INR 7687
Theoretical Approaches to Security Studies:
An Immersion into the Field

Fall Semester, 2014

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Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 1:30 to 3:30 pm; and by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives:

Catalog description: "Survey of realist, liberal, constructivist, critical and other theories of international security."

This course is intended to lay the theoretical and empirical groundwork for much of the rest of your studies here at UCF and for your own research programs beyond. There are several broad objectives: 1. To introduce you to the main theories, perspectives, and approaches to security studies; 2. To introduce you to various empirical approaches in the field; 3. To review some of the literature on current security concerns, issues, and public policies in the world today; and 4. To get you thinking as an original researcher, and to get you making immediate progress with your own research program.

The latter point is critical. Your foremost task in graduate school is to become a researcher, yet you are only here at UCF for three years; it is critical that you begin making progress on your own research agenda immediately. While this course focuses extensively on theory in security studies, we will do so in the context of you developing and conducting your own original research project.

Since all students in this program already have MA degrees, we assume that you are already familiar with philosophy of science, research design, and basic statistical analysis. For the first day of class, I list some optional readings regarding some of these topics. If you would like other readings along these lines, please see me as soon as possible.

The calendar for this course is organized to flow from section to section roughly as follows. The first section will be overview materials and readings, describing the field and providing definitions of key terms and concepts. Following that, we spend three weeks covering the major theories in the field, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, feminism, Marxism, and critical theory. We then spend five weeks on classic areas of and approaches to security studies – war, conflict, peace, and others. During these five weeks, you will read short overviews of major topic areas such as polarity, arms races, alliances, deterrence, and terrorism. Then you will read longer review pieces covering major research areas in the field. In the final two weeks of this section, you will read journal articles reporting original research projects in security studies, which may provide you inspiration, or at least good examples, as you develop your own research agenda. The final two weeks of reading this semester will focus on current global issues and public-policy topics in security studies. By the end of the semester you will have

covered major theoretical areas and approaches, subfields in these areas, examples of original empirical research, and current topics in international security. You should have a solid foundation for the rest of your work in this program.

Throughout the semester, you will also be working on your own original empirical research skills. This will proceed in stages. Early on you will write two short, sample research designs where you demonstrate the logic of causation, variables, units of analysis, etc. After that, you will write a short paper (though it will undoubtedly take some thinking and digging on your part) where you propose your own specific research idea for your semester project. This is followed by a more formal and developed research design for your semester project. After receiving feedback, you will then complete the project during the rest of the semester and present it in class during one of our last sessions. This step-by-step approach means, hopefully, that you won't go far off track, and you'll develop the logic and skills necessary along the way with feedback from me.

Required Books:

1. Collins, Alan, ed. 2013. *Contemporary Security Studies.* New York: Oxford University Press.
   (NOTE: in the course calendar below, readings from this book are referred to as in "Collins.")

2. Hughes, Christopher W., and Lai Yew Meng, eds. 2011. *Security Studies: A Reader*. London: Routledge.
   (NOTE: in the course calendar below, readings from this book are referred to as in "Hughes and Meng.")

In addition, there will be a number of other articles required for the course. These are noted in the syllabus. They should be available in the library, or through JSTOR. Almost all of them can also be found directly from the library website at the following url: http://guides.ucf.edu/inr7687. I think you can get that page directly, but you will probably need your NID to access the articles.

Course Grading:

All assignments for the course will be graded on a 0-100 basis. Then, your overall grade for the course will be weighted as follows:

1. Mini research-design paper, due August 27 …… 10%
2. Second mini-research-design paper, due September 10 …….. 10%
3. Topic paper for your semester project, due September 24 …....…….. 5%
4. Formal research design for your semester project, due October 15 …. 15%
5. Class participation …… 20%
6. Research paper, due November 26...……. 40%

Final Percent for Course	Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89.99%	B
70% - 79.99%	C
60% - 69.99%	D
Below 60%	F

Note that "class participation" is the second largest weighting for your overall grade. You must come to class having read the assigned articles, and you must be prepared to talk about them. I document and grade class participation after every class meeting.

As this is a ph.d.-level course, it should be understood that all assignments must be typed, double-spaced, page numbers included. Spelling, grammar, organization, etc. all matter. If you are concerned that you may have problems with English-language mechanics, please see me as soon as possible. Whenever you use any source, in any way, it is required that you provide a correct citation. You may use any style-guide you wish, but you must use one and use it correctly. Plagiarism, defined by the UCF Golden Rule as "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own," will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative effort. I may request digital copies of any of your papers for purposes of a plagiarism check.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Papers and assignments must be completed on time. ***Exceptions will be allowed only under extreme, documented circumstances***. Under such circumstances, you are required to notify me (or, if I am unavailable, the Department of Political Science) prior to the date or as soon as possible if prior notice is impossible.

Late papers are generally not accepted. If I accept a late paper because of circumstances, I will make substantial reductions in the paper grade for every day it is late, up to a maximum of 75% reduction.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus can be made available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must register with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371; TTY/TDD-only phone (407) 823-2116.

Final Note

I want you to be successful in this course and in our Ph.D. program. Becoming a researcher is challenging, hard work, but it can also be very rewarding: you will be investigating things that puzzle you; you will be contributing to knowledge in these areas; you will begin building a record of achievement and accomplishment that will serve you well in the field of security studies. My job, which I love, is to help you succeed. That will, undoubtedly, mean challenging you and pushing you along the way as you develop your own thinking, approaches, and research projects. Come see me; let's talk about your work; let's make sure you develop a great career as a researcher in security studies!

Course Calendar

August 20: Course Introduction and Overview.

Optional readings:

1. Ball, Terence. 1987. "Is There Progress in Political Science?" In *Idioms of Inquiry*, ed. Terence Ball. Albany: SUNY Press, 13-44.
2. Little, Daniel. 1991. "Statistical Analysis." In *Varieties of Social Explanation*, by Daniel Little. Boulder: Westview Press, 159-178.

Note: The article by Ball deals with classic components of philosophy of science. The chapter by Little is a simple overview of the logic of causation and statistical analysis. These are intended as short, simple overviews of these much larger topics. Please see me if you are unfamiliar with these topics or if you would like additional recommendations for readings.

August 27: Overview of Security Studies.

** At the start of class, turn in your first mini research design paper. **

Required readings:

1. In Collins, read chapters 1 and 5.
2. In Hughes and Meng, read the Preface, the Introduction to Part I, and the following chapters: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.10.

September 3: Overview: Major Theories in Security Studies

Required readings:

1. In Collins, read chapters 2, 3, and 7.

September 10: Realism, and Some Responses

** At the start of class, turn in your second mini research design paper. **

Required readings:

1. Read the Introduction to Part 2 and the following chapters in Hughes and Meng (read them in the order listed):
   -Realism, and realist approaches: chapters 2.1, 2.2, 2.4.
   -Responses, chapters 2.5, 2.3, 2.10.

September 17: Liberalism, and a Response

Required readings:

1. Read the following chapters in Hughes and Meng (read them in the order listed):
   -Liberalism, and liberalist approaches, chapters: 2.7, 2.9, 4.5, and 2.8.
   -A Response: chapter: 2.6.

September 24: Constructivism, and Other Perspectives

** At the start of class, turn in the topic for your research paper. **

Required readings:

On Constructivism:

1. In Hughes and Meng, read chapters 2.11, and 2.12.

On Feminism:

2. In Hughes and Meng, read chapter 1.6.
3. In Collins, read chapter 9.

On Marx and Third World:

4. In Collins, read chapters 4 and 16.
5. In Hughes and Meng, read chapter 1.7.

On Critical Theory:

6. In Collins, read chapter 6.

October 1: War, Conflict, Military Security, and Other Classic Areas of Security Studies, Part I

Required readings:

1. Overview: read chapter 11 in Collins.
2. Arms races: read chapter 3.2 in Hughes and Meng.
3. Polarity: in Hughes and Meng, read chapters 4.1, 4.2, 4.6.
4. Alliances: in Hughes and Meng, read chapters 4.3 and 4.4.
5. Interventionism: in Hughes and Meng, read chapters 4.8; in Collins, read chapter 20.

October 8: War, Conflict, Military Security, and Other Classic Areas of Security Studies, Part II

Required readings:

1. Nuclear weapons and deterrence, and other WMDs: in Collins, read chapter 18; in Hughes and Meng, read chapters 3.1 and 3.3.
2. Sanctions: in Hughes and Meng, read chapter 4.9.
3. Terrorism: in Hughes and Meng, read chapters 5.7, and 5.8; in Collins, read chapter 19.
4. Civil security: in Collins, read chapter 12.

October 15: War, Conflict, Military Security, and Other Classic Areas of Security Studies, Part III

** Turn in the formal research-design paper for your semester research project **

Required readings:

1. Causes of War: read: Levy, Jack. 1998. "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace." *Annual Review of Political Science* 1 (June): 139-165.
2. Bargaining: read: Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politic*s (June): 27-43.
3. Game Theory: read: Bennett, Peter G. 1995. "Modelling Decisions in International Relations: Game Theory and Beyond." *Mershon International Studies Review* 39 (April): 19-52.
4. Foreign Policy Decision Making: read: Hudson, Valerie. 2002. "Foreign Policy Decision Making: A Touchstone for International Relations Theory in the Twenty-First Century." In *Foreign Policy Decision-Making (Revisited)*, by R.C. Snyder, H.W. Bruck, B. Sapin, V.M. Hudson, D.H. Chollet, and J.M. Goldgeier. 2002. New York: Palgrave, 1-20.

October 22: Quantitative Research Applications: Part I

Required readings:

1. Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47 (July): 427-439.

2. Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* (February): 75-90.

3. Meernik, James. 1994. "Presidential Decision Making and the Political Use of Military Force." *International Studies Quarterly* 38 (March): 121-138.

4. Mousseau, Michael. "The Social Market Roots of Democratic Peace." *International Security* 33: 52-86.

October 29: Quantitative Research Applications: Part II

Required readings:

1. Piazza, James A. 2006. "Rooted in Poverty?: Terrorism, Poor Economic Development, and Social Cleavages." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 18 (1): 159-177.

2. James, Patrick and John Oneal. 1991. "The Influence of Domestic and International Politics on the President's Use of Force." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 35 (June): 307-332.

3. Keller, Jonathan W. 2005. "Leadership Style, Regime Type, and Foreign Policy Crisis Behavior: A Contingent Monadic Peace? *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (June): 205-231.

4. Schafer, Mark. 1999. "Explaining Groupthink: Do the Psychological Characteristics of the Leader Matter?" *International Interactions* 25 (2): 1-31.

November 5: Contemporary Issues and Challenges in International Security: Part I

Required readings:

1. Overview: in Hughes and Meng, read chapter 5.1
2. Money-making in Security: in Collins, read chapter 22; in Meng and Hughes, read chapter 4.10.
3. Technology and Cyber Concerns: in Hughes and Meng, read chapter 3.4; in Collins, read chapter 25.

November 12: Contemporary Issues and Challenges in International Security: Part II

Required readings:

1. Ethnicity and Migration: in Collins, read chapter 13; in Hughes and Meng, read chapter 3.7.
2. Environment and Energy: in Collins, read chapters 14, and 21; in Hughes and Meng, read chapter 3.6.

November 19: Research presentations

November 26: Research papers due at start of class