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 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.


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

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

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

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.

**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

Week Ten


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**