Course Objectives:

The objectives of this course include the following: (1) to introduce some methodological problems of, and research approaches to, IR theory; (2) to study some theoretical questions and possible answers about the way the world really works; (3) to discuss some new directions in the study of international relations; and (4) to discuss some ethical problems of international relations. Meeting these objectives should also help the student to learn to think more clearly about the messy problems of other political and social realms generally.

Required Texts:


Further readings are available to students on reserve at the Green Library.

Grades and Grade Distribution:

Final grades will be based on:

- Attendance and Participation: 10%
- Quiz Average: 20%
- The Mid-term exam: 30% 14 October
- The Final Exam: 40% Wed., 11 December, 9:30-12:15
Course Outline and Readings:

Part I: The Nature of the Enquiry and Epistemological Questions

28 August: Course Introduction: Discussion of class scope, outline, procedures, and rules
Viotti and Kauppi, pp.1-15.

4 September: The Challenge of Making theory in international relations
Brown, Chap. 1; Hollis/Smith, chap.1; Viotti /Kauppi, pp.29-37

9 September: The Evolution of international relations theories
Brown, Chap.2; Hollis/Smith, chap.2

11 September: Positivism and the positivist methodological debate
Brown, pp.43-51; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.16-17 and 38-52; Hollis/Smith chap. 3

16 September: Game theory as a rationalist method of explanation
Hollis/Smith, chap.6

18 September: Historical and qualitative approaches to theory
Brown, pp.51-56; Hollis and Smith, chap.4

23 September: Constructivism and radical critiques to the possibilities of theory
Brown, pp.56-63; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.18-21 and 434-454

Part II: Substantive Approaches to International Relations

A. Realism
25 September: Realism: roots and philosophy
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.55-66; 100-127; Brown, chap.4

30 September: National interests, parochial interests, and foreign policy
Brown, Chap.5; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.280-296

2 October: Realism, balance of power and war
Brown, chap. 6; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.66-88

7 October. Neo-Realism, systems, and war causation
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.130-81; Hollis and Smith, chap. 5

9 October: Neo-mercantilism as economic realism
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.184-96

14 October: Mid-Term Examination
B. Pluralism and Liberalism
16 October. Liberalism and idealism: roots and philosophy
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.199-225; 246-256; 307-318
21 October: Democratic peace theory and integration theory
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.233-45; Brown, Chapter 7

23 October: Norms and institutions as constraints
Viotti/Kauppi, pp. 127-30; 297-339

28 October: Liberalism on choice learning; sub-national constraints on behavior
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.257-95; Hollis and Smith, chap.7

30 October: Liberalism and the world economy
Brown, Chaps 8 and 9

C. Marxist, Globalist, and Critical Theories
4 November: Radicalism: philosophy and origins; imperialism
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.341-47; 365-368

6 November: Radicalism: The world economy, dependency, and development
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.369-376; Brown, Chapter 10

13 November: Ideas, institutions, and oppression
Re-read Brown, 56-63; Reserve readings.

18 November: Gender-based explanations for conflict
Brown, pp.252-56; Reserve readings.

Part IV: Ethical Problems and Contemporary Issues of International Relations Theory

20 November: Liberalism, law, and just war
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.397-415

25 November: Liberalism, intervention, and human rights
Reserve readings.

27 November: Realist and radical critiques of liberal ethics
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.415-425

December 2: System change and I.R. theory
Brown, Chapter 11

December 4: 21st Century challenges to I.R. theory; review
Brown, Chapter 12

Other Policies and Notes

Exam Make-Ups: If a student must miss an exam, he or she must contact the professor as soon
as possible before the exam; **exams missed without the acknowledgement of the professor will result in no credit for the exam.** Make-up exams will be granted only in cases of extreme distress, and may be considerably more difficult than regular exams.

**Quizzes:** An undetermined number of pop quizzes, probably on the order of eight or nine, will be given on the reading material for randomly chosen classes. No make-up of quizzes is allowed. **Questions will not be repeated for students who arrive late.** One or more of the lowest quiz grades will be dropped for all students.

**Exams:** Exam questions will include identification, short answer, and/or essay questions. Typically students are not required to answer a specific question, but choose from a list slightly longer than the required number of responses required. Review sessions are not normally scheduled, but students are always encouraged to ask questions in class and during office hours. Grading is carried out both by the professor and teaching assistant.

**Attendance, Participation and Civility:** Students are expected to participate in class discussions when appropriate and are encouraged to ask questions. (See Grading Policy above) Please arrive on time for class—those who do not risk missing quiz questions, as well as other important exam material. Please turn off cell phones and beepers before class so as not to disturb other students. Be respectful of others in class debates.

**Academic Honesty:** **Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will result in the harshest penalties allowed by the University.** Students should familiarize themselves with the University's rules concerning academic integrity as described in the Student Handbook and the pamphlet "Rights and Responsibilities of Students." The least punishment that students can expect for cheating on exams will be a grade of zero for that exam. Other punishments may include suspension or permanent expulsion from the University.

**Final Notes:** Certainly, the enquiry into international relations is the among highest and noblest of human pursuits, but such an enquiry is only one object of this course. More broadly, I hope to inspire you to think freely about difficult moral and political issues of the social world. **Please feel completely free to stop by to talk with me about the course and other concerns during my office hours or at other appointed times.** My teaching assistant will also hold office hours during which time you may see him about material that you missed. Finally, open your mind, take joy in your newly acquired knowledge, and remember that the café table can be as good a setting for discovery of social reality as the classroom.