 9 (2008): 300-308

11/29 – Great Power Politics & The Rise of China (Cha)

Richard Bernstein and Ross H. Munro, "China I: The Coming Conflict with America," *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 1997), pp.18-32

Soft power in Asia: Results of a 2008 Multinational survey of public opinion. (2008).
Chicago: The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Thomas Christensen, "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster?: The Rise of China and U.S. Policy Toward East Asia," *International Security* Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 81-126.

Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* Vol. 30, No. 2 (Fall 2005)

G. John Ikenberry. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.87, No.1, (January/February 2008).

John J. Mearsheimer, "China's Unpeaceful Rise," *Current History*, Vol. 105, No. 690 (April 2006), pp. 160-162.

12/6 – US Grand Strategy Revisited (Cha/Kupchan/McNamara/Nexon/Voeten/)

Special roundtable session. Readings TBA