INTL 6200 (CRN: 26363 / Spring 2024)

Pre-Seminar in International Relations

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Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.–9:15 p.m., in Room 117 of 202 Herty Drive.

Office hours: On Zoom by appointment (https://ryanpowers.youcanbook.me/).

Course Description

This course is a graduate-level field seminar on international politics. In this course, we will review the dominant approaches to studying international relations and the application of those approaches to a wide variety of substantive issue areas (war, human rights, environment, trade, migration, etc). We will put particular emphasis on critically evaluating the theoretical arguments advanced by IR scholars and the evidence that they marshal in support for those arguments. Throughout, our goal will be to practice reading international relations scholarship with an eye towards translating and applying its insights to contemporary international policy problems.

Course Materials

There are no required textbooks for this course. Those readings that are not readily available online or via the library will be posted on the eLearning Commons.

Grading and Expectations

Grade Composition

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

• Class attendance and participation: 25%
• Three response papers: 25%
• Discussion lead: 10%
• Literature Review: 30%
• Final Presentation: 10%

Grading Scale
• 94–100: A
• 90–93: A-
• 87–89: B+
• 84–87: B
• 80–83: B-
• 77–79: C+
• 74–77: C
• 70–73: C-
• 67–69: D+
• 64–67: D
• 60–63: D-
• Less than 59: F

Participation
Your participation in class discussions is vital to our success this semester.
By the start of each class meeting, you should have read the assigned work closely
enough to actively participate in a detailed and critical discussion of the arguments
and evidence presented by the authors. I also expect you to be familiar with the major
international news stories of the day. You get access to both The New York Times and The
Wall Street Journal as part of your student activities fees. Failing to actively participate
in class discussions will result in a participation grade penalty for the day.
Assignments

Assignments should be submitted online to the eLearning Commons.

- **Response Essays.** You will write three response essays over the course of the semester in which you critically evaluate one or more of a given week's assigned readings. A successful response essay will quickly summarize the major claims of a given reading, discuss how those claims are evaluated empirically, and then identify several strengths or weaknesses of the argument and/or the empirical evidence used to support that argument. Each essay should be about 1,000 words and conclude with at least two ideas for in-class discussion questions. Response papers are due the evening before we discuss the readings about which you have written, but you must complete your first response essay by January 30, your second by February 20, and your third by April 20. They should be uploaded to the eLearning Commons.

- **Discussion Lead.** You (and perhaps a colleague or two) will lead the class discussion one week during the semester. You will be responsible for writing discussion questions and moderating our review and critique of each of the readings. You will sign up for a discussion slot on the first day of class.

- **Literature Review.** You will write a 15 page literature review on an international relations topic of your choice. The review should provide a broad overview of the scholarly literature published on your topic. While your focus should be on research published in last 25 years or so, you may find it useful to engage some of the foundational works published in earlier periods. As part of your overview, I expect you to critique the dominant theories and most prominent empirical tests. The paper should conclude by outlining the most important outstanding questions/challenges in the topic area. I will distribute a detailed rubric in first weeks of the course. **Hint:** Select your the readings for your response essays with an eye towards your literature review; they may serve as "first drafts" of portions of your literature review.

  If you are taking INTL 6000 or INTL 6010, I encourage you to align your literature review topic with your INTL 6000 policy report and/or your INTL 6010 research design assignment.

- **Final Presentation.** You will give a 8 minute presentation summarizing your literature review to your colleagues in class at the end of the semester. Your focus should be on the outstanding questions in the topic area.

**University and SPIA Policies**

**Accommodations**

In accordance with UGA policy, "[s]tudents with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.”
More information about accommodations that are available to students with disabilities is available from the Disability Resource Center.

**Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct**

I expect you to do your own work and to abide by all university policies on academic integrity and professional conduct. In part, these policies state:

> As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

**Well-being, Mental Health, and Student Support**

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at (706) 542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu/. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources to support your well-being and mental health (https://well-being.uga.edu/). Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) is your go-to, on-campus resource for emotional, social and behavioral-health support (https://caps.uga.edu/). You can get help online with Therapy Assistance Online (TAO) at (https://caps.uga.edu/tao/) or 24/7 by phone (706) 542-2273.

**For crisis support go to** https://healthcenter.uga.edu/emergencies/.

The University Health Center offers FREE workshops, classes, mentoring and health coaching led by licensed clinicians or health educators (https://healthcenter.uga.edu/).

**Recording our sessions**

In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course.

**Course Outline**

The UGA Course Syllabus Policy requires me to include the following statement: “The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviation announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

1. Tuesday, January 09, 2024: Preliminaries
2. Tuesday, January 16, 2024: Paradigms and Progress
3. Tuesday, January 23, 2024: Anarchy and Hierarchy


4. Tuesday, January 30, 2024: Conflict

- **DUE: Response Paper #1**

5. Tuesday, February 06, 2024: Cooperation


6. Tuesday, February 13, 2024: IOs and the Liberal Order


7. Tuesday, February 20, 2024: Domestic Politics

• DUE: Response Paper #2


8. Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Leaders

• McManus, Roseanne W. “Making it personal: The Role of Leader-Specific Signals in Extended Deterrence.” The Journal of Politics 80, no. 3 (2018): 000–000.


9. Tuesday, March 05, 2024: NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK

10. Tuesday, March 12, 2024: Environment and Climate Change


11. Tuesday, March 19, 2024: Human rights and human security

• Simmons, Beth A. Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics. Cambridge University Press, 2009, Part I

• Murdie, Amanda. Help or harm: The human security effects of international NGOs. Stanford University Press, 2014, Chapters 2–3


• Fariss, Christopher J. ”Respect for Human Rights has improved over time: Modeling the changing standard of accountability,” American Political Science Review 108, no. 2 (2014): 297–318

12. Tuesday, March 26, 2024: Nuclear Politics


13. Tuesday, April 02, 2024: Trade, Migration, and Investment

• **DUE: Response Paper #3**


14. Tuesday, April 09, 2024: Global Health and Pandemic Politics


15. Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Emerging Issues and Bridging the Gap


• Lindsay, Jon R. “Stuxnet and the Limits of Cyber Warfare.” Security Studies 22, no. 3 (2013): 365–404


16. Tuesday, April 23, 2024: Final presentations; final paper due.