Overview. This seminar is designed to introduce graduate students to the field of international relations. Participants in the seminar are expected at the start of the semester to have a basic understanding of the main issues and debates in the field. Over the course of the semester we will build on such a foundation through exploring the history of the study of international relations. Participants within the seminar will be asked to consider a wide array of theoretical and empirical questions, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) what constitutes the structure of the contemporary international system, to what degree has such a structure changed over time; (2) to what extent has progress been made in the study of international relations over time; (3) is any single research tradition sufficient in terms of forwarding compelling causal explanations of international politics; (4) to what extent is synthesis between competing approaches to international relations possible (and productive). In addition, a particular emphasis will be placed on the following tasks: (1) identifying the main points of debate and contrasting research traditions within the field; (2) developing the critical analytical skills necessary to evaluate the contrasting arguments made within the field; and, (3) grounding individual empirical interests within the context of these broader theoretical and methodological issues.

The course will be divided into three sections. The first section introduces key methodological and conceptual issues and reviews the main theoretical approaches that have characterized the field. The second section addresses the problems of cooperation and conflict that have preoccupied scholars since the beginning of the study of international relations; it begins with a review of the theoretical literature and then turns to some issues of substantive interest, such as the causes of war, international institutions, the debate over the democratic peace, regional orders and world politics. The final section reviews some contemporary debates about American hegemony.
Requirements. There are five requirements for the class:

1. A take-home final examination in the format of the department A-exam for the field of international relations. Students will be given the choice of answering two questions out of three covering both the theoretical and applied portions of the class. The exam should be no more than 20 double-spaced pages total.

2. A ten-page paper taking the form of a “World Politics” style review essay on the literature assigned for a particular week. Students can write on any week they choose, and turn in the essay any time before the final class meeting.

3. Active participation in the seminar discussions. Students are expected to attend every class, to have done the required readings in advance, and to participate actively in discussions.

4. Once during the semester each student will be assigned the role of “author’s defendant” and should be able to defend the merits of the week’s readings in seminar. This task includes serving as “resident expert” on the text, so that you can be called on to explain or clarify questions other students or the instructor may have about the readings.

5. To facilitate discussion, seminar members will take turns to write weekly memos on key readings. These memos should range between two and three double-spaced pages, and should be circulated to the entire class via email no later than noon on Wednesday before the class in question. These papers should not summarize the weekly readings; everyone is doing the readings and knows what they say! Rather, you should choose a particular aspect or theme of the readings and develop an argument.

Assignments (4) and (5) must be completed on separate weeks; you cannot fulfill both requirements with the same readings.

For purposes of evaluation (grades), the final exam and the 10 page paper are each worth 30%, seminar participation counts for 20%, and the short discussion papers and “author’s defendant” assignments are each worth 10%.

Readings. Required and some recommended readings are on Uris electronic reserve, many of the journal articles are also available in hard copy in Olin Library 405. Readings must not be removed from the room, except to make photocopies within the building, and only if a note is left in the folder indicating who took the reading where and at what time. Most of the relevant journals are either shelved in Room 405 or on the 4th floor of Olin. These are core readings in the field and you will want to have hard copies for future references.
COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 (August 25): Introduction


I. CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL DEBATES

Week 2 (September 1): Basic Issues

A. Levels of Analysis; Rationalist vs. Non-Rationalist Approaches


B. Sovereign State System


**Week 3 (September 8): Classical Approaches and Re-assessments**

**A. Classics**


**B. Re-appraising the Classics**


**Week 4 (September 15): Rationalist Turn**

**A. Neo-Realism**


**B. Neo-Liberalism**


C. Debates

**Week 5 (September 22): Constructivism**

A. Overview

B. Foundations

C. Interest and Identity

**Week 6 (September 29): Other Critical Approaches**

A. Post-Modernism

B. Feminism
- J. Goldstein, War and Gender, Chapter 1 and 7.

C. Other Approaches

II. CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

Week 7 (October 7): Security Dilemma and War

A. Security Dilemma

B. Causes of War
Week 8 (October 14): International Cooperation and Institutions

A. Overview

B. International Institutions

C. International Regimes

Week 9 (October 21): Democratic Peace and Alliances

A. Democratic Peace
B. Alliances

Part III

Week 10 (October 28): **Domestic Politics and International Relations**

A. Domestic Structure: Historical and Rationalist

B. Second Image Reversed

C. Two-Level Games

D. Dependency Analysis
Week 11 (November 4): Regional Orders

A. Overview


B. Middle East


C. Asia


D. Europe

Week 12 (November 11): Transnationalism, Supranationalism and Social Movements

A. Transnational Relations
   Matt Evangelista, *Unarmed Forces: The Transnational Movement to End the Cold War*, chapters 1,2, 16,17.

B. Supranationalism

C. Social Movements
   Allen Carlson, Unifying China, Integrating with the World, chapter 5. On Reserve.

Week 13 (November 18): World Politics

A. World System

B. Stanford School

C. Globalization vs Internationalization

E. Cultural Clashes vs. Hybridization

**Week 14 (12/1): American Hegemony**

Readings TBA.