POSC 249
Theories of International Relations
Mo/Wed/Fri 4a

Contact Information
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Venue: Willis 203

Office Hours (please use moodle to book a slot): Leighton 213
Monday 3-5 pm;
Wednesday 3-5 pm
Thursday 2-3 pm

DESCRIPTION
In this course you will learn two things. Firstly, you will become acquainted with a range of theories used by students of international relations. Secondly you will learn to assess the possibilities and limits of these theories by studying them in relation to concrete cases. Doing so will enable you to question your own and others’ assumptions when speaking and writing about world politics and current events more generally. Theories are not disembodied, free-floating clusters of ideas. They are created for a purpose and arise in a specific context. The organization of the course reflects this by proceeding both topically and chronologically.

Theorists disagree about what matters in international relations and what constitutes “the international”. The first group of thinkers we will be discussing believes that war and conflict should be at the centre attention. A second influential movement in IR theory has emphasized recognition between international actors and the rules and conventions arising from it. Finally, more recent approaches to the study of IR have focused on concepts such as identity and representation. These approaches not only look at different phenomena they also disagree profoundly about what theory is and why it matters. We will explore together whether it is possible to translate ideas from one theory to another in a meaningful way.

BOOKS TO BUY

- Kenneth Walz, Man, the State and War, New York: Columbia University Press, 2001[1954].

Other required readings will be available through moodle.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- active and informed class participation 20%
- moderation of class discussion 10%
- two policy briefs 15% each
- final paper 15%
- position paper 10%
- Five 250 word contributions to moodle fora 15%
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Syllabus

Part I   War and Conflict

Week 1   Why Theory?
3/25  What is Theory? And what is the Point?

3/28  Science, Craft or Critique?
E.H. Carr, The Twenty Years Crisis, chapter 1, The Beginnings of a Science
Robert W. Cox, Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory, Millenium, 1981 10:36, read pp 128-130, the section “On Perspectives and Purposes”

3/30  Founding Myths: The Interwar Crisis
E.H. Carr, The Twenty Years Crisis, chapters 3, 4 and 5

Week 2   Foundings Myths: Anarchy
4/2  “Men Behaving Badly”
Reinhold Niebuhr, The Children of Light and the Children of Darkness
Kenneth Waltz, Man, The State, and War, Introduction, chs. 2 and 3.

4/4  “States Behaving Badly” – the Levels of Analysis thesis
Hans Morgenthau, Theory of International Politics, Introduction
Kenneth Waltz, Man, The State, and War, chs. 4 and 6.

4/6  Context: The Early Cold War
George F. Kennan, The Sources of Soviet Conduct (“Long Telegram”)

Week 3   Founding Myths II: Idealism and the constraints to conflict
4/9  Did the “Idealists” exist?
Woodrow Wilson, Speech to the Joint Session of Congress, January 8th, 1918, “14 Points speech”, http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points
Norman Angell, The Influence of Credit Upon International Relations, 1912
Brian C. Schmidt, Anarchy, World Politics and the Birth of a Discipline, International Relations 16:1, pp 9-31


4/13 No Class

**Week 4  Idealism Redacted**

4/16 Liberal Institutionalism

4/18 A “Democratic Peace”?

4/20 Case Study: the Cuban Missile Crisis
D. Rusk, The Cuban Missile Crisis, in: As I saw It, ed. S. Papp, 1990, pp 229-245.
G. Allison, Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis, American Political Science Review, 63:4, pp 879-920.

**Part II Society, community and the concept of recognition**

**Week 5  The English School**

4/23 The Concept of Society in International Relations Theory
http://www.leeds.ac.uk/polis/englishschool

4/25 Human Rights Regimes

4/27 Case Studies: Japan and China
Shogo Suzuki, Japan’s Socialization into Janus-Faced European International Society, European Journal of International Relations, 11:1, pp 137-164
Yongjin Zhang, China’s entry into international society: beyond the standard of “civilization”, Review of International Studies, 17:1, pp 3-16
**Week 6  Constructivism**


5/2  Friedrich Kratochwil, Rethinking the “inter” in International Politics, Millenium 35, 2007, pp 495-511.

5/4  Context: The Fall of the Iron Curtain  
Film: Wag the Dog

**Part III  Identity and Representation**

**Week 7  Feminism**

5/7  Power/Knowledge  

5/9  Feminisms  
A. Elshtain, Feminist Themes in International Relations, ch. 13 in: Der Derian (ed.) International Theory: Critical Investigations

5/11  Case Studies: Nannies, Diplomatic Wives and Base Women  
Cynthia Enloe, Bananas, Beaches and Bases, chapters 4, 5 and 8.

**Week 8  Post-structuralism**

5/14  Practices of Statecraft  

5/16  Case Study: Post-structuralism and the Iraq War

5/18  Case Study: The War in Bosnia  
Film: We were all Neighbors  
Week 9  International Relations and international relations

5/21  Hoffman, An American Social Science: International Relations, in: Janus and Minerva: 3-24
