Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines general patterns of international relations as described by various theories in the field. Its objectives include the following: (1) to introduce some epistemological and 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:


Students are also required to purchase a compendium of readings from the University Copy Center.

Grades and Grade Distribution:

Final grades will be based on:

Attendance and Participation: 10%

Quiz Average: 20%

The Mid-term exam: 30%

**Wed., 18 February**

The Final Exam: 40%

**Wed., 27 April, 12:30-3:15**
Course Outline and Readings:

Part I: The Nature of the Enquiry and Epistemological Questions

10 January: Course Introduction: Discussion of class scope, outline, procedures, and rules

12 January: The Challenge of Making theory in international relations
Brown, Chap. 1; Hollis/Smith, chap.1 (reader); Viotti /Kauppi, pp.1-15 and 29-37

17 January: Martin Luther King holiday

19 January: The Evolution of international relations theories
Brown, Chap.2; Hollis/Smith, chap.2 (reader)

24 January: Positivism and the positivist methodological debate
Brown, pp.43-51; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.16-17 and 38-44; Hollis/Smith chap. 3 (reader)

26 January: The methods debate: Rationalist/empirical versus historical/qualitative approaches
Bull (reader); Viotti/Kauppi, pp.48-52

31 January: Post-positivist approaches to understanding the social world
Brown, pp.56-63; Viotti/Kauppi, pp.44-48; Der Derian (reader); Doty (reader)

2 February: Constructivism as an approach to social Theory
Brown, pp.51-56; Onuf (reader); Viotti/Kauppi, pp.18-21 and 434-454

Part II: Substantive Approaches to International Relations

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

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

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

16 February: Neo-Realism, systems, and war causation
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.130-81

21 February: Neo-mercantilism as economic realism
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.184-96

February 23: Mid-Term Examination

B. Pluralism and Liberalism

28 February: Liberalism and idealism: roots and philosophy
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.199-225; 246-256; 307-318
2 March: Democratic peace theory and integration theory
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.233-45; Brown, Chapter 7

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

9 March: Last day to drop classes with DR grade

9 March: Liberalism on choice learning; sub-national constraints on behavior
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.257-95

14 March: Liberalism and the world economy
Brown, Chaps 8 and 9

C. Marxist, Globalist, and Critical Theories

16 March: Radicalism: philosophy and origins; imperialism
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.341-47; 365-368

March 21-26: Spring Break

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

30 March: Ideas, institutions, and oppression
Re-read Brown, 56-63; Devetak (reader)

4 April: Gender-based critiques of the global order
Brown, pp.252-56; Tickner (reader); Fukuyama (reader)

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

6 April: Liberalism, law, and just war
Viotti/Kauppi, pp.397-415

11 April: Liberalism, intervention, and human rights
Smith (reader)

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

18 April: System change and I.R. theory
Brown, Chapter 11

20 April: 21st Century challenges to I.R. theory; review
Brown, Chapter 12
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 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 two 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.

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 among the 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. To be certain of seeing me, make an appointment with Kathy Hasselbach (348-2556). 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.