Government 6067: Field Seminar in International Relations

Fall 2014

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This seminar provides an overview of the field of international relations for graduate students. Particular emphasis is placed upon (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; (3) grounding individual empirical interests within the context of these broader theoretical and methodological issues.

Students are expected to attend every class, to have done the readings before class, and to participate actively in discussions. The reading load for this class is quite heavy – prepare accordingly. We will also circulate reading lists from recent years, these include additional and supplementary reading that should be helpful in preparing for A-exams.

There are four requirements for this class:

1) A take home final examination loosely 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 the material from this syllabus. The exam should be no more than 20 double spaced pages total.

2) A ten page paper taking the form of a mini version of a “World Politics” style review essay on some of the literature assigned for a particular week. Each student can write on any week they choose (in consultation with us), but regardless of the week chosen the essay is due before Friday, October 10.

3) A ten page paper taking the form of a hypothetical “research prospectus” that sets out a question and a research agenda building on unresolved issues, puzzles or debates suggested by some of the literature. You should discuss your proposed topic with us before the middle of October; the paper is due no later than Friday, December 5.

4) Active and thoughtful class participation.

Given the nature of the assignments, it is not appropriate to take an incomplete in this class except as a consequence of extraordinary personal circumstances. Late work will be marked down.
Note that most of the assigned journal articles are available on-line through the Cornell library system, which is how you should access them. Many of the books are on reserve at Olin library, and some of the readings are posted to the course blackboard site.

**Week 1 (August 27): Introduction**

Miles Kahler, “Inventing International Relations,” in Michael Doyle and John Ikenberry (eds.), *New Thinking in International Relations*, pp. 20-53


**Week 2 (September 3): Anarchy and Levels of Analysis**


**Week 3 (September 10): Realism**


Week 4 (September 17): Liberalism


Week 5 (September 24): Constructivism


Week 6 (October 1): Causes of War

Week 7 (October 8): Democratic Peace and Alliances


Week 8 (October 15): Domestic Politics and International Relations


Week 9 (October 22): How Rational is Rationality?

Anthony Lopez, Rose McDermott, and Michael Bang Petersen, “States in Mind:
Evolution, Coalitional Psychology, and International Politics,”
Security Dilemma,” European Journal of International Relations 12:3
Todd Hall, “We Will Not Swallow This Bitter Fruit: Theorizing a Diplomacy

Week 10 (October 29): Status and Position

Robert Frank, Choosing the Right Pond: Human Behavior and the Quest for
Status (Oxford University Press, 1985), pp. 3-38.
Randall Schweller, “Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State
William Wohlforth, Deborah Larson, and T.V. Paul, “Status and World
Order,” in Wohlforth, Larson, and Paul, Status in World Politics
(Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 3-29.
Allan Dafoe, Jonathan Renshon & Paul Huth, “Reputation and Status as Motives
Steven Ward, “Race, Status, and Japanese Revisionism in the Early 1930s,”
Michelle Murray, “Identity, Insecurity, and Great Power Politics,” Security
Charles Kupchan, “The Normative Foundations of Hegemony and the Coming

Week 11 (November 5): Institutions

Robert Keohane, After Hegemony, pp. 49-132.
Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore, “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of
Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, “Power in International Politics,”
G. John Ikenberry, “Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of
Christian Reus-Smit, “Struggles for Individual Rights and the Expansion of the
Aidan Hehir, “The Permanence of Inconsistency: Libya, the Security Council, and
Anne-Marie Slaughter Burley, “International Law and International Relations
Theory: A Dual Agenda.” American Journal of International Law 87:2
Week 12 (November 12): Transnationalism and Globalization


Week 13 (November 19): Unbalanced Power


Week 14 (Dec 3): Discussion of Student Research Proposals