Mondays, 2:10-4:00 in 1302 International Affairs
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Requirements:

(1) Three essays based on readings on the syllabus, 6 to 8 pages each, due on October 18, November 15, and December 13. 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 timed final exam, taking the form of a mock international relations comprehensive PhD exam, answering one question from the World Politics A section of the exam. December 20, 2:00-4:00. 20% of your grade.

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

Readings: Required readings are on electronic reserve via Courseworks. Journal articles and some e-books are available through the library reserves function on Courseworks. Some readings, especially scanned book chapters, are available in the Files function on Courseworks. Some but not all supplementary readings are also on e-reserve or in the Files. The purpose of the supplementary readings is to suggest material for the reading response papers. Asterisk (*) indicates a paperback ordered at the Columbia Barnes and Noble bookstore in the basement under Lerner Hall. Book purchases are optional.

Sept. 13. What’s a theory (of IR), what’s it for, and how should it be evaluated?

In terms of originality, impact, and staying power, these are among a handful of the most successful works of IR theory ever. What did they do right? Why did they lead to productive research programs?


Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, “How Not to Be Lakatos Intolerant,” *International Studies Quarterly* 46 (June 2002), pp. 231-262. How to evaluate whether a research program is making progress or just explaining away its failures.


SUPPLEMENTARY:

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


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


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


Sept. 20. *Structure and agency in IR research programs*.

These days we hear a lot about microfoundations, but little about “macrofoundations.” This week we will read the work of IR rationalists as well as analysts of the impact of international structural systemic constraints on foreign policy. Both are interested in the relationship between agency and structure.

*David Lake and Robert Powell, eds., Strategic Choice and International Relations, read chaps. by Lake and Powell, 3-38, and Frieden, 39-76; optional chapters: Morrow, 77-114, Rogowski, 115-139, and Stein, 197-228.

international system on state structure and domestic politics. Or substitute
*Gourevitch, Politics in Hard Times, ch. 3-4, which is an easier read.
Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation, chapters 16-20. This is like reading the daily
newspaper in today’s era of neoliberalism and populist backlash, but it is written
in an oblique style, so you may need background to understand it. For helpful
Review of Books December 21, 2017, at https://www-nybooks-
com.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/articles/2017/12/21/karl-polanyi-man-from-red-
vienna/. Then read Ruggie, then take a look at Polanyi’s book.
John Gerard Ruggie, “International Regimes, Transactions, and Change: Embedded
Liberalism in the Postwar Economic Order,” International Organization 36:2
(Spring 1982). This extends Polanyi to understand the Bretton-Woods system.
Alexander Gerschenkron, Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective, ch. 1. The
impact of late development on the structure of the state and the nature of its ruling
coalition. Implications for ideology and foreign policy are in his other book,
Bread and Democracy in Germany. Compare to Yuen Yuen Ang, How China
Escaped the Poverty Trap, for the Dec. 14 class.
Alexander Wendt, “The Agent-Structure Problem in International Relations Theory,”
International Organization 41, Summer 1987, 335-370. Not an easy read, but
skim this canonical article.

SUPPLEMENTARY:
James Fearon and Alexander Wendt, “Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View,”
Handbook of International Relations (2002 ed.), eds. Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas
Risse, and Beth Simmons. Structure and agency.
David A. Lake, “Theory is Dead, Long Live Theory: The End of the Great Debates and
the Rise of Eclecticism in International Relations,” European Journal of
James Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science," World
Politics, January 1991. Rationality as the default standard in counterfactuals.
Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, “Power in International Politics,” International
Organization 59:1 (January 2005). Four types: compulsory, institutional,
structural, and productive.

Sept. 27. Strategy and bargaining in anarchical systems (co-taught with Richard Betts)
*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.
Stacie Goddard, "When Right Makes Might: How Prussia Overturned the European

*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.”


450-456.
Oct. 4. *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):
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.


Oct. 11. *The Democratic Peace research program: “the closest we have to a law”? (co-taught with Michael Doyle)*


*International Organization* 75:2 (Spring 2021), special issue on “Challenges to the Liberal International Order,” introductory essay by Lake, Martin, and Risse.

SUPPLEMENTARY:


Oct. 18. *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**

Danielle Lupton, *Reputation for Resolve* (Cornell, 2020). Blurb: “most important statement on reputations in international relations in a decade.”


*Too Much Global Governance?*


*Not Enough?*


*Too Much in Some Areas?*


*Too Much for Some People?*


SUPPLEMENTARY
Paul Krugman and Maurice Obstfeld, “The Instruments of Trade Policy,” in *International
Helen Milner, Interests, Institutions, and Information, ch. 1-4, & browse 5-8 chap.

Nov. 1. NO CLASS—UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Nov. 8. 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 or issue linkage device:

4) "Not much:"
Note also Grieco and Mearsheimer in supplemental readings.

5) Solve political hold-up problems:

6) Constructivist view:

7) Solve private information problems:

*What shapes the design of IOs?*


**SUPPLEMENTARY:**


Nov. 15. *Norms, Rights, and Persuasion*


**SUPPLEMENTARY:**


Nov. 22. *Perception and signaling* (co-taught with Robert Jervis and Keren Yarhi-Milo)

*Jervis, Perception and Misperception in International Politics,* preface to the new edition, pp. xiii-xc.


1-31 (also see his “Emotion and Strategy in the Korean War,” IO 67 (Spring 2013), 221-52, and, for an overview by several scholars, “Forum: Emotions and World Politics,” International Theory 6 (November 2014), 490-594).

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.
Glenn Snyder and Paul Diesing, Conflict Among Nations, 315-332.

Nov. 29. Civil war and terrorism (co-taught with Page Fortna or Sarah Daly)

Civil War

doi:10.1017/S0020818313000167

**Causes of Civil War**


**Repertoires of Violence**


**Ending Violence**


**SUPPLEMENTARY:**

Christopher Blattman and Edward Miguel, “Civil War,” *Journal of Economic Literature,* Volume 48, Number 1 (March 2010), 3-57.

(if necessary, review from Sept. 26).


Dec. 6. *Empire, hierarchy, and unipolarity*

*Robert Gilpin, War and Change in World Politics*, ch. 3-4.


SUPPLEMENTARY


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


Peter Katzenstein, *Civilizations in World Politics*, ch. 1. Multiple modernities?


SUPPLEMENTARY

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


Gregory Luebbert, *Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy*, conclusion, pp. 306-315. Gerschenkron was sort of wrong. Watch out for the farmers.

