This course offers a PhD-level introductory overview of the field of international relations. The primary purpose is to understand and evaluate the main theories, arguments, claims, and conjectures made by scholars in the field (plus learn a bit about how the field has evolved). What are the main ways in which scholars organize and assess knowledge in the field? In addition, the course is designed to assist in preparation for the Government Department’s general examinations in international relations. Enrollment is normally limited to Government Department PhD students. Auditing is not permitted.

Time and Place

This seminar will meet on Tuesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in CGIS K450

Requirements and Grading

1. Active and prepared participation in class discussions, and discussion leadership (twice in the term, paired with another student). Discussion questions should be e-mailed to Professors Hiscox and Kertzer by 5:00 pm on the day before the assigned class.

2. A review essay of at least three recent books with implications for international relations theory with a view to submission to an academic journal. The review should revolve around some shared theme across the books and should provide a springboard for exploring a theoretical issue or empirical puzzle that interests you. Examples of review essays can be found in Perspectives on Politics, International Organization, and World Politics, among other journals in the field. More details about a review essay will be provided later in the semester. The review essay should be no more than 25-30 pages double-spaced and is due by email to both professors by October 30 (40%).

For each week there are two categories of readings.

1. Required readings. These are the specific subject of discussion in class, although there may be weeks in which we will prioritize specific readings in advance. All readings will be available on the course webpage: https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/43383

2. Recommended readings. These are a mix of both older and more recent readings on the topic for the week. Some contain the origins of various debates that are ongoing in the field. Others are more recent readings that delve more deeply into the topic, or provide more recent empirical data. You can consult these as you explore topics that interest you. If IR is your major area of interest you should eventually become familiar with these works.

3. While this course does not emphasize game theoretical approaches to IR, for those of you who have no background in game theory or formal modeling, please read over the next couple of weeks a primer written by Professor Hiscox for Gov 2710 “A Brief Introduction to Game Theoretic Analysis”. It can be found under “Files” on the course web page.

**Overview**

Week 1 Sep 4 Introduction and development of the field
Week 2 Sep 11 Material theories of IR
Week 3 Sep 18 Social theories of IR
Week 4 Sep 25 Rationalist theories of IR
Week 5 Oct 2 Psychological theories of IR
Week 6 Oct 9 Gender and Race in IR
Week 7 Oct 16 Regime Type and Conflict
Week 8 Oct 23 IPE I: Trade and Economic Interests
Week 9 Oct 30 IPE II: Money, Finance and Immigration
Week 10 Nov 6 International Institutions I: Cooperation
Week 11 Nov 13 International Institutions II: Design and Compliance
Week 12 Nov 27 Intrastate/civil conflict
Week 13 Dec 4 Mock general exam
Week 1: Introduction and development of the field


Peter Marcus Kristensen, “Revisiting the “American Social Science” – Mapping the Geography of International Relations”, *International Studies Perspectives* 16:3 (2015), 246-269.

Recommended:


Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan "Why is there no Non-Western International Relations Theory? Ten years on" *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 17:3 (2017), 341-370.

Beate Jahn, "Theorizing the Political Relevance of International Relations"


Nicolas Guilhot (Ed.), *The Invention of International Relations Theory: Realism, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the 1954 Conference on Theory* (Columbia University Press, 2011)


Stanley Hoffmann, “An American Social Science: International Relations”, *Daedalus* 106:3 (1977) pp. 41-60


Frederick Dunn, “The Present Course of International Relations Research” World Politics 2:1 (October 1949) pp. 80-95


Students should also be familiar with the major classics on interstate relations and strategy from a variety of historical times and spaces:

Ralph Sawyer trans and ed., Seven Military Classics of Ancient China (Westview Press, 1993) introduction and chapters 1-7


Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan 1651 (New York: Penguin Classics 1977) chapters 13 through 17,


Week 2: Material theories of IR


Recommended:


John J. Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of World Politics (Norton 2001)


**Week 3: Social theories of IR**


David M. McCourt, "Practice Theory and Relationalism as the New Constructivism", *International Studies Quarterly* 60:3 (2016), 475-485.

**Recommended:**


Ron Hassner, “To Halve and to Hold: Conflicts Over Sacred Space and the Problem of Indivisibility Security Studies 12, no. 4 (summer 2003): 1–33


Samuel P. Huntington The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order (Simon and Shuster, 2002)


**Week 4: Rationalist theories of IR**


**Recommended:**


Powell, Robert. *In the Shadow of Power*. (Princeton University Press, 1999). Chapters 3 (pp. 82-110) and 4.


Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Cornell, 1999), Ch. 6. (pp. 117-192).


Week 5: Psychological theories of IR


**Recommended:**


Week 6: Gender and Race in IR


**Recommended**


*Conference Issue: Racialized Realities in World Politics Millennium* 45:3 (June 2017)


Valerie M. Hudson, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Mary Caprioli, and Chad F. Emmett, *Sex and World Peace* (Columbia University Press 2014)


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J. Ann Tickner, Laura Sjoberg eds., Feminism and International Relations: Conversations about the Past, Present, and Future (Routledge 2011).


Joshua S. Goldstein, War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa (Cambridge University Press, 2001)


Rebecca Grant and Kathleen Newland, Gender and International Relations (Indiana University Press 1991)


Week 7: Regime Type and Conflict


Recommended:


Week 8: Trade and Economic Interests


**Recommended:**


**Week 9: Money, Finance and Immigration**


**Recommended:**

David Stasavage, "What We Can Learn From the Early History of Sovereign Debt," 59 *Explorations in Economic History* 1 (2016)


Quan Li and Adam Resnick, “Reversal of fortunes: Democratic institutions and foreign direct investment inflows to developing countries”, *International Organization* 75:1 (2003), p. 175-211.


Week 10: International Institutions I – the Origins and Effects of Institutionalized Cooperation


Recommended:


Xinyun Dai International Institutions and National Policies (Cambridge University Press, 2007)


Week 11: International Institutions II – Design and Compliance


**Recommended:**


Amitav Acharya and Alastair Iain Johnston eds., *Crafting Cooperation: Regional Institutions in Comparative Perspective* Cambridge University Press, 2007


Week 12: Intrastate Conflict

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War” American Political Science Review 97, 1 (February 2003): 75-90


Recommended:

Benjamin T. Jones and Eleonora Mattiacci, A Manifesto in 140 Characters or Fewer: Social Media as a Tool of Rebel Diplomacy", British Journal of Political Science, Forthcoming.


Mitchell, Dara Kay Cohen, Ragnhild Nordas, Jessica A. Stanton, and Kristine Eck.


Potential books for book review:


Amitav Acharya, *Constructing Global Order: Agency and Change in World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2018)


Clifford Bob, *The Global Right Wing and the Clash of World Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)


Austin Carson, *Secret Wars: Covert Conflict in International Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2018).


Ron E. Hassner, *Religion on the Battlefield* (Cornell University Press, 2016)


Steven Pinker, *The better angels of our nature: why violence has declined* (Viking, 2011).


J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg, *Feminism and international relations: conversations about the past, present, and future,* (Routledge, 2011).


Keren Yarhi-Milo, *Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence and Assessment of Intentions in International Relations* (Princeton University Press, 2014)
