

**Political Science 272: Theories of International Relations**  
**Thurs.-Tues., 9:40-10:55.**

**Spring 2010**

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Office Hours: Tues-Thurs. 11-11:30,  
Thurs., 1:30-3:00,  
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**Purpose of the course:** This course surveys approaches to theory building in international relations, and introduces students to elementary game theory. Major topics include the causes of war, the conditions for international cooperation, and the role of international institutions. This is an advanced course; some previous course work in international relations or international history is assumed. *This course satisfies the Political Science requirement for Formal Theory.*

**Course Requirements:** It is essential to complete the required reading. There will be a midterm exam on March 4, a final exam, two problem sets to familiarize students with game theory, due Friday, February 26, and Monday, April 12, and a short (4-page) paper due Monday, April 19. Attendance at lectures and in discussion sections is mandatory, and students are expected to come to section prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the week. There is a penalty for missing more than two lectures or sections, and missing more than four results in a failing grade. **Grading:** 40% final exam, 20% midterm, 10% each problem set, 10% paper, and 10% section participation. Completing all of the written work is required to successfully complete the course.

**Writing Credit Requirements for Political Science:** In addition to the regular requirements, students registered for **PSC 272W** write a term paper (15-20 pages) that uses primary sources and/or data to make a theoretical argument. A draft is due at 5:00 pm on March 26, and the final paper is due on April 28 at 5:00 pm. Grading will be as follows: 25% final, 25% term paper, 10% midterm, 10% each problem set, 10% short paper, and 10% participation.

**Readings:** All articles are available on [JSTOR](http://www.jstor.org) or from this page. The following books (listed in order of use) have been ordered at the bookstore, and are recommended for purchase. The bookstore will return the books after a few weeks, so buy them early.

- Waltz, Kenneth N. Theory of International Politics. (New York: McGraw Hill, Inc., 1979).
- Keohane, Robert O. After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy. (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1984).
- Helen Milner and Andrew Moravcsik, eds., Power, Interdependence and Non-State Actors in World Politics: Research Frontiers. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Kreps, David M. Game Theory and Economic Modelling. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990).
- Schelling, Thomas. The Strategy of Conflict. (Cambridge: Harvard Univ. Press, 1960).
- Kydd, Andrew H. Trust and Mistrust in International Relations. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).
- Stone, Randall W. Lending Credibility: The International Monetary Fund and the Post-Communist Transition. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002).
- Russett, Bruce. Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World. (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1993).

**Course Outline**

## **Week One**

*Thurs., Jan. 14: Theories of International Relations*

## **Week Two**

*Tues., Jan. 19: Understanding Waltz*

*Thurs., Jan. 21: The Case for Structural Realism*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Waltz, Chpts. 1-4.

## **Week Three**

*Tues., Jan. 26: Critiques of Structural Realism*

*Thurs., Jan. 28: No Class*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Waltz, Chpts. 5-9
  - Gaddis, John Lewis. "[The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System](#)." *International Security* 10, No. 4. (Spring, 1986): 99-142.
  - Milner, Helen. 1991. "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations: A Critique." *Review of International Studies* 17 (1) (January): 67-85.
  - Wendt, Alexander, "[Anarchy is What States Make of It](#)," *International Organization* 46 (Spring, 1992): 391-425.

## **Week Four**

*Tues., Feb. 2: Rational Choice: Preferences, Utilities, Lotteries, Expected Utility*

*Thurs., Feb. 4: Strategic Form Games & Nash Equilibrium*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Kreps, [Game Theory and Economic Modeling](#).

## Week Five

*Tues. Feb. 9: Hegemonic Stability and International Cooperation*

*Thurs., Feb. 11: Extensive Form Games & Subgame Perfect Equilibrium*

- *Discussion sections cover*

- Keohane, Robert O. After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy. (Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1984). Chpts. 3, 8.
- Snidal, Duncan. "The Limitations of Hegemonic Stability Theory." International Organization 39 (1985): 579-614.

## Week Six

*Tues. Feb. 16: Repeated Games*

*Thurs., Feb. 18: Repeated Games Continued*

- *Discussion sections cover*

- Kreps, Game Theory and Economic Modeling, Chpt. 3.
- Keohane, After Hegemony, Chpts. 4-6
- Stone, Randall W., Branislav Slantchev and Tamar London. "[Choosing How to Cooperate: A Repeated Public-Goods Model of International Relations](#)". *International Studies Quarterly* 52 (2) (June 2008): 335-62.

## Week Seven

*Tues. Feb. 23: The Case for Functionalist Institutionalism*

*Thurs., Feb. 25: Critique of Functionalist Institutionalism*

- *Discussion sections cover*

- Keohane, After Hegemony, 9-10.
- Moravcsik & Milner, eds., Chapters 1-4.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. The Rational Design of International Institutions. *International Organization* 55 (4) (Autumn): 761-800.

**\*\*First Problem Set Due by 5:00 February 26 \*\***

## **Week Eight**

*Return Problem Set 1*

*Tues. Mar. 2: Persistence and Change of International Institutions*

*Thurs., Mar. 4: **Midterm Exam***

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Midterm review and discussion of Problem Set 1
  - Milner & Moravcsik, eds., Chapters 8-10.

SPRING BREAK, March 7-14

## **Week Nine \*\* BEGIN DANGEROUS PARALLEL \*\***

*Tues. Mar. 16: Deterrence*

*Thurs., Mar. 18: Perceptions and Uncertainty*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Schelling, The Strategy of Conflict, Chpts. 1-3, 8, 10
  - Fearon, James D. "[Rationalist Explanations for War.](#)" International Organization 49, No. 3 (Summer 1995): 379-414.

## **Week Ten**

*Tues. Mar. 23: Trust and the Security Dilemma*

*Thurs., Mar. 25: The Spiral Model & Origins of the Cold War*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Kydd, Trust and Mistrust, Chapters 1-4.

**\*\*Draft of Research Paper due for Writing Section, Mar. 26, 5:00 pm\*\***

## **Week Eleven**

*Tues. Mar. 30: Multilateral Trust and Cooperation during the Cold War*

*Thurs., Apr. 1: Reassurance and the End of the Cold War*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Kydd, Trust and Mistrust, Chapters 5-9.
  - Milner & Moravcsik, eds., Chapter 11.

## **Week Twelve**

*Tues. Apr. 6: Do IMF Programs Help?*

*Thurs., Apr. 8: The IMF and Financial Crises*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Stone, Lending Credibility, Chpts. 1, 2, 4-6, 9.

### **Week Thirteen**

**\*\*Second Problem Set Due April 12 by 5:00\*\***

*Tues. Apr. 13: Governing International Organizations*

*Thurs., Apr. 15: The Idea of the Democratic Peace*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Discussion of Second Problem Set
  - Milner & Moravcsik, eds., Chapters 5-7.

### **Week Fourteen**

*Tues. Apr. 20: Theories and Examples*

- *Return Problem Set 2*

*Thurs., Apr. 22: No Class*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Russett, Grasping the Democratic Peace.

### **Week Fifteen**

*Tues. Apr. 27: Conclusions*

- *Discussion sections cover*
  - Review for the final

**\*\*Short Paper due by 5:00 April 19 \*\***  
**\*\*Term Paper due by 5:00 April 28, if applicable\*\***