

**Introduction to International Relations (NS3024)
Summer 2019**

Monday/Wednesday, 8:00-9:50
Glasgow 129

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or by appointment

Course Description

International Relations (IR) theorists grapple with big questions. What causes war? When can states cooperate? How do economic and technological changes influence states' behavior? Do perceptions and ideas impact international politics or do all interstate relations come down to material power? Do countries' domestic characteristics and national identities shape their international activities? How threatening is the international system these days?

This course will respond to these questions, not through a survey of contemporary world politics, but by examining central IR paradigms, including Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism. We will also consider IR theories that emphasize domestic politics, bureaucratic politics, and psychology. To accomplish this, we will read canonical "modern classics" and subject them to critical analysis and debate. We will also apply the various theoretical approaches to real-world events, to better understand and explain major international issues and assess what the theories can—and cannot—tell us about contemporary interstate politics.

Course Objectives

- Describe and critically analyze major IR concepts, theories, and debates
 - Recognize authors' research questions and underlying assumptions
 - Map authors' theoretical arguments
 - Identify gaps in authors' logic or evidence
 - Derive expectations and implications of IR theories
- Apply IR concepts and theories to real-world events
 - Identify real-world examples of IR concepts and theories
 - Interpret contemporary events from alternative theoretical perspectives
 - Evaluate how well competing theories explain contemporary events
- Interrogate foundational IR questions, like those listed in the course description and course Modules
- Read theoretical texts efficiently
- Develop and communicate compelling arguments, in verbal and written formats
- Prepare for future coursework in the NSA curricula

Readings

There are two **required books** for this course:

- Daniel Drezner, *Theory of International Politics and Zombies: Revived Edition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014).
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (you can buy either the original 2001 edition or the updated 2014 edition)

Books are available for purchase at the Navy Exchange online store, and one copy of each is available on reserve at the Dudley Knox Library.

“**Readings**” are required and must be completed prior to each class session. With the exception of the required books, they are all available on Sakai. I have posted articles and chapters in full, so **double check the page numbers** on the syllabus, to avoid reading more than required.

“**Further Readings**” expand on the required readings, presenting variations on, further developments of, or challenges to their arguments. They are NOT required.

Preparing for Class: Modules

To help you prepare for class, I have created **Modules** for each class session on Sakai. You should consult these before you start each session’s readings. Each module includes:

- Links to the session’s readings
- A brief overview of the session’s content
- Questions to guide your reading, which we will also discuss in class
- List of vocabulary terms to learn from the readings/in class

I may update these Modules as the class progresses, so I recommend checking the appropriate module before each session, rather than downloading all of them at once. I will also upload Powerpoint slides to the modules, after presenting them in class.

Assessment

Your class performance will be assessed based on three elements:

1. Participation 30%

To obtain a high participation grade, you must consistently attend class, complete the required readings prior to each class session, and contribute regularly to class discussions and activities. The quality of your participation also matters. Responses, comments, questions, and critiques should be clear, informed by the readings, and respectful and responsive to other students’ contributions.

Participation will be evaluated on a daily basis, using a ✓ +, ✓, ✓ -, 0 scale

- ✓ + = attended class and **repeatedly contributed clear, original, informed content** to class discussions and activities
- ✓ = attended class and **contributed** clear, original, informed content to class discussions and activities

- ✓ - = attended class, but **did not contribute** clear, original or informed content to class discussions or activities
- 0 = did not attend class

Absenteeism: I excuse absences for illness, medical visits that cannot be scheduled outside of class, and medical and family emergencies, if I am notified about them. Other absences are not excused. You are welcome but not required to notify me about unexcused absences.

2. **Midterm Exam (take home) 30%** **Due 9 August by 10 p.m.**

3. **Final Exam (take home) 40%** **Due 20 September by 10 p.m.**

Each exam will be passed out in class 3-4 days before it is due. The exams will include vocabulary, short answer, and essay questions. They will assess your knowledge of course concepts, readings, and lectures and your ability to critically analyze IR concepts and theories, apply them to real-world events, and formulate and communicate your own arguments. Both exams are open book and open note. If you have been critically engaging with course readings, attending and participating in class, keeping thorough notes, and can clearly and cogently express your arguments, you should perform well on the exams.

You will receive two types of feedback on each exam: a rubric and a letter grade. The rubric, which I will distribute before the midterm, evaluates various components of your exam essays, on a 1-4 scale. It allows me to systematically identify areas where your essays meet course objectives and areas where there is room for improvement. The letter grade synthesizes the rubric's feedback and your scores on other sections of the exam. For further information on grading expectations, please consult the NSA department's expectations for written work (<http://my.nps.edu/web/nsa/grades>).

Technical Requirements (note: each of these requirements is here for a reason and I reserve the right not to accept assignments that do not fulfill them):

- Submit exams via Sakai, under the "Assignments" tab
- Upload ONE document
- Include your last name in the document name
- Format exams as a single Word document, double spaced, with 12 point Times New Roman font, 1" margins, and page numbers
- All readings must be cited using a standard citation format: e.g. Chicago style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). You can use (1) footnotes or (2) the (author:date) format with an accompanying reference list. Please do not use endnotes!
- Spellcheck and proofread for misspellings of author names, grammatical errors, clarity, and flow

Lateness: Assignments submitted after 10 p.m. on their due date will lose 1/3 of a letter grade per day (e.g. an A exam submitted a few hours late becomes an A-, an A 1.5 days late becomes a B+, etc.)

Extensions: In general, I do not change exam deadlines. However, in cases of genuine emergencies or conflicts, other arrangements can potentially be made. I will address each situation on a case-by-case basis. If you anticipate that you may need an extension, please notify me as soon as possible.

Reassessment: If you wish to challenge a grade, you must do so in writing within one week of the assignment being returned. Challenges should provide a clear argument for why a higher grade is warranted. If you request reassessment, I will reevaluate the entire assignment and your grade may go up or down.

Graduate Writing Center (GWC): If you would like to improve the quality of your written work, I encourage you to draw on the services of the GWC (<https://my.nps.edu/web/gwc/home>). Our course's Sakai site includes links to the center's Writing Resources. You may use the GWC for all class assignments.

Additional Class Policies

Accommodation: If you need an accommodation based on illness, disability, or mental health concerns, please contact me to discuss specific needs.

Academic Integrity: As stated in the Academic Honor Code in the NPS Student Information Handbook, you are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and to deal honestly with all matters concerning the course. Plagiarism or cheating on an exam will result in a zero for that assignment, may result in an F for the course, and will be brought to the Dean's attention.

Plagiarism consists of using words or ideas from another source without proper attribution or citation. This can include exact wording from a source, very similar paraphrasing based on a source, or general arguments from a source. Any facts or positions that are not common knowledge must also be documented, using citations. For further advice on avoiding plagiarism, see the information and resources listed on the NSA department's web page on academic integrity (<http://my.nps.edu/web/nsa/academic-integrity>). The GWC will also provide training on avoiding plagiarism. When in doubt, cite!

Schedule

7/8 Introduction

7/10 Theory and its Uses

Readings [44 pages]:

- Stephen M. Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 110 (Spring 1998), pp. 29-46.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959), Chapter 1 (“Introduction”), **READ ONLY pp. 1-15.**
- Stephen M. Walt, “The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations,” *Annual Review of Political Science* (November 2005), **READ ONLY pp. 23-34.**

Further Readings:

- Kenneth M. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1979), Chapter 1 (“Laws and Theories”), pp. 1-9.
- J. David Singer, “The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations,” *World Politics*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (October 1961).

I. REALISM

7/15 Classical Realism

Readings [38 pages]:

- Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” excerpt from *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, in Richard K. Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 3rd ed (New York: Pearson Education, 2008), pp. 56-60.
- Niccolò Machiavelli, “Doing Evil in Order to Do Good,” excerpt from *The Prince*, in Betts, pp. 61-65.
- Thomas Hobbes, “The State of Nature and the State of War,” excerpt from *Leviathan*, in Betts, pp. 66-69.
- Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, 5th ed (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1973).
 - Chapter 1 (“A Realist Theory of International Politics”), pp. 3-15.
 - Chapter 11 (“The Balance of Power”), pp. 167-177.

Further Readings:

- Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, 5th ed (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1973), Chapters 3-5.
- Woodrow Wilson, “Community of Power vs. Balance of Power,” in Betts, pp. 132-134.
- Edward H Carr, “Realism and Idealism,” excerpt from *The Twenty Years’ Crisis, 1919-1939*, in Betts, pp. 70-86.

7/17 Neorealism (aka “Structural Realism”)

Readings [45 pages]:

- Kenneth Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist History,” in Betts, pp. 87-93.
- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw Hill, 1979).
 - Chapter 5 (Political Structures), **READ ONLY pp. 79-82** (ending with “differences in their performance”), **and pp. 88-101** (section “III”).

- Chapter 6 (“Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power”), **READ ONLY pp. 102-107, 116-128.**

Further Readings:

- Helen Milner, “The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique,” *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1991), pp. 67-85.
- Randall L. Schweller, “Neorealism’s Status Quo Bias: What Security Dilemma?” *Security Studies* Vol. 5, No. 3 (1996).

7/22 Expanding Neorealism

Readings [51 pages]:

- Stephen Walt, “Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power,” *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Spring 1985), 3-43.
- Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), Chapter 3 (“Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary”), **READ ONLY pp. 58-67.**

Further Readings:

- Paul Schroeder, “Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory,” *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Summer 1994), pp. 108-148.
- Steven R. David, “Explaining Third World Alignment,” *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (January 1991), pp. 233-256.

7/24 Offensive Realism

Readings [111 pages]:

- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 2001).
 - Chapter 2 (“Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”), pp. 29-54.
 - Chapter 4 (“The Primacy of Land Power”), **READ ONLY pp. 83-90, 96-99, 110-119, 126-137.**
 - Chapter 5 (“Strategies for Survival”), pp. 138-167.
 - Chapter 6 (“Great Powers in Action”), **READ ONLY pp. 168-181** (introductory section and Japan case).
 - Chapter 7 (“The Offshore Balancers”), **READ ONLY pp. 234-238** (introductory section).

7/29 Adding Domestic Politics: Neoclassical Realism and Two-Level Games

Readings [61 pages]:

- Gideon Rose, “Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy,” *World Politics*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (1998), pp. 144-172.
- Robert D. Putnam, “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games,” *International Organization*, Vol 42, No. 3 (1988), pp. 427-460.

Further Reading:

- Peter Gourevitch, “The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics,” *International Organization*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (1978), pp. 881-912.

7/31 Power Transition Theory

Readings [~55 pages]:

- AFK Organski and Jacek Kugler, *The War Ledger* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980), Chapter 1 (“Causes, Beginnings, and Predictions: The Power Transition”), **READ ONLY pp. 13-28.**
- Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), Chapter 5 (“Hegemonic War and International Change”), pp. 186-210.
- Graham Allison, “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?” *The Atlantic*, 24 September 2015.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>
- Richard Ned Lebow and Daniel P. Tompkins, “The Thucydides Claptrap,” *Washington Monthly*, 28 June 2016. <http://washingtonmonthly.com/thucydides-claptrap>

Further Readings:

- Jack S. Levy, “Declining Power and the Preventive Motivation for War,” *World Politics*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (October 1987), pp. 82-107.
- Alastair Iain Johnston, “Is China a Status-Quo Power?” *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (Spring 2003): 5-56.

II. LIBERALISM

8/5 Neoliberalism: Cooperation and Institutions

Readings [56 pages]:

- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984).
 - Chapter 4 (“Cooperation and International Regimes”), pp. 49-64.
 - Chapter 5 (“Rational-Choice and Functional Explanations”), **READ ONLY pp. 65-69 and 75-84.**
 - Chapter 6 (“A Functional Theory of International Regimes”), pp. 85-109.

Further Readings:

- Joseph M. Grieco, “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism,” *International Organization*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 485-507.
- Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation* (New York: Basic Books, 1984).
- John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Winter 1994/1995), pp. 5-49.
- Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, “The Promise of Institutional Theory,” *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51.

NO CLASS 8/7. MIDTERM DUE 8/9 (Friday) by 10 p.m.

8/12 Economic Interdependence

Readings [51 pages]:

- Norman Angell, *The Great Illusion* (New York: GP Putnam’s Sons, 1911), Chapter 4 (“The Impossibility of Confiscation”), pp. 49-62.
- Richard Rosecrance, *The Rise of the Trading State: Commerce and Conquest in the Modern World* (New York: Basic Books, 1986), Chapter 2 (“The Worlds of International Relations”), pp. 22-43.

- Stephen G. Brooks, “The Globalization of Production and the Changing Benefits of Conquest,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 43, No. 5 (October 1999), pp. 646-670.

Further Readings:

- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Structural Causes and Economic Effects” in Betts, pp. 309-318 (an abbreviated excerpt from *Theory of International Politics*, Chapter 7).
- Erik Gartzke, “The Capitalist Peace,” *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 51, No. 1 (2007), pp. 166-191.
- Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, excerpt from *Power and Interdependence* in Betts, pp. 161-167.

8/14 Democratic Peace

Readings [47 pages]:

- Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” in Betts, pp. 122-128.
- Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993).
 - Chapter 1 (“The Fact of the Democratic Peace”), pp. 3-23
 - Chapter 2 (“Why Democratic Peace”), pp. 24-42.
- John Owen IV, “Iraq and the Democratic Peace,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 84 (November/December 2005), pp. 122-127.

Further Readings:

- Sebastian Rosato, “Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory,” *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 4 (November 2003), pp. 585-602.
- Ido Oren, “The Subjectivity of the ‘Democratic’ Peace: Changing US Perceptions of Imperial Germany,” *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (1995), pp. 147-184.

III. CONSTRUCTIVISM

8/19 Foundations of Constructivism

Readings [40 pages]:

- John Gerard Ruggie, “What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge,” *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (Autumn 1998), **READ ONLY pp. 855-857 and 862-874** (skip “The Classical Roots” section).
- Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 1992), **READ ONLY pp. 391-412** (stop at “Sovereignty, recognition, and security”).

Further Readings:

- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996), esp. Chapter 1 (“Defining State Interests”), pp. 1-33.
- Ted Hopf, “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory,” *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1998), pp. 171-200.

8/21 Norms and Taboos

Readings [68 pages]:

- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change,” *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (1998), pp. 887-917.

- Nina Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-use,” *International Organization*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (1999), pp. 433-468.

Further Readings:

- Peter Katzenstein et al., eds., *The Culture of National Security* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996).
- John Mueller, “The Obsolescence of Major War,” *Bulletin of Peace Proposals*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (1990), pp. 321-328.

IV. OTHER LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

8/26 Bringing the State In: Bureaucratic and Organizational Politics

Readings [60 pages]:

- Graham Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3 (September 1969), pp. 689-718.
- Morton H. Halperin and Priscilla Clapp, with Arnold Kanter, *Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2006), Chapter 3 (“Organizational Interests”), **READ ONLY pp. 25-33, pp. 38-45** (starting with “Enhancement”), **and pp. 49-61.**

Further Readings:

- Stephen D. Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland),” *Foreign Policy*, No. 7 (Summer 1972), pp. 159-179.

8/28 NO CLASS: Professor at a conference

For this session, you will fill out a questionnaire on Sakai, identifying concepts and questions to cover in the review.

9/2 NO CLASS: Labor Day

9/4 Individuals: Leaders, Misperceptions, and Cognitive Challenges

Readings [79 pages]:

- Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, “Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In,” *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (2001), pp. 107-146.
- Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), Chapter 3 (“Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary”), **READ ONLY pp. 67-76.**
- Alexander L. George, *Presidential Decisionmaking in Foreign Policy: The Effective Use of Information and Advice* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1980), Chapter 2 (“Psychological Aspects of Decisionmaking”), **READ ONLY pp. 25-29 and 35-49.**
- Jack S. Levy, “An Introduction to Prospect Theory,” *Political Psychology*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (1992), **READ ONLY pp. 171-179.**

Further Readings:

- Chapters 3, 4, 6, 10, and 11 of Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in World Politics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976).
- Robert Jervis, “Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?” *Security Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (2013), pp. 153-179.

- Rose McDermott, *Presidential Leadership, Illness, and Decision Making* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

V. APPLYING THE THEORIES

9/9 Review Session

9/11 The Zombie Apocalypse

Readings [117 pages]:

- Daniel Drezner, *Theory of International Politics and Zombies, Revived Edition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), **READ ONLY pp. 1-74 and 95-136.**

9/16 The South China Sea Case

Readings: TBA

FINAL EXAM DUE 9/20 by 10 p.m.