INR 6607: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY
Fall 2013

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Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the academic discipline of International Relations (IR). The reading list is organized more or less chronologically in an attempt to track the evolution of the discipline since its inception in the early 20th century. Along the way, students will be exposed to IR’s prominent authors, the substance and the changing contours of the discipline’s major theoretical perspectives (or “isms”), significant substantive debates between and within these “isms,” and recurrent controversies over the proper epistemology and method of studying IR.

Students who plan to take the comprehensive exam in IR (at either the PhD or MA level) should treat this syllabus not as an exhaustive study guide so much as a starting point. To be adequately prepared for the exam, you will need to follow the trails signposted by citations that recur throughout the course readings. Students studying for the comprehensive PhD exam should also consult the general reading list prepared by the faculty of the IR field (available at http://www.polisci.ufl.edu/graduate/irreadinglist2010.pdf).

Course Requirements

Students are required to actively participate in all course sessions, write three short papers over the course of the semester, and write a take-home examination at semester’s end.

Participation: I expect you to attend all class sessions, do all the assigned reading before each class, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth. Your active participation in class discussions is very important; it will account for 20 percent of the final grade. In assigning this portion of the grade, I will consider the quality of your contributions as much their quantity: do your comments indicate that you have read the materials with care and that you have reflected on these readings? If you would like to contribute to our class discussions but prefer not to speak in front of your classmates, feel free to email me, ahead of class, a brief note with critical comments and/or discussion questions concerning the readings. I may then share your thoughts with the class without identifying you.

Short papers: You are required to write three short papers over the course of the semester. Two of these papers will critically review a week’s assigned literature (or a significant subset of it). These essays should not be limited to summarizing the texts. They should examine in a critical, reflective fashion one or more key question(s), concept(s), theoretical argument(s), or controversy(ies) in the assigned texts. You may choose any two weeks during the term to submit your papers on (no later than the beginning of the class). The length of each paper should not exceed five double-spaced pages.

For the third paper you will critically review a specific issue area or debate in the IR literature that is not directly covered by the course readings. Please discuss your topic choice with me before embarking on this assignment. This paper should be 5-7 pages long, double spaced. It is due no later than Monday, December 2, at Noon.
Please note that a literature review is not an annotated list of sources presented, or criticized, in random order. An effective review paper must have a logical structure and a central theme. State the central theme at the outset and then structure the bulk of the review around this theme.

**Take-home examination:** The take-home exam is intended as an early practice for the IR comprehensive exam. It will consist of one essay question—a rather general question of the kind that appears on the first part of the comprehensive exam. The answer should be between 2,000–2,500 words. The exam will be e-mailed to you on Friday, December 6, before Noon, and will be due back on Monday, December 9, at Noon. Guidelines for writing IR comprehensive exams can be found at [http://www.polisci.ufl.edu/graduate/phdirexam.html](http://www.polisci.ufl.edu/graduate/phdirexam.html)

In all written assignments, please use a 12 point font and leave minimum margins of 1 inch.

The take-home exam and the three short papers will each account for 20 percent of the final grade.

**Required readings:** Many of the assigned readings are journal articles that you can easily download from JSTOR or other online data bases accessible through the UF Libraries website. Other readings consist of excerpts from books, some of which are available online from the UF Libraries’ electronic reserves (marked e-res below). Due to copyright restrictions, other book excerpts could not be placed on e-reserves; a copy of these excerpts will be placed in the graduate students lounge on the third floor (look for a box marked INR 6607)—please check out and photocopy these readings. Additionally, you should acquire the following books, from which we will read large sections.

- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959; a second edition was issued in 2001 but the text of the two editions is identical).

I will open each class session with a brief announcement about how you can gain access to the following week’s readings.

**Other Relevant Information**

**Grading:** For each assignment you will receive a numerical score, not a letter grade. Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following schedule: 93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A–; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B–; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C–; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D–; <60 = E. Information on UF’s grading policies is posted at [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx)

Extra-credit work is not allowed.

Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must register with the Dean of Students Office and provide documentation from this office.
All students are required to abide by UF’s standards of academic honesty laid out in the Student Honor Code, posted at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)

### COURSE SCHEDULE

**August 23. Introduction**
- No reading

**August 30. IR before World War II**

**September 6. No class (Rosh Ha-shanah)**

**September 13. IR in the 1940s and 1950s—The Ascent of Realism**
- Stefano Guzzini, *Realism in International Relations and International Political Economy: the Continuing Story of a Death Foretold* (Routledge, 1998), chap. 2 [17 pp.]
- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. Read chaps. 1–2, 4, 6, 8. [128 pp.]

**September 20. Realism Challenged: The “Second Debate;” Theories of Integration and Interdependence**
- Stefano Guzzini, *Realism in International Relations and International Political Economy: the Continuing Story of a Death Foretold* (Routledge, 1998), chap. 3 [17 pp.]
September 27. Further Challenges to Realism: Bureaucratic and Domestic Politics; Psychology and Decision Making; Marxism; the “English School”


October 4. A (Structural) Realist Comeback

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: Random House, 1979), chaps. 1, 4–6, 8 [118 pp.]
- Stefano Guzzini, *Realism in International Relations and International Political Economy: the Continuing Story of a Death Foretold* (Routledge, 1998), chap. 9 [15 pp.]

October 11. The Neo (realism) - Neo (liberal institutionalism) Debate of the 1980s


October 18. IR at/and the End of the Cold War: The Declaration of a “Third Debate;” the emergence of the Democratic Peace Literature

October 25. Constructivism

- Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), chaps. 1, 6 [e-res]

November 1. Postmodernist and Feminist Approaches


November 8. No class (Homecoming)
November 15. Realism(s) after the End of the Cold War
["Third" paper due]

November 22. Reflections: Is IR still an American social Science? Does IR theory have a future?

November 29. No class—Thanksgiving weekend

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Monday, Dec. 2. Third short paper due at Noon

Friday, Dec. 6. Take-home exam e-mailed to students at Noon

Monday, Dec. 9. Exam due at Noon