1 Front Matter

Advanced Theories of International Politics
Professor Henry Farrell
Office Location - Monroe Hall 404
Office Hours - Thursday 2-4pm or by appointment
email: henry@henryfarrell.net

2 Introduction

This course is a sequel to the core international relations theory seminar for Ph.D. students with a field in international relations. It is intended to build upon that earlier seminar’s general introduction to current theoretical debates in international relations, both (a) introducing new forms of theory, and (b) examining in closer detail how some of the theories discussed in the core seminar have been applied.

3 Learning Objectives

After this course, students should be able to:

- map out many of the major debates in the field of international relations and position work within these debates
- analyze the strengths and defects of scholarly work in international relations
• be able to situate their own initial research interests in relation to the field
• be better prepared for their Ph.D. Comprehensive exams

4 Requirements

Students entering this course are expected either to have taken the earlier core seminar or some very close equivalent to it (if in doubt, they should talk to the instructor). The coursework requirements are threefold.

(1) In-class participation 33 percent. Students are expected to come to class prepared for discussion, and to engage in debate over the readings. Each week, students should write a very short memo with 2-3 questions (no more than 1-2 sentences each) to guide conversation. I expect students not only to be able to describe the contents of the readings but also to analyze them critically. I will seek to moderate classroom discussion so as to ensure that all students have a chance to participate (e.g., if necessary I will pass over frequent contributors to debate to ensure that everyone has some opportunity to speak).

(2) Response papers - 33 percent (11 percent x 3). I will grade you on three short response papers, each of which should be around 5 pages long. The paper should engage critically with one of the readings for class, critiquing it, defending it, or extending it. The response paper should not be a simple description or summary of the reading - it has to go beyond it in some way. Response papers are due 24 hours before the class in question, and should be emailed to all participants in the class. You can write as many response papers as you like; I will base your grade on the best three.

(3) A take-home exam, to be scheduled at the end of the semester. This will count for 33 percent of your grade. You will have 72 hours to complete the exam, which will consist of five questions, of which you may choose any three. You should answer the questions in a concise and logical fashion, with a clear argument of your own, drawing support from the IR literature as appropriate.

5 Course policies

Students may be penalized for turning in assignments late or for missing class without good reason. Students will not be penalized for missing a class due to a University-recognized religious holiday. Students who have
previously taken the second half of 341 may audit the course under two conditions: (1) they may not participate in the discussion unless specifically invited, and (2) they must make themselves available for one hour per week outside of class to advise and mentor current 341 students who have formed study groups (I will play a coordinating role as necessary).

6 Academic Integrity

The Ph.D. program in political science takes matters of academic honesty extremely seriously. Students found violating the GW Code of Academic Integrity will fail the course and be reported to the GW Academic Integrity Process (where my policy will be to press for a permanent mark of dishonesty to be placed on the student’s academic record) and the Political Science Graduate Advisor. The Political Science Graduate Advisor may take additional steps as appropriate, up to and including expulsion from the program. The Code states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Please review http://www.gwu.edu/~integrity for more information. By enrolling in this course, students acknowledge that they are familiar with the code and accept the consequences should they be found in violation.

7 Required Texts

The required texts for this course are:


These texts will be available on short term loan from the Gelman library. I nonetheless recommend that you consider buying as many of them as you reasonably can. They are all core texts that belong in the library of any serious international relations scholar.

8 Bibliography

Most of the articles listed below are available via JSTOR or ALADIN if you are using a campus computer (or using your university login for Gelman library from home). A couple are not (e.g. the Tilly chapter, the Wight chapters, the Katzenstein chapter and the Drezner article) and will be made available via Blackboard.

January 23 - Week 1 - What are States Made of?


Recommended Readings


January 30 - Week 2 - What is the International System Made Of?


Recommended Readings


Alex Wendt (1999), *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Feb 6 - Week 3 - What Are International Markets Made Of?


Recommended Readings


Feb 13 - Week 4 - From Hegemony to Hierarchy in the International System


**February 20 - No Class (President’s Day)**

**Feb 27 - Week 5 - Security Dilemmas**


**Mar 5 - Week 6 - Relative Gains, Cooperation and Conflict**


No Class March 12 - Spring Break

March 19 - Week 7 - The International Impact of Domestic Economic Factors


Recommended Readings


Mar 26 - Week 8 - Interdependence, Globalization and Beyond

Norman Angell (1933), *The Great Illusion* (New York: Putnam). Skim parts you have read already.


**Recommended Readings**


**Apr 2 - Week 9 - Information and Uncertainty**


**Recommended Readings**


Apr 9 - Week 10 - Signalling and Audience Costs


**Recommended Reading**


Apr 16 - Week 11 - Emerging Areas I - Diffusion and Cross Border Effects


Recommended Reading


Apr 23 - Week 12 - Emerging Areas II - Networks in International Politics


Yonatan Lupu and Vincent A. Traag (2011), Trading Communities, the Networked Structure of International Relations and the Kantian Peace. On Blackboard.


Apr 30 - Week 13 - Emerging Areas III - Insurgency and Civil Wars


Jason Lyall and Isaiah Wilson III, “Rage against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars,” International Organization
May 1 - Week 14 - Global Ethics: Democracy, Cosmopolitanism and National Obligations in International Affairs


