**6801x. International Relations Theory. Fall 2016.**

Mondays, 2:10-4:00, in 1302 IAB
Jack Snyder -- jls6@columbia.edu, 854-8290; office: 1327 IAB; office hours: Wednesdays, 2:10-4 and by appointment. Teaching assistant: Hadas Aron <ha2284@columbia.edu>

Requirements:
(1) Three essays based on readings on the syllabus, 6 to 8 pages each, due on October 17, November 14, and December 12. These should address a single, focused question pertaining to a related group of two to four readings, such as a theoretical debate or the progress of a research program. Each essay should make a central argument answering the question that you pose. Topics might address such issues as the deductive coherence of the theory, the relationship between the logic of a theory and the empirical methods used to test it, the repair of theories in light of testing, how agency is related to structure in the theory, the criteria used to evaluate theory, how change is theorized, the effectiveness of debates in assessing, refining, developing, and refuting theory, and so forth. Each essay is 25% of your grade for the course.

(2) A final exam, taking the form of a proctored mock international relations comprehensive PhD exam, answering one question from the World Politics A section of the exam. During the December exam period. 20% of your grade.

(3) Regular, active, well-informed class participation, including at least one assignment to lead part of the discussion. 5%.

Readings: Required readings are on reserve at Lehman Library. Some but not all supplementary readings are also on reserve in Lehman. Required articles and some individual book chapters are available electronically on Courseworks. Asterisk (*) indicates a paperback ordered at the Book Culture bookstore, 536 W.112 St. Book purchases are optional, not required.

Sept. 12. *What’s a theory (of IR), what’s it for, and how should it be evaluated?*


**SUPPLEMENTARY:**
Imre Lakatos, "Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research"
Programmes,” in Imre Lakatos and Alan Musgrave, eds., Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge, pp. 91-196.

Elman and Elman, eds., Progress in International Relations Theory, Lakatosian evaluation of power transition, institutional, and other IR research programs.

Jon Elster, Nuts and Bolts for the Social Sciences, ch. 1. Explanation by causal mechanism.

Milton Friedman, “The Methodology of Positive Economics,” in Friedman, Essays in Positive Economics, 3-43; “as if” theories.

Ernest Nagel, The Structure of Science, ch. 3-5.


Henry E. Brady and David Collier, eds., Rethinking Social Inquiry.


Sept. 19. Structure and agency in IR research programs.


Alexander Gerschenkron, Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, ch. 1.


SUPPLEMENTARY:


*John Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, ch. 5.*


*Dan Reiter, How Wars End*, ch. 3, “Credible Commitments and War Termination.”

*Thomas Schelling, The Strategy of Conflict*, ch. 2; also browse ch. 8, 9.


*Clausewitz, On War*, Michael Howard and Peter Paret edition only: Book I, Chaps. 1, 2, and 7 (conceptualization of war, “friction”); Book III, Chap. 1 (connects with Schelling); Book VII, Chap. 22 (“The Culminating Point of Victory,” when to stop in limited war, skim and compare with Reiter); Book VIII, Chap. 2 (absolute and real war), Book VIII, Chap. 3 pp. 582-589 only, and Chap. 6 (war as instrument of policy).

SUPPLEMENTARY:


Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, ch. 2 and 3.


J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations*, ch. 2, “Man, the State, and War.”


Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, ch. 6, on “the third image.”


Robert Powell, “Nuclear Brinkmanship, Limited War, and Military Power,”

*International Organization* 69:3 (Summer 2015), 589-626, formal model of “stability-instability paradox.”

Oct. 3. Origins and evolution of states systems and regional subsystems; how to theorize change in IR.


READ ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING THREE:

*1. Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States*, ch. 3-4. War made the state, and the state made war, and eventually they both made nationalism and popular sovereignty.


SUPPLEMENTARY (READ ONE IN YOUR AREA OF INTEREST):

Hendrik Spruyt, "Institutional Selection in International Relations," *IO* 52 (1998), 855-85; similar to Spruyt, ch. 8.


Etel Solingen, *Regional Orders at Century’s Dawn*, ch. 2. Internationalist versus nationalist coalitions; Middle East case.


Alastair Iain Johnston, *Cultural Realism*. Ancient Chinese were realists, but realist ideas arose from and were transmitted through culture.

Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe*; Ernest Haas, *The Uniting of Europe.*


Oct. 10. *The Democratic Peace* research program: “the closest we have to a law”?


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Alexandre Debs and H.E. Goemans, “Regime Type, the Fate of Leaders, and War,” American Political Science Review 104, No. 3 (2010): 430–45.

Oct. 17. Democracies and Autocracies in the International System

Strategic interaction and bargaining between democracies and autocracies:


International-systemic and state-level causes of regime type:


SUPPLEMENTARY

Oct. 24. International political economy (co-taught with Allison Carnegie)


SUPPLEMENTARY


Peter Gourevitch, *Politics in Hard Times*, ch. 3-4.

Helen Milner, *Interests, Institutions, and Information*, ch. 1-4, & browse 5-8 chap.

Oct. 31. *International organization* (co-taught with Allison Carnegie)

*What do IOs do?*

1) Solve coordination problems:
*Robert Keohane, After Hegemony*, 7-10, 85-98 (top), and 111-116.

2) Solve a terms-of-trade problem.

3) Provide a domestic commitment device:
4) "Not much:"
Note also Grieco and Mearsheimer in supplemental readings.

5) Solve political hold-up problems:

6) Constructivist view:

7) Other mechanisms? Solving private information problems?

What shapes the design of IOs?


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Nov. 7. NO CLASS—UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY


*Keck, Margaret E., and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (1998), Introduction (pp. 1-38), plus one of two empirical chapters (pp. 79-120, or 121-164).

*Beth A. Simmons, Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 12-17 (overview of argument) and Ch. 7, pp. 256-306, on the torture convention


SUPPLEMENTARY:


*Jervis, Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, foreword to the new edition.


Rose McDermott, ”The Psychological Ideas of Amos Tversky and Their Relevance for Political Science,” *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 13:1, 5-33.


SUPPLEMENTARY OR REVIEW FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS


Hal Brands and David Palkki, "‘Conspiring Bastards’: Saddam Hussein’s Strategic View of the US," *Diplomatic History* 36 (June 2012) 625-59.


Nov. 28. *Empire, hierarchy, and unipolarity*


AND READ ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:


SUPPLEMENTARY


Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, ch. 2-3.


Dec. 5. *Civil war, international intervention, and terrorism* (co-taught with Michael Doyle)

**Civil war**


**Intervention & Peacekeeping**


**Terrorism**

**SUPPLEMENTARY**


Peter Katzenstein, *Civilizations in World Politics*, ch. 1.
*John Ikenberry, Liberal Leviathan*, ch. 1.

**SUPPLEMENTARY**
*Daedalus*, winter 2000, special issue on “Multiple Modernities,” esp. articles by Eisenstadt and Kaviraj.