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INTL 6200: Core Seminar in International Relations Theory (MIP)

Overview:

The sub-field of international relations is as theoretically diverse as any in political science. There are debates between realists, liberals, constructivists, and rationalists over what factors explain broad patterns of state behavior. There are arguments between those who view international imperatives as dominant and those who give primacy to domestic politics. These discussions spill over into substantive debates about the causes of conflict, the reasons for cooperation, the role of institutions, and the significance of international law.

No single unified theory or framework provides a key to unlocking all of the subfield. Instead, the purpose of this course is to survey various theories and approaches, and to provide a foundation for subsequent and more focused study. While we will examine the larger theoretical frameworks in the field, we will also apply these frameworks to specific empirical domains (e.g. constructing effective institutions, deterrence, the causes of war).

This course is designed specifically for students enrolled in UGA's Master of International Policy program (MIP). In many respects the course is similar to a typical Ph.D. seminar in that the focus is on competing theories and empirical analysis. However, the substance here is tilted to security frameworks and issues, and there is a somewhat greater emphasis on foreign policy analysis.

Objectives:

By the end of this course you should:

Have a good working knowledge of the major academic theories and empirical debates in the subfield of international relations

Be able to critically evaluate theoretical (and to a lesser extent empirical) claims contained in international relations scholarship. This includes writing detailed, focused critiques that summarize and synthesize the arguments of scholars in the field.

Be prepared for advanced study in the subfield.

Course Requirements:

Leading Seminar Discussion 100pts

We will take turns leading the weekly discussion. The purpose of these presentations is two-fold. The first is to summarize the main arguments, identify differences and similarities across readings, and to relate the material to past sessions. This sets a common foundation for the class and provides an opportunity to resolve any disagreements about the content. The second is to

offer a focused argument(s) about the material. You can discuss the strengths and weakness of a particular subset of authors or confront the entire set of readings.

I intend for the summary to be a somewhat formal exposition as this is a skill that you will rely upon throughout your career. You may use PowerPoint, Prezi, handouts etc. to guide the class through your presentation. Session leaders will then generate questions and provide analysis to motivate our discussion. The grade for each session is based on how well you explain the readings (33%), the quality of your analysis (33%), and how effectively you engage the class in spirited debate (33%). Note: you may not write a critical essay for the sessions that you lead. Each student will do two presentations. Each presentation is worth 50 points. If you do not get an opportunity to make two presentations, then you will need to write one additional analytical essay.

Analytical Essays: (minimum of 7) 50pts each

In this class critical essays are focused, succinct (3 page) statements that provide an analysis on the strengths and weakness of the assigned readings. The goal here is to develop the capacity to quickly get to the core arguments/findings and then move onto your own critical analysis and discussion. Emphasis is placed on analysis and application. Each essay is worth 100 points, are due by 5pm the Sunday before the class in which the readings are discussed.

For reference on how to craft an effective essay of this type, please see:

Knopf, Jeffrey W. "Doing a literature review." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 39.01 (2006): 127-132.

Research Design 300pts

You will write a research proposal comprised of a research question, literature review, theory, hypotheses, proposed variable operationalization and measurement, and a brief statement on expected findings. A one-page summary of your proposal is due to the class (via email) on Sept. 23rd. At regular intervals you will provide progress reports to the class for critical feedback. Additional information about constructing a proper research design will be distributed in class. You can earn up to 200 points for the final project, and up to 100 points for meeting the milestones/presentations along the way.

Class Participation 100pts

Attendance and participation are crucial for an effective seminar. More importantly, however, is that direct student engagement is the most effective way to master the material. You will be evaluated not only on the frequency of your participation, but also on the degree to which your comments: (a) evidence a firm grasp of the material, (b) provide novel insights, (c) integrate material from outside the course, (d) and move our discussion forward. A compelling question is often more helpful than an argument. Participation includes posting questions and/or comments for discussion on the class bulletin board each week (by 6pm Sunday before each class). Students will be graded each week on their participation, these scores are then averaged.

Reading Schedule

Aug. 15: Introduction “How do we know anything?”

Assignment Scheduling.

Aug 22: Realism and System Structure.

Waltz, Kenneth N. "Structural realism after the Cold War." *International security* 25.1 (2000): 5-41.

Wohlforth, William C. "The stability of a unipolar world." *International security* 24.1 (1999): 5-41.

Monteiro, Nuno P. "Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity Is Not Peaceful." *International Security* 36.3 (2011): 9-40.

Aug 29: Neoclassical Realism

Rose, Gideon. "Neoclassical realism and theories of foreign policy." *World politics* 51.01 (1998): 144-172.

Schweller, Randall L. "Unanswered threats: A neoclassical realist theory of underbalancing." *International security* 29.2 (2004): 159-201.

Cha, Victor D. "Abandonment, Entrapment, and Neoclassical Realism in Asia: The United States, Japan, and Korea." *International Studies Quarterly* 44.2 (2000): 261-291.

Sept 5 (holiday)

Sept 12: Foreign Policy Analysis

Hudson, Valerie M., and Christopher S. Vore. "Foreign policy analysis yesterday, today, and tomorrow." *Mershon International Studies Review* 39.Supplement 2 (1995): 209-238.

Elman, Colin. "Horses for courses: Why not neorealist theories of foreign policy?." *Security Studies* 6.1 (1996): 7-53.

Macdonald, Julia M. "Eisenhower's Scientists: Policy Entrepreneurs and the Test-Ban Debate 1954–1958." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 11.1 (2015): 1-21.

Sagan, Scott D. "Why do states build nuclear weapons? Three models in search of a bomb." (2012).

Sept 19: Do Leaders Matter?

Keller, Jonathan W. "Leadership style, regime type, and foreign policy crisis behavior: A contingent monadic peace?." *International Studies Quarterly* 49.2 (2005): 205-232.

Dyson, Stephen Benedict. "Personality and foreign policy: Tony Blair's Iraq decisions." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 2.3 (2006): 289-306.

Peake, Jeffrey S. "Presidential agenda setting in foreign policy." *Political Research Quarterly* 54.1 (2001): 69-86.

Sept 26: Domestic Politics

Baum, Matthew A. "Going Private Public Opinion, Presidential Rhetoric, and the Domestic Politics of Audience Costs in US Foreign Policy Crises." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48.5 (2004): 603-631.

Baum, Matthew A. "How public opinion constrains the use of force: The case of Operation Restore Hope." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 34.2 (2004): 187-226.

Fearon, James D. "Signaling foreign policy interests tying hands versus sinking costs." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41.1 (1997): 68-90.

(Draft Proposals Discussed – due on the 23rdth)

Oct 3: Nukes

Lieber, Keir A., and Daryl G. Press. "Why States Won't Give Nuclear Weapons to Terrorists." *International Security* 38.1 (2013): 80-104.

Bell, Mark S. "Beyond Emboldenment: How Acquiring Nuclear Weapons Can Change Foreign Policy." *International Security* 40.1 (2015): 87-119.

Waltz, Kenneth N. "Nuclear myths and political realities." *American Political Science Review* 84.03 (1990): 730-745.

Reiter, Dan. "Security commitments and nuclear proliferation." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 10.1

(2014): 61-80.

Oct 10 Human Security

King, Gary, and Christopher JL Murray. "Rethinking human security." *Political science quarterly* 116.4 (2001): 585-610.

Paris, Roland. "Human security: Paradigm shift or hot air?." *International security* 26.2 (2001): 87-102.

Barnett, Jon, and W. Neil Adger. "Climate change, human security and violent conflict." *Political geography* 26.6 (2007): 639-655

Stern, Maria, and Annick TR Wibben. "A decade of feminist security studies revisited." *Security Dialogue* (2014): 1-6.

Oct 17: Deterrence

Jervis, Robert. "Deterrence and perception." *International security* 7.3 (1982): 3-30.

Sagan, Scott D. "The commitment trap: why the United States should not use nuclear threats to deter biological and chemical weapons attacks." *International Security* 24.4 (2000): 85-115.

Yost, David S. "Assurance and US extended deterrence in NATO." *International Affairs* 85.4 (2009): 755-780.

Miller, Gregory D. "Terrorist decision making and the deterrence problem." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 36.2 (2013): 132-151.

Oct 24: Cyber

Junio, Timothy J. "How probable is cyber war? Bringing IR theory back in to the cyber conflict debate." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 36.1 (2013): 125-133.

Crosston, Matthew D. "World Gone Cyber MAD." *Strategic Studies* 100 (2011).

Cimbala, Stephen J. "Cyber War and Deterrence Stability: Post-START Nuclear Arms Control." *Comparative Strategy* 33.3 (2014): 279-286.

Rid, Thomas. "Cyber war will not take place." *Journal of strategic studies* 35.1 (2012): 5-32.

Oct 31 (Halloween!!)

Nov 7: Class Selected Topic

(My suggestion is Judgment and Decision Making....E.g. McDermott, Rose. "The Biological Bases for Aggressiveness and Nonaggressiveness in Presidents." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 10.4 (2014): 313-327, but we can investigate whatever topic the class chooses.)

Nov 14: Are Academics Relevant?

Kampen, Jarl K., and Peter Tamás. "Should I take this seriously? A simple checklist for calling bullshit on policy supporting research." *Quality & Quantity* 48.3 (2014): 1213-1223.

Eriksson, Johan, and Ludvig Norman. "Political utilization of scholarly ideas: the 'clash of civilisations' vs. 'Soft Power' in US foreign policy." *Review of International Studies* 37.01 (2011): 417-436.

Paris, Roland. "Ordering the world: Academic research and policymaking on fragile states." *International Studies Review* 13.1 (2011): 58-71.

Nov 21 (Thanksgiving break)

Nov 28
Research Proposals

Dec 5
Research Proposals

Final projects due December 9th, 3pm.