

International Relations INR 4603
Theories of International Relations

Summer B 2008
T R 2:00 - 4:45 pm
Section 01

Dr. Paul A. Kowert
Office: DM 436A
Hours: W 3:00 - 4:45 PM

"The first lesson the student of international politics must learn and never forget is that the complexities of international affairs make simple solutions and trustworthy prophecies impossible. Here the scholar and the charlatan part company."

Hans J. Morgenthau
Politics among Nations, ch. 2

Theories of International Relations surveys the most prominent themes in philosophical and scientific thought about international politics. Its approach is both historical and analytical. It is historical in that this course explains the evolution of international relations thought as a stylized progression of "debates" over core political (and scientific) issues. It is analytical in that it emphasizes recurrent philosophical themes rather than their application to specific political contingencies. This course does *not*, to be specific, offer a review of diplomatic history, a summary of great wars and trade disputes, or a compendium of foreign policy case histories. Its purpose is to give students the intellectual tools to understand the fundamental debates and broad patterns of international relations.

INR 4603 is an upper-level undergraduate course with commensurate expectations. Students should already have taken other coursework in international relations (including the course pre-requisite, INR 2001) sufficient to demonstrate sophistication in their oral and written scholarship exceeding that of novices. INR 4603 is commonly treated as a "capstone" course for international relations majors, and it assumes a degree of familiarity with common approaches to the study of international relations.

Course Requirements

Class Participation: This course heavily emphasizes student participation. Attendance and active involvement in class discussions are essential to success in the course. The assigned readings must be completed *before coming to class*. From time to time, you will be asked to summarize the readings in class, and there will also be brief, unannounced quizzes on the readings (usually, though not necessarily always, at the beginning of class). In the event that a class must be canceled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings. Do not assume that a class is canceled unless so informed by your professor or by a university representative *in person*.

Essay Examinations: This course requires three essay examinations that will cover lectures, classroom discussions, and reading assignments. The exams are cumulative, but each will emphasize a distinct part of the course. Each exam will consist of one or more essay questions and must be submitted at (or before) the beginning of class on the designated due date. The essays should be written in polished and grammatically correct English prose. They should be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins; pages must be stapled together and should *not* otherwise be bound or put in a folder. Late essay exams will be accepted only at the professor's discretion and, except in the case of a medical emergency, will heavily penalized.

As a guide to interpreting your grade, it may be helpful to keep the following in mind. Grades in the A range (90-92 = A-; 93 or greater = A) indicate varying degrees of excellence. Generally, this means that you have gone well *beyond* what is required for a given assignment, demonstrating particular creativity, diligence, or insight. Grades in the B range (80-82 = B-; 83-86 = B; 87-89 = B+) indicate satisfactory completion of all required components of an assignment. Grades in the C range (70-72 = C-; 73-76 = C; 77-79 = C+) indicate that some components of an assignment were not adequately or appropriately completed, but that the overall effort is nevertheless of passing quality. Grades in the D or F range indicate work that does not meet the requirements of the assignment or that is not of passing quality. Your grade will be determined on the basis of these course requirements as follows:

Class Participation and Quizzes	25%
Essay Exam 1	25%
Essay Exam 2	25%
Essay Exam 3	25%

Please note, also, that no assignments will be accepted by email.

Academic Integrity

Be certain that you are familiar with the University's rules concerning academic misconduct as described in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating undermine the spirit of responsible inquiry on which the University relies. Cheating will result in severe penalties (which, according to University policy, may include a failing grade and/or expulsion from the University itself).

To avoid plagiarism, keep in mind that *all* references to someone else's ideas — whether a direct quotation or simply an indirect summary — must be properly cited. A "proper citation" should typically identify the author, the work, the publisher, the place and year of publication, and the page number. Direct quotations must be placed in quotation marks. For more information, see my web pages on writing (<http://www.fiu.edu/~kowitz/writing.html>) and on plagiarism (<http://www.fiu.edu/~kowitz/plagiarism.html>).

Textbooks: The required texts for this course are,

1. Robert Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics
2. Charles Lipson and Benjamin Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy
3. Readings for INR 4603, "Theories of International Relations."

Although not required, I recommend that you buy William Strunk and E. B. White's The Elements of Style (New York: MacMillan). It is an excellent, inexpensive guide to good writing. The answers to many stylistic questions can also be found in Kate Turabian *et al*, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 7th edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007); note, the 7th edition is significantly updated. Finally, you may wish to consult the "student resources" page on my own website (<http://www.fiu.edu/~kowitz/students.html>).

Questions? Problems?

You are always welcome to discuss this course or other academic issues with me during my office hours. To make an appointment, please call the International Relations Department at 305-348-2556. Please contact me directly if you cannot see me during office hours and would like to make an appointment for another time. The best way to do so is by sending me an email (kowitz@fiu.edu). Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or problems.

Syllabus

1. Thursday, June 26

Scope, Methods, and Theory

- Readings 1: J. David Singer, "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations."
Waltz, "Laws and Theories," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 2.

I. Realism vs. Idealism

2. Tuesday, July 1

Early Statements of Realism and Idealism

- Readings 2: Machiavelli, *The Prince*.
Readings 3: Wilson, "Address to Congress Asking for Declaration of War."
Readings 4: Wilson, "The Fourteen Points."

3. Thursday, July 3

International Crises and Historical Progress

- Readings 5: Carr, The Twenty Years' Crisis, chs. 3 (all) and 5 (pp. 67-80 only)
Readings 6: Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach."
Readings 7: Marx and Engels, Manifesto of the Communist Party, pp. 473-491.

4. Tuesday, July 8

The First Debate Continues

- Readings 8: Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations, chs. 1 & 5 (skim chs. 2 & 8).
Readings 9: Ray, "The Abolition of Slavery and the End of International War."

II. Realist Historicism vs. Realist Behavioralism

5. Thursday, July 10 — FIRST ESSAY EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED

Neorealism

- Waltz, "Reductionist and Systemic Theories," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 3.
Waltz, "Political Structures," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 4.

6. Tuesday, July 15 — FIRST ESSAY EXAMINATION DUE

The Balance of Power and the Balance of Threat

- Waltz, "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 5.
Readings 10: Walt, "Explaining Alliance Formation."

7. Thursday, July 17

Extensions of Neorealism - Game Theory, Historical Cycles, and the Security Dilemma

- Keohane, "Theory of World Politics," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 7.
Readings 11: Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma" (excerpts).
Readings 12: Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future" (optional)

8. **Tuesday, July 22**

The Second Debate

Readings 13: Bull, "International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach."
Ashley, "The Poverty of Neorealism," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 9.
Waltz, "Reflections on *Theory of International Politics*," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 11 (skim).

III. Realism vs. Liberalism and Postmodernism

9. **Thursday, July 24 — SECOND ESSAY EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED**

Neorealism and Neoliberalism

Grieco, "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation," in Lipson and Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy, p. 9-31.
Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously," in Lipson and Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy, p. 33-73.

10. **Tuesday, July 29 — SECOND ESSAY EXAMINATION DUE**

Neoliberalism and Regimes

Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes," in Lipson and Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy, p. 147-177.
Cowhey, "Domestic Institutions and the Credibility of International Commitments," in Lipson and Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy, p. 399-426.

11. **Thursday, July 31**

Neomarxism and Postmodernism

Cox, "Social Forces, States, and World Orders," in Keohane, Neorealism and Its Critics, ch. 8.
Readings 14: Der Derian, "Post-Theory."
Readings 15: Doty, "The Logic of *Différence* in International Relations."

12. **Tuesday, August 5 — THIRD ESSAY EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED**

Feminism and Constructivism

Readings 16: Tickner, "Man, the State, and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security."
Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," in Lipson and Cohen, Theory and Structure in International Political Economy, p. 75-109.

13. **Thursday, August 7 — THIRD ESSAY EXAMINATION DUE**

The Third Debate

Readings 17: Lapid, "The Third Debate."
Readings 18: Katzenstein, Keohane, and Krasner, "*International Organization and the Study of World Politics*."
Readings 19: Hoffmann, "An American Social Science: International Relations."