Political Science 372/572: Field Seminar in International Relations
Friday 9:30-12:00, 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 following week 1, due Thursday at noon. Students have the option of skipping two papers; alternatively, the lowest two grades will be dropped. There will be a 24-hour take-home final exam, due Friday, May 1 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 and some book chapters will be in folders in the cubby hole on the third floor, if they aren’t available through JSTOR. I recommend purchasing the books below through Amazon.com.


Course Outline:

Week One

*Friday, Jan. 16: No class*

*Friday, Jan 23: Balance of Power*


Week Two

*Friday, Jan. 30: Power*


Week Three

*Friday, Feb. 6: Open Economy Politics*


Friday, Feb. 13: No class

Week Four

Friday, Feb. 20: Institutions & Transaction Costs


Keohane, Robert O., and David Victor. The Regime Complex for Climate Change. Perspectives on Politics (March 2011).

Week Five

Friday, Feb. 27: Delegation & Principal-Agent Problems


Week Six

Friday, Mar. 6: Credibility


Friday, Mar. 13: SPRING BREAK No class

Week Seven

Friday, Mar. 20: Bargaining


Week Eight

Friday, March 27: Reputation


Schelling, The Strategy of Conflict, Chpts. 8, 10.


Week Nine

Friday, Apr. 3: Democratic Politics and International Bargaining


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


Week Ten

Friday, April 10: International Organizations


Week Eleven

Friday, April 17: Sovereignty and Hierarchy


Week Twelve

Friday, Apr. 24: Global Domestic Politics