GVPT 708A: Seminar in International Relations Theory
Fall 2022
Tuesdays 9:30-12:15
Tydings 1136

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2PM or by appointment.

This seminar introduces students to key theoretical, methodological, and substantive concerns in international relations scholarship. The course is designed as the core seminar for Ph.D. students enrolled in the Government and Politics graduate program who have chosen international relations as one of their areas of specialization. The course will be conducted in seminar format; students are expected to be prepared to discuss the readings in class each week.

Course Requirements:

Response Papers (60%)—Students are required to write four papers (approximately 4 pages in length) that respond to the readings for a particular week. (On the weeks that students write papers, they will also be expected to help lead class discussion.) I will say more about this requirement during the first class.

Class Participation (40%)—Please do readings in advance and be prepared to discuss in class.

Readings:

Most of the readings are articles or electronic book chapters that are available through the UMD library webpage. However, there are two books that students might wish to consider purchasing, as we will be reading multiple chapters from each:


I have requested that the library place both of these books in its one-day course reserves.
Schedule:

**Week 1: August 30**

**Introduction**

**Week 2: September 6**

**Paradigms and progress in IR**


**Week 3: September 13**

**States in the international system; anarchy; hierarchy**


**Week 4: September 20**

**Preferences**

Jeffry Frieden, Actors and Preferences in International Relations, in Lake and Powell, eds., *Strategic Choice*, pp. 39-76.


**Week 5: September 27**

**Rationality**


**Week 6: October 4**

**Audience Costs, Public Opinion, and International Behavior**


**Week 7: October 11**

**State Leaders and International Behavior**


**Week 8: October 18**

*Domestic Institutions and International Behavior*


**Week 9: October 25**

*Strategic Interaction between States*


**Week 10: November 1**

**Strategic Interaction within States; Two-Level Games**


**Week 11: November 8**

**International Institutions**


**Week 12: November 15**

**Economic Interdependence**


**Week 13: November 22**

**International Change; Diffusion**


**Week 14: November 29**

**The Rise of China**


**Week 15: December 6**

**The War in Ukraine**


*A few additional articles relating to Ukraine will be added later.*