

International Relations: Theories and Approaches
GOV 761 Spring 2010
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2010
Monday: 2:10pm – 4:10pm
Location: Walsh 492
Office hours: Friday 1:30-3:30

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Course Objectives:

This is an advanced class on theories of international relations. I assume that students have taken GOV 760 or its equivalent. The main objectives of this class are threefold 1) To familiarize students with current debates in international relations theory, 2) To prepare students for the comprehensive exam and 3) To get students thinking about their own research.

The primary assignment for the class is a mock comprehensive (take home) exam. In addition, I assign a few short essays that are similar in style to comprehensive exam questions. Finally, each student is required to write a two-page research proposal and discuss this with me.

The reading list is dominated by articles published in the field's top journals in last 15 years. The readings will also showcase some research done by IR faculty here at Georgetown. This may help students in their selection of a dissertation committee. In preparing the syllabus, I have sought to minimize overlap with the most recent offerings of GOV 760, International Security and International Political Economy. The syllabus focuses on articles rather than books because this allows us to discuss several theoretical perspectives in the same week. Each week, I will place the readings in a broader context and will offer a more extensive bibliography of suggested readings.

Focusing on articles also gives me some flexibility. I want to make the syllabus somewhat endogenous on student interest, meaning that I will change some of the readings in later weeks based on our conversations.

The syllabus is divided into three general conceptual areas that I perceive as central to contemporary international relations scholarship. First, power, authority, and legitimacy. Second, norms, laws and organizations. Third, the interaction between domestic and international politics. These distinctions are both broad and fluid. For example, in the second section we will ask if and how international organizations acquire authority or legitimacy. Similarly, in the third section we will start by studying the interaction between domestic politics and decisions to join international institutions.

Course Requirements:

Grading is based on four components:

1) Class participation and discussion questions (25%)

This is a seminar, not a lecture course. Your contribution is essential. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings. Your participation grade is based on:

- a) Active participation in the seminar discussions;
- b) A 1-2 paragraph comment that discusses some aspect of *each* week's readings. The paragraph could contain an argument that you have about a particular thesis in a reading, a synthesis between different readings, an aspect of the reading that you would like to see discussed in class, etcetera. You should not summarize the readings nor do you need to talk about each of the week's readings. The purpose of these paragraphs is both to show me that you have thought about the reading as well as to help steer discussion in class. The paragraphs should be emailed to me each week by noon on the morning of each class.
- c) Once a semester, each student will be asked to *defend* one of the readings.

2) Two short papers (15% each).

The first paper is due by Spring break, the second by Easter break. The papers will be on the first and second parts of the course respectively. Each paper should be about 2000 words. I will discuss these assignments further in class.

3) A short research proposal (10%)

Each student will prepare a two page research proposal by April 26. We will discuss these proposals on the last day of class. All students read all proposals. I *require* each student to discuss ideas or a draft of this proposal with me during office hours at some other point during the semester.

4) A final take home exam (35%).

A mock take-home comprehensive exam. The exam is based on the readings for this class but you can use other materials as well. We will discuss scheduling in class.

Class Schedule

1. January 13: Introduction
No class January 18 (MLK day)
2. January 25: Methodological Debates: Causality and Constitution

Part I: Power, Authority, and Legitimacy

3. February 1: Concepts: Power, Authority, and Legitimacy
4. February 8: Unipolarity
No class February 15 (Presidents Day)
5. February 22: Rising States
6. March 1: Network Theory

No class March 8 (Spring Break)

Part II: Norms, Laws, and Organizations

7. March 15: International Norms
8. March 22: International Laws
9. March 29: International Organizations
No class April 6 (Easter Monday)

Part III: The Domestic-International Interaction and Transnationalism

- 10. April 12: Domestic Politics and International Institutions
- 11. April 19: The Second Image Reversed
- 12. April 26: Non-State Actors

- 13. May 3: Discussion of Research Proposals

Detailed Syllabus

1. January 13: Introduction

No class January 18 (MLK day)

2. January 25: Methodological Debates: Causality and Constitution

Wendt, Alexander. "[On Constitution and Causation in International Relations.](#)" *Review of International Studies* 24,5 (1998): 101-117

Fearon, James. "[Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science.](#)" *World Politics*, 43,2 (1991), January: 169-95.

Downs, George W., David M. Roake and Peter N. Barsoom. "[Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation?](#)" *International Organization*, 50, 3 (Summer, 1996): 379-406

Read following for methodological controversy:

Von Stein, Jana. "[Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (Nov., 2005): 611-622 and Simmons, Beth A. and Daniel J. Hopkins. "[The Constraining Power of International Treaties: Theory and Methods.](#)" *The American Political Science Review*, 99, 4 (Nov., 2005): 623-631.

Green, Donald P., and Alan S. Gerber. "[The Underprovision of Experiments in Political Science.](#)" *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 589 (Sep., 2003)94-112.

Fearon, James, Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy M. Weinstein. "[Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia.](#)" *American Economic Review*, 99,2 (2009) 287-291.

PART I: POWER, AUTHORITY, AND LEGITIMACY

3. February 1: Concepts: Power, Authority, and Legitimacy

Bachrach, Peter and Morton Baratz. "[Two Faces of Power.](#)" *American Political Science Review*, 56, 4 (Dec., 1962): 947-952.

Weber, Max. "Domination" (Chapter XII from *Law in Economy and Society*)

Schelling, Thomas. *Arms and Influence*. Yale University Press: 1967. (Chapter 2, "The Art of Commitment")

Hurd, Ian. [Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics](#). *International Organization*, 53, 2 (Spring, 1999): 379-408

Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall. [Power in International Politics](#). *International Organization*, 59, 01 (January 2005): 39-75

Lake, David. [Relational Authority and Legitimacy in International Relations](#). *American Behavioral Scientist* 53, 3 (2009): 331-353.

4. February 8: Unipolarity

A. [World Politics special issue on unipolarity \(61, 1 \(2009\)\)](#):

Ikenberry, John G., Michael Mastanduno and William C. Wohlforth. "Introduction: Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences." 1-27

Wohlforth, William C. "Unipolarity, Status Competition, and Great Power War." 28-57

Finnemore, Martha. "Legitimacy, Hypocrisy, and the Social Structure of Unipolarity: Why Being a Unipole Isn't All It's Cracked Up to Be." 58-85

Walt, Stephen M. "Alliances in a Unipolar World." 86-120

Mastanduno, Michael. "System Maker and Privilege Taker: U.S. Power and the International Political Economy." 121-154

Snyder, Jack., Robert Y. Shapiro, and Yaeli Bloch-Elkon. "Free Hand Abroad, Divide and Rule at Home." 155-187

Jervis, Robert. "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective." 188-213

B. *Browse Controversy on Soft balancing*

Paul, T.V. "[Soft Balancing in the Age of U.S. Primacy](#)." *International Security* 30,1 (2005): 46-71.

Brooks, Stephen G. and William C. Wohlforth "[Hard Times for Soft Balancing](#)." *International Security* 30,1 (2005): 72-108.

Lieber, Keir A. and Gerard Alexander. "[Waiting for Balancing: Why the World is Not Pushing Back](#)." *International Security* 30,1 (2005): 109-139.

Art, Robert J. et al. "[Correspondence: Striking the Balance](#)." *International Security* 30,3 (2005/2006): 177-196.

No class February 15 (Presidents Day)

5. February 22: Rising States: IR Theory and the Rise of China

Gilpin, Robert. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 1993. (Read Chapter 1, "The Nature of International Political Change")

Friedberg, Aaron. "[The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?](#)" *International Security*, 30, 2 (Fall 2005): 7-45.

Jervis, Robert. "[Thinking Systemically About China.](#)" *International Security* 31,2 (2006): 206-208.

- Christensen, Thomas. "[Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and U.S. Policy toward East Asia.](#)" *International Security* 31,1 (2006): 81-126.

Johnston, Alastair, I. "[Is China a Status Quo Power?](#)" *International Security*, 27, 4 (2003): 5-56.

Drezner, Daniel. "[Bad Debts: China's Inflated Financial Power in Great Power Politics.](#)" *International Security*, 34, 2 (Fall 2009): 7-45.

6. March 1: Network Theory

Padgett, John. F and Christopher K. Ansell. "[Robust Action and the Rise of the Medici, 1400-1434.](#)" *The American Journal of Sociology*, 98, 6 (May, 1993): 1259-1319.

Borgatti SP, A Mehra, DJ Brass and G Labianca. "[Network analysis in the social sciences.](#)" *Science*, 13 (February, 2009): 892-895

Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., Miles Kahler and Alexander H. Montgomery. "[Network Analysis for International Relations.](#)" *International Organization*, 63, 03 (July 2009): 559-592.

Nexon, Daniel H. and Thomas J. Wright, "[What's at Stake in the American Empire Debate.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 101,2 (2007): 253-271.

Marc Granovetter. "[The Strength of Weak Ties](#)" *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 78, No. 6 (May, 1973), pp. 1360-1380

Haftner-Burton, Emilie M., and Alexander H. Montgomery. "[Power positions: International organizations, social networks, and conflict.](#)" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 50, 1: 3-27.

No class March 8 (Spring Break)

Part II: Norms, Laws, and Organizations

7. March 15: International Norms

Elster, Jon. "[Social Norms and Economic Theory.](#)" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 3, 4 (Autumn, 1989): 99-117.

Ostrom, Elinor. "[Collective Action and the Evolution of Social Norms.](#)" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 14, 3 (Summer, 2000): 137-158.

Finnemore, Martha. "[Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention.](#)" In: Peter Katzenstein (ed) *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*. Cambridge University Press: 1996.

Schimmelfennig, Frank. "[The Community Trap: Liberal Norms, Rhetorical Action, and the Eastern Enlargement of the European Union.](#)" *International Organization*, 55, 1 (2001): 47-80.

Krebs, Ronald and Patrick Jackson. "[Twisting Tongues and Twisting Arms: The Power of Political Rhetoric.](#)" *European Journal of International Relations* 13,1 (2007): 35-66.

8. March 22: International Law

Hans J. Morgenthau. "The Main Problems of International Law" ch. 18 *Politics Among Nations*

Browse: Goldstein, Judith, Miles Kahler, Robert O. Keohane and Anne-Marie Slaughter. "[Introduction: Legalization and World Politics.](#)" *International Organization*, 54, 3 (Summer, 2000): 385-399.

Abbot, Kenneth W, Robert O. Keohane, Andrew Moravcsik, Anne-Marie Slaughter and Duncan Snidal. "[The Concept of Legalization.](#)" *International Organization*, 54, 3 (Summer, 2000): 401-419.

Keohane, Robert O., Andrew Moravcsik and Anne-Marie Slaughter. "[Legalized Dispute Resolution: Interstate and Transnational.](#)" *International Organization*, 54, 3 (2000): 457-488.

Raustiala, Kal and Anne-Marie Slaughter. "[International Law, International Relations and Compliance.](#)" Princeton Law & Public Affairs Paper No. 02-2 In THE HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth Simmons, eds., Sage Publications, Ltd., 2002; UCLA School of Law Research Paper No. 347260.

Arend Anthony, C. "[Do Legal Rules Matter--International Law and International Politics.](#)" *Virginia Journal of International Law*, 107 (1997-1998).

Busch, Marc L. "[Overlapping Institutions, Forum Shopping, and Dispute Settlement in International Trade.](#)" *International Organization*, 61, 4 (2007): 735-761.

9. March 29: International Organizations

Voeten, Erik. "[The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force.](#)" *International Organization* 59, 3 (2005): 527-557.

Nielson, Daniel L. and Michael J. Tierney. "[Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform.](#)" *International Organization*, 57, 2 (Spring, 2003): 241-276.

Pollack, Mark A. "[Delegation, Agency, and Agenda Setting in the European Community.](#)" *International Organization*, 51, 1 (Winter, 1997): 99-134.

Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. "[The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.](#)" *International Organization* 53, 4 (1999): 699-732.

McNamara, Kathleen R. "[Consensus and Constraint: Ideas and Capital Mobility in European Monetary Integration.](#)" *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 37, 3: 455-476.

No class April 6 (Easter Monday)

PART III: THE DOMESTIC-INTERNATIONAL INTERACTION AND TRANSNATIONALISM

10. April 12: Domestic Sources of International Politics

Danner, Allison and Beth Simmons. "Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court." *International Organization*, 64, 2 (Forthcoming).

Dai, Xinyan. "[Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism.](#)" *International Organization*, 59, 2 (April 2005): 363-398.

Moravcsik, Andrew. "[The Origin of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Post-War Europe.](#)" *International Organization*, 54, 2 (2000): 217-252.

Vreeland, James R. "[Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture.](#)" *International Organization*, 62, 01 (January 2008): 65-101.

Tomz, Michael. "[Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach.](#)" *International Organization*, 61, 4 (2007): 821-840.

Weeks, Jessica, L. "[Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve.](#)" *International Organization*, 62, 01 (January 2008): 35-64.

11. April 19: Second Image Reversed

Gourevitch, Peter. "The [Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics.](#)" *International Organization* (Autumn 1978)

Dobbin, Frank, Geoff Garrett, and Beth Simmons. "[The Global Diffusion of Public Policies: Social Construction, Coercion, Competition, or Learning?](#)" *Annual Review of Sociology*, 33, 1 (August 2007): 449-472.

Meyer, John, John Boli, George M. Thomas, Francisco Ramirez. 1997. "[World Society and the Nation State.](#)" *American Journal of Sociology*, 103, 1 (July 1997): 144-181.

Simmons, Beth and Zachary Elkins "[The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy.](#)" *American Political Science Review* 98, 1 (February 2004): 171-189.

Risse, Thomas and Kathryn Sikkink. "The socialization of international human rights norms into domestic practices." (From the *Power of Human Rights*)

Hafner-Burton, Emilie M. "[Trading Human Rights: How Preferential Trade Agreements Influence Government Repression.](#)" *International Organization*, 59, 03 (July 2005): 593-629.

Drezner, Daniel. "[Globalization, harmonization, and competition: the different pathways to policy convergence.](#)" *Journal of European Public Policy* 12, 5 (October 2005): 841-859.

12. April 26: Non-State Actors

Keck, Margaret E. and Kathryn Sikkink. "[Transnational advocacy networks in international and regional politics.](#)" *International Social Science Journal* (1999).

Carpenter, R. Charli. "[Studying Issue \(Non\)-Adoption in Transnational Advocacy Networks.](#)" *International Organization*, 61, 3 (July 2007): 643-667.

Newman, Abraham L. "[Building Transnational Civil Liberties: Transgovernmental Entrepreneurs and the European Data Privacy Directive.](#)" *International Organization*, 62, 1, (January 2008): 103-130.

Barnett, Michael. "Humanitarianism Transformed." [Perspectives on Politics](#) (2005), 3 : 723-740

Alexander Cooley and James Ron. "[The NGO Scramble](#)" *International Security* Summer 2002.

[Fragile States and Foreign Aid: Political Origins of Economic Development After Civil War](#), Desha Girod.

13. May 3 Research Proposals