

INTL 6200 (Fall 2024)

Pre-Seminar in International Relations

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Mondays, 9:10.am.–12:25 p.m., in Park Hall 228.

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,
- **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. Monday, August 19, 2024: Preliminaries
2. Monday, August 26, 2024: Paradigms and Progress
 - Wohlforth, William C. "Realism." In *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, 131–149. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

- Moravcsik, Andrew. “The New Liberalism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, 234–254. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 200.
- Lake, David A. “Why “Isms” are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress.” *International Studies Quarterly* 55, no. 2 (2011): 465–480.
- Milner, Helen C, Ryan Powers, and Erik Voeten. “The Myth of the Eclectic IR Scholar?” 2021.
- Zvobgo, Kelebogile and Meredith Loken. “Why Race Matters in International Relations” *Foreign Policy* (2020).

3. Monday, September 02, 2024: **Labor Day – NO CLASS**

4. Monday, September 09, 2024: Anarchy and Hierarchy

- Keohane, Robert O. *After Hegemony*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984, Chapters 4–6.
- Milner, Helen. “The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique.” *Review of International Studies* 17, no. 1 (1991): 67–85.
- Wendt, Alexander. “Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (1992): 391–425.
- Lake, David A. “Anarchy, hierarchy, and the variety of international relations.” *International Organization* 50, no. 1 (1996): 1–33.
- Towns, Ann E. “Norms and social hierarchies: understanding international policy diffusion “from below”.” *International Organization* 66, no. 2 (2012): 179–209.

5. Monday, September 16, 2024: Conflict

- **DUE: Response Paper #1**
- Jervis, Robert. “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma.” *World Politics* 30, no. 2 (1978): 167–214.
- Fearon, James D. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (1995): 379–414.
- Powell, Robert. “War as a commitment problem.” *International Organization* 60, no. 1 (2006): 169–203.
- Lyall, Jason. *Divided Armies: Inequality and Battlefield Performance in Modern War*. Princeton University Press, 2020, Chapters 1–3

6. Monday, September 23, 2024: Cooperation

- Axelrod, Robert. *The Evolution of Cooperation: Revised Edition*. Basic Books, 2009, Chapters 1-3.

- Adler, Emanuel. “The Emergence of Cooperation: National Epistemic Communities and the International Evolution of the Idea of Nuclear Arms Control.” *International Organization* 46, no. 1 (1992): 101–145.
- Fearon, James D. “Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation.” *International Organization* 52, no. 2 (1998): 269–305.
- Voeten, Erik. “Outside options and the logic of Security Council action.” *American Political Science Review* 95, no. 4 (2001): 845–858.

7. Monday, September 30, 2024: IOs and the Liberal Order

- Weiss, Jessica Chen, and Jeremy L Wallace. “Domestic politics, China’s rise, and the future of the liberal international order.” *International Organization* 75, no. 2 (2021): 635–664.
- Morse, Julia C. “Blacklists, market enforcement, and the global regime to combat terrorist financing.” *International Organization* 73, no. 3 (2019): 511–545.
- Pratt, Tyler. “Angling for influence: Institutional proliferation in development banking.” *International Studies Quarterly* 65, no. 1 (2021): 95–108.
- Stone, Randall W. “The scope of IMF conditionality.” *International organization* 62, no. 4 (2008): 589–620.
- Búzás, Zoltán I. “Racism and Antiracism in the Liberal International Order.” *International Organization* 75, no. 2 (2021): 440–463.

8. Monday, October 07, 2024: Domestic Politics

- **DUE: Response Paper #2**
- Putnam, Robert D. “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-level Games.” *International Organization* 42, no. 3 (1988): 427–460.
- Reiter, Dan, and Allan C. Stam. *Democracies at War*. Princeton University Press, 2002, Chapters 1.
- Tomz, Michael. “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach.” *International Organization* 61, no. 4 (2007): 821–840.
- Tomz, Michael R., and Jessica L.P. Weeks. “Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace.” *American Political Science Review* 107, no. 4 (2013): 849–865.
- Weeks, Jessica L.P. *Dictators at War and Peace*. Cornell University Press, 2014, Chapters 1.

9. Monday, October 14, 2024: Leaders

- Renshon, Jonathan, Allan Dafoe, and Paul Huth. “Leader Influence and Reputation Formation in World Politics.” *American Journal of Political Science* 62, no. 2 (2018): 325–339.

- 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.
- Horowitz, Michael C, and Allan C Stam. "How Prior Military Experience Influences the Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders." *International Organization* 68, no. 3 (2014): 527–559.
- Dafoe, Allan, and Devin Caughey. "Honor and war: Southern US presidents and the effects of concern for reputation." *World Politics* 68, no. 2 (2016): 341–381.
- Saunders, Elizabeth N. "Leaders, advisers, and the political origins of elite support for war." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62, no. 10 (2018): 2118–2149.

10. Monday, October 21, 2024: Environment and Climate Change

- Bättig, Michèle B., and Thomas Bernauer. "National Institutions and Global Public Goods: Are Democracies More Cooperative in Climate Change Policy?" *International Organization* 63, no. 2 (2009): 281–308.
- Graham, Erin R, and Alexandria Serdaru. "Power, control, and the logic of substitution in institutional design: The case of international climate finance." *International Organization* 74, no. 4 (2020): 671–706.
- Aklin, Michaël, and Johannes Urpelainen. "The Global Spread of Environmental Ministries: Domestic–International Interactions." *International Studies Quarterly* 58, no. 4 (2014): 764–780.
- Tingley, Dustin, and Michael Tomz. "Conditional Cooperation and Climate Change." *Comparative Political Studies* 47, no. 3 (2014): 344–368.
- Allan, Bentley B. "Producing the Climate: States, Scientists, and the Constitution of Global Governance Objects." *International Organization* 71, no. 1 (2017): 131–162.

11. Monday, October 28, 2024: Human rights and human security

- Simmons, Beth A. *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 2009, Chapter 2
- Murdie, Amanda. *Help or harm: The human security effects of international NGOs*. Stanford University Press, 2014, Chapter 3
- Lupu, Yonatan. "The Informative Power of Treaty Commitment: Using the Spatial Model to Address Selection Effects." *American Journal of Political Science* 57, no. 4 (2013): 912–925
- 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
- Klotz, Audie. "Norms reconstituting interests: global racial equality and US sanctions against South Africa." *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (1995): 451–478

12. Monday, November 04, 2024: Nuclear Politics

- Wilson, Ward. “The Winning Weapon? Rethinking Nuclear Weapons In Light Of Hiroshima.” *International Security* 31, no. 4 (2007): 162–179
- Monteiro, Nuno P, and Alexandre Debs. “The Strategic Logic Of Nuclear Proliferation.” *International Security* 39, no. 2 (2014): 7–51.
- Hymans, Jacques E.C. *Achieving Nuclear Ambitions: Scientists, Politicians, and Proliferation*. Cambridge University Press, 2012, Chapters 1–2.
- Press, Daryl G., Scott D. Sagan, and Benjamin A. Valentino. “Atomic Aversion: Experimental Evidence on Taboos, Traditions, and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons.” *American Political Science Review* 107, no. 1 (2013): 188–206.
- Fuhrmann, Matthew. “Spreading temptation: Proliferation and peaceful nuclear cooperation agreements.” *International security* 34, no. 1 (2009): 7–41.

13. Monday, November 11, 2024: Trade, Migration, and Investment

- **DUE: Response Paper #3**
- Carnegie, Allison, and Nikhar Gaikwad. “Public Opinion on Geopolitics and Trade: Theory and Evidence,” 2017.
- Pandya, Sonal S., and Rajkumar Venkatesan. “French Roast: Consumer Response to International Conflict — Evidence From Supermarket Scanner Data.” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 98, no. 1 (2016): 42–56.
- Leblang, David. “Familiarity Breeds Investment: Diaspora Networks and International Investment.” *American Political Science Review* 104, no. 3 (2010): 584–600.
- Wellhausen, Rachel L. *The shield of nationality: When Governments Break Contracts with Foreign Firms*. Cambridge University Press, 2014, Chapter 2.
- Farrell, Henry, and Abraham L Newman. “Weaponized Interdependence: How Global Economic Networks Shape State Coercion.” *International Security* 44, no. 1 (2019): 42–79

14. Monday, November 18, 2024: Emerging Issues and Bridging the Gap

- Pevehouse, Jon CW. “The COVID-19 Pandemic, International Cooperation, and Populism.” *International Organization* 74, no. S1 (2020): E191–E212.
- Bush, Sarah Sunn, and Lauren Prather. “Foreign meddling and mass attitudes toward international economic engagement.” *International Organization* 74, no. 3 (2020): 584–609
- Lindsay, Jon R. “Stuxnet and the Limits of Cyber Warfare.” *Security Studies* 22, no. 3 (2013): 365–404
- Horowitz, Michael C, Sarah E Kreps, and Matthew Fuhrmann. “Separating fact from fiction in the debate over drone proliferation.” *International Security* 41, no. 2 (2016): 7–42

- Voeten, Erik. "Rigor Is Not the Enemy of Relevance." *Perspectives on Politics* 13, no. 2 (2015): 402–403

15. Monday, November 25, 2024: NO CLASS

16. Monday, December 02, 2024: **Final presentations**