Fall 2011 -- Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:35-11:50, in 313 Fayerweather.
Jack Snyder -- office: 1327 IAB; office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00-3:00.
jls6@columbia.edu, 854-8290.
Teaching assistants: Andrew Cheon <asc2159@columbia.edu>, Kate Cronin-Furman<krc2102@columbia.edu>

Themes: Competition in anarchy and the social processes of modernization are two forces that have shaped the main patterns of international relations from the early modern period to the present day. To understand the current geopolitical competition between liberal democratic states and other global forces, we will try to integrate the insights of the realist logic of struggle for domination and security—the logic of power—with the logic of political development and change—the logic of progress. Historical and contemporary themes will include the origins of the modern states system, the rise of nationalism and democratization, the management of the global market economy, decolonization, human rights activism, changing norms for the use of force, and multiple paths to modernity.

Requirements: (1) a take-home midterm exam (20% of your final grade), due Oct. 17, (2) a final exam (20%), (3) one paper, 15 pages (50%), due Dec. 19, and (4) active, informed participation in discussion sections, small group discussions, and class (10%). The normal format for the paper will be to use one or more case studies to test a theoretically grounded hypothesis about international relations, though other formats are possible. Paper proposals will be discussed in small groups with me or the teaching assistants. Late midterms and papers will be penalized.

Readings: Required readings on reserve at Lehman Library. Many supplementary readings are also on reserve either at Butler or Lehman. Asterisk (*) indicates a paperback ordered at the Book Culture bookstore, 536 W.112 St. Required articles and some individual book chapters are on the Columbia library web course reserves.

Sept. 7 and 12. POWER AND PROGRESS: THEORY AND CONTEMPORARY DEBATES

How do the theoretical approaches of realism and liberalism attempt to understand historical patterns of international relations? How do public intellectuals use these concepts to analyze current events?


SUPPLEMENTARY:
Theory Talk #42, Amitav Acharya on the Relevance of Regions, ASEAN, and Western IR’s false universalisms, Wednesday, August 10, 2011, at http://www.theory-talks.org/


Emile Durkheim, The Division of Labor in Society, ch. 2, “The Causes.” Changes in the intensity of interactions change social structures and ideas, discussed in Ruggie, week 2 below.


Sept. 14 and 19. THE STATE AND THE STATES SYSTEM

Where did states and the system of states come from in the first place? How might social processes change that system and the nature of its units?

*Charles Tilly, Coercion, Capital, and European States, ch. 1, 3-5. War made the state, and the state made war, but with different mixes of coercion and capital. Chapters 3 and 4 available online on course reserves.

*Hendrik Spruyt, The Sovereign State and Its Competitors, ch. 1, 2, 8. Alliance of crown and town.


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Reformation.


Ruggie, Constructing the World Polity, ch. 5 and 7. Dynamic density; ideas of territoriality and property. Ch. 7 also available as Ruggie, “Territoriality and Beyond,” International Organization 47:1 (1992)

Susan Strange, *The Retreat of the State: The Diffusion of Power in the World Economy*, fleshes out argument along the lines of Mathews’.

Sept. 21. FORGING AND TRANSFORMING NATIONS.

Where does nationalism come from and how can it be transformed? How did economic modernization, print capitalism, mass literacy, and the rise of the modern state shape nationalism? Once national identities and nationalism are forged, how malleable are they through the impact of changing circumstances, incentives, or discourse? Can violent nationalism be purged from world politics by promoting civic, multicultural, or transnational identities?


SUPPLEMENTARY:
Michael Hechter, *Containing Nationalism*, ch. 4 on direct rule by the modern state.

Sept. 26. THE IMPACT OF MODERNIZATION ON CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

Samuel Huntington, *Political Order in Changing Societies*, ch. 1. The dangerous gap between mass participation and state institutions.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

Sept. 28. POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND REVOLUTION

How do changes in domestic political principles affect the nature of the international system? What is the relationship between power and principle in bringing about change? Think about Iran, the Arab Spring, and (hypothetically) China in this regard.
*Stephen Walt, Revolution and War, pp. 18-74 (available online on course reserves); note also ch. 6, 210-268, on Iran, pp. 18-74. Lisa Anderson, “Demystifying the Arab Spring: Parsing the Differences Between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya,” and Jack Goldstone, “Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies,” both in Foreign Affairs 90:3 (May/June 2011).

SUPPLEMENTARY:
F. Gregory Gause III, “Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring;” Foreign Affairs, July/August 2011.

Oct. 3 and 5. DEMOCRATIZATION AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE.

What are the consequences of the spread of democracy for change in international politics? How can and how should democratization be promoted?


SUPPLEMENTARY:

Oct. 10 and 12. CHANGE AND THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Take home midterm exam distributed in class on Oct. 13, due at beginning of class on Oct. 17. Page limit: 10 double-spaced pages in 12-point Times New Roman font (i.e., exactly like this).

How do changing markets change politics? How does this work at the level of the state and of the international system? Conversely, how does politics structure and regulate markets? What happens when large-scale social change disrupts the relationship
between politics and markets? How do the classic historical works on this topic illuminate contemporary issues?

*Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation, chapters 1-4, 18-21. The myth that markets work independently of political regulation and social norms; fascism and social democracy as alternative responses to the crisis of laissez faire liberalism and the gold standard.

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


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Sheri Berman, The Primacy of Politics: Social Democracy and the Making of Europe’s Twentieth Century, conclusion. Polanyi-inspired history; conclusion on globalization today.


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

Oct. 17 and 19. INSTITUTIONS AND HEGEMONY

Take home midterm exam due at the beginning of class, Monday, Oct. 17.

How do international institutions promote cooperation or change? How are they established? What makes them powerful?

R. Keohane, After Hegemony, pp. 7-10, 85-98 (top), and 111-116, in ER, 292-307. Systems of cooperation set up by a hegemonic power can survive the hegemon’s decline if rules are institutionalized.
*G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory*, pp. 3-10, 17-20, 72-79. Democracies are more effective at establishing a hegemonic order, because they can credibly commit to following their own rules.


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Oct. 24. SOCIAL SCIENCE METHODS AND THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Some issues to keep in mind in developing the research design for your term paper. For methodological guidance in devising tests for your argument, you may wish to consult:

Gary King, R. Keohane, S. Verba, *Designing Social Inquiry*, browse topics, including pp. 28-33 on main themes; 35-36 on generalization; 43-46 on case studies; 99-114 on constructing theory; pp. 128-139 on bias in selecting evidence. The mainstream bible.

Henry Brady and David Collier, *Rethinking Social Inquiry*. Qualitative and mixed-methods critique of and amendment to KKV.

SUPPLEMENTARY:

James Mahoney, “After KKV: The New Methodology of Qualitative Research,” *World Politics*, January 2010. Argues that approach of King, Keohane, and Verba needs to be adapted for qualitative research.

C. Geertz, *The Interpretation of Cultures*, ch. 1, “Thick Description.” A different approach to understanding social processes that focuses on the meaning of actions to the participants.


Oct. 26 and Nov. 2. NO CLASS; SMALL GROUP MEETINGS.

We will meet in small groups at various times during this week or the following week to discuss your term paper proposals. The proposal should be about two to three pages, plus a short bibliography. Generally speaking, it should state (1) what question you are asking, (2) why it is important for theory and/or policy, (3) what hypothesis you expect to advance, (4) what alternative hypotheses you will address, and (5) what evidence you will examine to prove your argument.

Nov. 7. DECOLONIZATION, INTERVENTION, AND RECOLONIZATION

What explains decolonization and variations in its timing? And what explains the reverse trend in favor of multilateral military interventions and occupation of problematic states? Do humanitarian interveners know what they are doing?


SUPPLEMENTARY:
Hendrik Spruyt, *Ending Empire*, ch. 1 (on e-reserve) and browse. Coalitions and veto points.


Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, ch. 1 and any of the subsequent empirical chapters. How the norms of international society spread and penetrate actors around the globe.


**Nov. 9 and 14. CIVIL WAR, CRISES OF STATE-BUILDING, AND INTERNATIONAL CHANGE**


**Nov. 16. CHANGING GLOBAL SECURITY NORMS AND INSTITUTIONS**

How have norms and practices of war been changing? What role have ideas, norms, transnational social movements, and symbolic politics played in these changes? Can international institutions be designed to manage change and steer it in desirable directions? What are the implications of this for the transformation of international relations more generally?


**SUPPLEMENTARY:**


B. Valentino, *Final Solutions*, Introduction, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-90), 5-6 (pp. 152-233).


Nov. 21 and 23. HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

The role of transnational civil society and normative persuasion as agents of change. Alternative perspectives grounded in the domestic politics of the hegemonic power and on pragmatic bargaining.

*Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Activists beyond Borders*, ch. 1, 3, 5, brief excerpt in ER, 253-264.


SUPPLEMENTARY:


Beth Simmons, *Mobilizing for Human Rights*, ch. 1 and 3.


Nov. 28 and 30. REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS AND VARIATIONS

Are there substantial variations in behavior across regional international systems? How do cultural or normative theories of regional systems stack up against realist/statist theories, such as Hui’s or Walt’s, domestic coalition theories, such as Solingen’s, or modernization theories such as Mousseau’s?

Michael Barnett, Dialogues in Arab Politics, ch. 2.

SUPPLEMENTARY:
Etel Solingen, Regional Orders at Century’s Dawn, ch. 2. Internationalist versus nationalist coalitions; Middle East case.
Amitav Acharya, Constructing a Security Community in Southeast Asia. ASEAN.
Christian Reus-Smit, The Moral Purpose of the State, ch. 1-3. Claims that the moral purposes of domestic society are reflected in the norms of international society.

Dec. 5 and 7. NO CLASS; TERM PAPER CONSULTATIONS.

To be scheduled as convenient during this week.

Dec. 12. MULTIPLE MODERNITIES? THE CASE OF CHINA

With the current exception of Singapore, all wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable countries are liberal democracies that embody all the social, economic, and institutional features described in classical modernization theory. So far, alternative paths to modernity have all turned out to be unstable or have failed to achieve full modernity. Does China represent a potentially successful alternative path leading to alternative, but modern endpoint? If so (or if not), what are the implications of China’s rise for change in the international system?


SUPPLEMENTARY:
Alastair Iain Johnston, Social States: China in International Institutions, ch. 1.
Daedalus, winter 2000, special issue on “Multiple Modernities,” esp. articles by Eisenstadt and Kaviraj.

And review the Kang debate from last week.