Political Science 372/572: Field Seminar in International Relations
Tuesday 14:00-16:40, Fenno Room (Harkness 329)

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Purpose of the course: This is an advanced course intended to prepare Ph.D. students for comprehensive exams in international relations. The course conducts a broad survey of major works in the field and current research into the causes of international conflict and cooperation.

Course Requirements: This is a seminar with a heavy reading load, and it is essential to complete the required reading. Students are expected to write short (no more than 2-page) papers critiquing the assigned readings for each week, due Thursday at noon. Students have the option of skipping one paper; alternatively, the lowest grade will be dropped. In addition, students are expected to attend the lectures for PSC 272/472, which are designed to dovetail with the content of this course. (Note that there are no PSC 272 lectures the week of March 1.) There will be a 24-hour take-home final exam, due Friday, April 29 at 5:00 pm. Grading will be as follows: 1/3 class participation, 1/3 the average of the papers, and 1/3 final.

Readings: The papers will be in folders in the cubby hole on the third floor. I recommend purchasing the following books at Amazon.com (new) or Alibris.com (used).


Course Outline:

Week One

Tuesday, Jan. 23:  Orientation and Overview

Week Two

Tuesday, Jan. 30: Classical Realism in International Relations


Macchiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*. Chpts. 15-21 (pp. 56-84.)


Recommended:


Week Three

Tuesday, Feb. 6: Neorealism


**Recommended:**


**Week Four**

**Tuesday, Feb. 13: Imperialism**

Lenin, Vladimir Ilich. *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism.*


**Recommended:**


Kahler, Miles. *Decolonization in Britain and France.*

**Week Five**

*Friday, Feb. 20: Constructivist Approaches*


**Recommended:**


**Week Six**

*Tuesday, Feb. 27: Complex Interdependence*


Week Seven

Tuesday, March 6: Institutional Liberalism


Recommended:


Tuesday, Mar. 13: SPRING BREAK No class

Week Eight

Tuesday, Mar 20: The Democratic Peace


**Week Nine**

**Tuesday, Mar. 27: International Bargaining**


**Recommended:**


**Week Ten**

**Tuesday, April 3: Deterrence and War**


**Recommended:**


**Week Eleven**

**Tuesday, April 10: Theories of Rational War**


Mark Fey & Kris Ramsay: *Mechanism Design*, University of Rochester, unpublished manuscript.

**Week Twelve**

**Tuesday, Apr. 17: The Leader as the Unit of Analysis**


Hein Goemans & Mark Fey: Risky but Rational: War as an Optimal Gamble. University of Rochester, unpublished manuscript.


**Week Thirteen**

**Tuesday, Apr. 24: Democratic Politics and International Bargaining**


Downs and Rocke, Chpts. 4, 5 (pp. 76-129).


**Recommended:**


**Week Fourteen**

**Tuesday, May 1: Terrorism**


**Recommended**


Robert Pape, *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, New York: Random House 2005


*Friday, May 4, 5:00 pm: Final Exam Due*