GVPT 708A
Seminar in International Relations Theory
Fall 2016
Mondays, 12:30-3:15PM, Tydings 1111.

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1-3PM, or by appointment.

This seminar introduces students to key theoretical, methodological, and substantive concerns in international relations scholarship. The course begins with an overview of major approaches to the field. We will then examine specific substantive issues relating to international conflict, international political economy, international institutions and organizations, and international normative change. 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:

Research Design Paper (45%)—The main written requirement will be a 15 page research design. A 3 page preliminary summary of the project (with preliminary bibliography) will be due October 10, and the final paper will be due December 19. I will discuss this assignment in more detail during the first class.

Response Papers (15%)—Students are required to write three papers (approximately 3 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.)

Class Participation (35%)—Please do readings in advance and be prepared to discuss in class.

Presentation (5%)—Students will present to the class a brief summary of their research designs on December 12.

Readings:

I have ordered the following books from the University bookstore:


Journal articles should be retrieved from the library webpage.

**Schedule:**

**Week 1 (August 29): Introduction**

**Week 2 (September 5): No class, Labor Day**

**Week 3 (September 12): Realism, Liberalism, Anarchy, and Hierarchy**


**Week 4 (September 19): Rational approaches**


**Week 5 (September 26): Norms, Identity and Culture**


**Week 6 (October 3): Cognitive and bureaucratic approaches**


**Week 7 (October 10): Reflection: paradigms and progress in IR**

*Preliminary summary of research design due today*


**Week 8 (October 17): Bargaining, coercion, and war**


**Week 9 (October 24): Domestic determinants of international conflict I: institutions, democratic peace, and audience costs**


Week 10 (October 31): Domestic determinants of international conflict II: individuals, coalitions, and diversionary dynamics


Week 11 (November 7): The politics of international trade and investment


**Week 12 (November 14): Economics and security**


**Week 13 (November 21): International law and institutions I: do international institutions matter, and if so how and when?**


**Week 14 (November 28): International law and institutions II: the politics, design, and evolution of institutions**


**Week 15 (December 5): Diffusion, international normative change, and networks**


**Week 16 (December 12): In-class presentations**