INR 6607.001: International Relations Theory

Instructor: Thomas M. Dolan, thomas.dolan@ucf.edu
Class Meetings: Thursdays, 18:00-20:50, ENGR 0383
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:30, Thursday 3:00-5:00, and by appointment
Credit: 3 Hours

This course focuses on two major objectives. First, students will become familiar with the most commonly used and known theoretical approaches to international relations scholarship. In doing so, students will become familiar with major concepts and arguments used in international relations scholarship. Second, students will improve their ability to develop and use theory in their own research. By understanding the existing literature, students will recognize the implications for theory construction and research design of different theoretical approaches and improve their ability to make well-grounded theoretical choices. One of the most important cleavages in the literature—and perhaps the most important choice in designing theory—is how to best conceptualize the actor. This cleavage will be the organizing principle for the course, as we investigate first state-system focused approaches, then state-level approaches, and finally individually-focused theories.

Goals

- Students will become conversant with the best known theoretical approaches to international relations, ranging from classic texts to more recent scholarship.
- Students will develop awareness of alternative approaches to theory, and the implications for theory building associated with these alternatives.
- Students will improve their ability to craft theoretical arguments in the context of their own work.
- Students will improve oral and written communication skills.

Design of the Course

The course has two major elements: a set of readings that will be discussed and analyzed in seminars and a research design process. Through reading and seminars, students will be introduced to current trends in theory and research and learn how to recognize solid research. Success in this endeavor necessitates careful reading, thorough preparation for class, and active dialogue in the seminar room. By engaging in the research design process, students will develop their ability to do research themselves. Part of this involves the preparation of their own research design, but part of it will also involve working with and supporting others in their efforts to design and conduct research.

Assignments & Grades

Each student will complete the following assignments:

A. Recommended Reading Reviews:

1 Book (3 Pages) –24%
OR
3 Articles (1 Page)—8% each, total 24%
Sign-up on the first day of class.
Reviews must be submitted to the instructor and classmates by e-mail by 23:59 on the Tuesday before class for distribution to other students.

B. Research Design (15-17 Pages)—40%

Topic Approved by 1 March
Rough Draft to reviewers by 5 April (beginning of class-bring hard copies)
Final Draft Due 12 April

Each student will design a social scientific study of an international relations phenomena. The design must include the following components:

- Identification of the topic and statement of why it is appropriate for study
- A brief but thorough statement of relevant literature
- Full statement of theoretical approach
- Statement of hypotheses derived from the theory
- Description of study (methodology—data sources—standards for accepting/rejecting hypotheses)

C. 2 Research Design Reviews (2 Pages each): 5% each, total 10%, *Due in Class 12 April*

Each student will review two other students' rough drafts. In the review, they will describe in one paragraph the nature of the study (topic, theory, and methods) as they understand it. They will then evaluate and provide constructive criticism for each of the following sections: statement of literature, theory, hypothesis construction, and study design.

D. Research Design Oral Presentation (final exam) (5 minutes + 2 minutes questions): 11%

Tuesday, 19 April

Each student will present their research design to the group in no more than 5 minutes. They will then have two minutes to answer questions from the group. Each student reviewer should bring a question.

E. Participation: 15%

Based on preparation for and activity during seminar

Miscellaneous Policies

Grading

Grades are assigned to both individual pieces of work and cumulatively. The grade scale I use for both is below (note that "g" refers to the numerical grade you receive). I do not usually curve grades, but reserve the right to do so if I deem it necessary. All material is graded on its own terms, rather than through comparison with other students' work. For the cumulative grades, I do not round: what you get is what you get.

100>g≥93: A	90>g≥88: B+	80>g≥78: C+	70>g≥68: D+	60>g: E
	88>g≥83: B	78>g≥73: C	68>g≥63: D	
93>g≥90: A-	83>g≥80: B	73>g≥70: C-	63>g≥60: D	

Late Papers

Assignments are to be turned in by class time on the day they are due. They should be in hardcopy unless unforeseen circumstances prevent printing them in or handing them in a timely manner. For every 24 hours that pass thereafter, 5% of credit is lost, to a maximum of 40% lost. This policy does not

apply to recommended reading reviews or daily questions, which must be turned in by the time they are due.

Academic Integrity
As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/).

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Changes to the Syllabus
In the event that there is a need for there to be any changes to the syllabus, an e-mail will be sent to all students' knights-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar), and will be mentioned in class meetings. Changes become effective immediately after their mention in class, or the sending of the e-mail, whichever comes last.

Cancellation of Class
In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class, an e-mail will be sent to all students' knights-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar) prior to class time.

Readings

Each student should obtain the following books:
Thucydides, *History of The Peloponnesian War*
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*.
Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*
Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*
Bueno de Mesquita et al., *The Logic of Political Survival*, 2003
Graham Allison and Philip Zellikow, *Essence of Decision*

The remaining readings are available through the INR 6007.001 webcourses site and library databases.

Schedule of Classes

12 January
Introduction:
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*

<u>The State System</u>

19 January
<u>Classical Realism and Structural Realism</u>
Required
Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations,* Chapter 1.
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*.
Reccomended:
Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*
Robert Jervis, *System Effects*
Wolfers, From *Discord and Collaboration*, Chapters 8 and 10
E. V. Gulick, Europe's Classical Balance of Power
Henry Kissinger, *A World Restored: Castlereagh, Metternich and the Restoration of Peace, 1812-1822*

26 January
<u>Realist Responses to Structural Realism</u>
Required
Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, 1978
Stephen Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power," *International Security,* 1985
Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity," *International Organization*
Randall Schweller, "Bandwagoning for Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back in," *International Security*, 1994
William Wohlforth, "Stability of A Unipolar World," *International Security,* 1999
Recommended:
John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*
Glenn Snyder, The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics, *World Politics,* 1984
Charles L. Glaser and Chaim Kaufmann, "What is the Offense-Defense Balance and Can We Measure it?" *International Security*, 1998
Stephen Biddle, "Rebuilding the Foundations of Offense-Defense Theory" *Journal of Politics*, 2001

2 February
<u>Hegemonic Stability Theory/Power Transition Theory</u>
Required
Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*
Recommended:
Organski and Kugler, *The War Ledger*
Charles Kindleberger, "Dominance and Leadership in the International Economy: Exploitation, Public Goods, and Free Rides," *International Studies Quarterly*, 1981.
Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power on History*, Introduction and Chapter 1.
Joshua Goldstein, "Kondratieff Waves as War Cycles," *International Studies Quarterly*, 1985 ***<u>and</u>*** Richard Rosecrance, "Long Cycle Theory and International Relations," *International Organization*, 1987.

9 February
<u>Institutionalism and Cooperation</u>
Required

Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*
James D. Fearon, "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization*, 1998
Recommended
Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperatio*n*,* 1985
Joseph M. Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism," *International Organization*, 1988
John Mearsheimer, "False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, 1994
Charles Glaser, "Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help," International Security 1994-95
G. J. Ikenberry, *After Victory*, 2001

16 February

Systemic Constructivism
Required
Alexander Wendt, "The Agent-Structure Problem in International Relations Theory," *IO*, 1987
Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *IO*, 1992
Hedley Bull *The Anarchical Society,* Introduction, Chapters 1 and 2.
Karl W. Deutsch, *Political Community and the North Atlantic Area*, Selection.
Recommended
Kowert and Legro, "Norms, Identity, and their Limits," in *Culture of National Security*, 1998
Alastair Iain Johnston, *Cultural Realism: Strategic Culture and Grand Strategy in Chinese History*.

State-focused Approaches

23 February
Liberal Theory
Required
Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *IO*, 1997.
Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two Level Games," *IO*, 1988
Zeev Maoz and Bruce Russett, "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986," *APSR*, 1994
Sebastian Rosato, "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *APSR*, 2003

Recommended
J. David Singer, "The Levels of Analysis Problem in International Relations," *World Politics* 1960.
Jeffrey Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *IS,* 1999
Peter Feaver, et al. "Brother, Can You Spare a Paradigm? (Or, Was Anybody Ever a Realist?)" *IS*, 2000
Mark Peceny, Caroline C. Beer and Shannon Sanchez-Terry, "Dictatorial Peace?" *APSR*, 2002
Michael D. Ward, Randolph M. Siverson and Xun Cao, "Disputes, Democracies, and Dependencies: A Reexamination of the Kantian Peace," *APSR*, 2007.
Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and the Danger of War," *International Security*, 1995

1 March

Selectorate Theory
Required
Bueno de Mesquita et al., *The Logic of Political Survival*, 2003
Recommended
George Tsebelis, *Veto Players*

15 March
State-level Constructivism
Required
Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, 1991, Chapters 1 and 2
Srdjan Vucetic, *The Anglosphere*, Stanford University Press, 2011. Selection.
Michael Barnett, "Culture, Strategy, and Foreign Policy Change: Israel's Road to Oslo" *European Journal of International Relations*, 1999.
Ted Hopf, *Social Construction of International Politics: Identities and Foreign Policies, Moscow, 1955 and 1999*, 2002. Selection.
Recommended
Barry O'Neil, *Honor, Symbols, and War*, 1999.
David Welch, *Justice and the Genesis of War*, 1995.
Etel Solingen, *Regional Orders at Century's Dawn*, 1998
Rogers Smith, *Stories of Peoplehood*, 2003

22 March
Bureaucratic Politics and Group Dynamics
Required
Graham Allison and Philip Zellikow, *Essence of Decision*
Mark Schafer, and Scott Crichlow. 2002. "The *Process-Outcome* Connection in Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Quantitative Study Building on Groupthink." *International Studies Quarterly* 2002.
Recommended
Lisa Martin, *Democratic Commitments: Legislatures and International Cooperation*, 2000
Hermann, M. G., How Decision Units Shape Foreign Policy: A Theoretical Framework. *International Studies Review*, 2001.
Mark Schafer and Scott Crichlow, *Groupthink*, 2010.
Aldag, Ramon and Sally Fuller. "Beyond Fiasco," *Psychological Bulletin*, 1993.
Esser, James. "Alive and Well After 25 Years: A Review of Groupthink Research," *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, 1998.
David Houghton. "Essence of excision: A critique of the new version of essence of decision," *Security studies,* 2000

The Individual

29 March
Personality
Required
Margaret G. Hermann, "Explaining Foreign Policy Behavior Using the Personal Characteristics of Political Leaders," *ISQ*, 1980

Paul Kowert and Margaret Hermann," Who Takes Risks? Daring and Caution in Foreign Policy Making," *ISQ*, 1997.
Stanley Renshon, "George W. Bush's Cowboy Politics: An Inquiry." *Political Psychology*, 2005.
Jerrold Post, *The Psychological Evaluation of Political Leaders*, 2003, selection.
David G Winter, "Power, affiliation, and war: Three tests of a motivational model," *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology,* 1993.
Recommended
Alexander and Juliet George, *Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House*, 1964.
Rudolf Binion, *Hitler Among the Germans*, 1984.
Brian Dille, "The Prepared and Spontaneous Remarks of Presidents Reagan and Bush: A Validity Comparison for At-a-Distance Measurements," *Political Psychology* 2001

5 April
<u>Cognition</u>
Required
Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky, "Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision under Risk," *Econometrica*, 1979.
Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahneman, "Judgment under Uncertainty: Heuristics and Biases," *Science*, 1974.
Rose McDermott, *Risk Taking in International Politics*, 2001. Selection.
Stephen G. Walker, Mark Schafer and Michael D. Young, "Systematic Procedures for Operational Code Analysis: Measuring and Modeling Jimmy Carter's Operational Code," *ISQ*, 1998.
Houghton, David. "The Role of Analogical Reasoning in Novel Foreign Policy Situations", British Journal of Political Science, 26:523-552, October 1996.
Recommended
Y. F. Khong, *Analogies at War,* 1992
Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. 1976
Yaacov Vertzberger, *The World in their Minds,* 1989
Deborah Larson, *Origins of Containment*, 1984.
Ried Hastie and Robyn Dawes, *Rational Choice in an Uncertain World*, 2010.
Roberta Wohlstetter, *Warning and Decision*, 1962.
Walker, S. G. and Schafer, M., "The Political Universe of Lyndon B. Johnson and His Advisors: Diagnostic and Strategic Propensities in Their Operational Codes." *Political Psychology*, 2000

12 April
<u>Motivation and Emotion</u>
Richard K. Herrmann, James F. Voss, Tonya Y. E. Schooler and Joseph Ciarrochi, "Images in International Relations: An Experimental Test of Cognitive Schemata," *ISQ*, 1997.
Thomas M. Dolan, "Emotion, Strategic Learning, and War," Working Paper.
Nehta Crawford, "The Passion of World Politics," *International* Security, 2000,
Philip Tetlock and Ned Lebow, "Poking Counterfactual Holes in Covering Laws: Cognitive Styles and Political Learning," *APSR* 2001
John Mercer, "Rationality and Psychology in International Relations," *International Organization*, 2005.
Recommended
Philip E. Tetlock, *Expert Political Judgment: How Good Is It? How Can We Know?* 2006.

Richard K. Herrmann and Michael P. Fischerkeller, “Beyond the Enemy Image and Spiral Model: Cognitive-Strategic Research after the Cold War,” *IO*, 1995
Ned Lebow, *Between Peace and War*, 1981.

19 April: Research Design Presentations