

## **Introduction to International Relations**

### **POSC 272**

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**Office hours:       Monday 2:00-3:30**  
**Friday 12:00-1:00**

#### Course Objectives:

This course aims to introduce major bodies of theory concerning cooperation and conflict in the international system. In a setting characterized by political heterogeneity and economic inequality, how can the actions of states be understood and compared? POSC 272 seeks to answer this question by exploring theory and applying it to historical and contemporary examples. The first half of the course focuses on issues related to war and peace. The second half covers international economic issues, and issues of the future.

#### Grades:

Mid-term	30
Final	40
Discussion Paper	20
Attendance and Participation	10

#### Reading:

There are three required text purchases.

1. *Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in International Relations* (abbreviated as **IR Theory**)
2. *Assassins' Gate*, George Packer
3. As well, all students will be required to purchase a minimum (15 week, electronic) subscription to *The Financial Times* newspaper.

Other readings are on library electronic reserve.

#### Class Policies to Note:

1. Cell phones must be turned off during class time. If a phone rings once inadvertently, please turn it off immediately. Should a student answer a cell phone **for any reason** during class, he or she will be asked to leave and not to return to that class. If personal circumstances require that a student be available to receive calls during class time, he or she should explain the circumstances to the professor and **not attend** class.
3. Any rescheduling and/or extensions of exams and/or papers that are not completed at the designed time must be discussed **before** the deadline to receive a rescheduling/extension. The professor designates late papers as Fs unless discussed prior to deadline. **Papers will not be accepted as a computer file through email.**

4. Plagiarism whether from digital or printed sources will not be tolerated. Failure to give credit in footnotes for other's ideas, failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another source, and/or failure to acknowledge another author's conclusions will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of university regulations.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES and READINGS**

**Readings marked with \* are on electronic reserve.**

1/17            **Introduction**

1/19            **Critical Reading and Reviews**

Compare and contrast these articles on economic development in the world. What central problems do these pieces reveal? This will be a training session for how to critically review articles.

\*Alexander Gerschenkron, "Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective"\*

\*Lant Pritchett, "Divergence Big Time."\*

*The major theories of international relations come in three varieties: Realism, Liberalism, and Marxism (or world systems). These readings are readings from the main theorists of each camp.*

1/22            **Levels of Analysis**

IR Theory, Chapter 18 (Singer) and 19 (Holsti), this latter piece is a good overview of the theories we examine below

1/24            **NO CLASS**, will be made up 2/7

1/26            **Realism I**

IR Theory, Chapter 6 (Hobbes).

1/29            **Realism II**

IR Theory, Chapters 8 (Morgenthau) and 9 (Waltz).

1/31            **Liberalism I**

IR Theory, Chapter 2 (Doyle)

2/2             **Liberalism II**

IR Theory, Chapters 3 (Wilson) and 4 (Bull)

2/5             **Discussion: America in the world**

The chapters under review argue different conceptions of America's role in the world. Where can we see the roots of realism and liberalism in these arguments?

IR Theory, Chapters 63 (Brooks and Wohlforth) and 64 (Nye)

2/7             **International Political Economy**

\*Robert Gilpin, "Three Ideologies of Political Economy."

**\*\*Evening of 2/7 event—documentary “Arabs and Terrorism” to attend (makeup for 1/24)\*\*5pm Strosacker Hall**

2/9 **World Systems Theory**  
IR Theory, Chapters 10 (Hobson) and 12 (Dos Santos)

2/12 **Discuss: Market Globalization**  
What is the debate about economic globalization? What are the primary costs and benefits of the spread of market forces in the world?

IR Theory, Chapter 50 (Held, et al.), for overview of the debate pieces below

\*M. Wolf, “Why this Hatred of the Market?”

\*Dani Rodrik, “Has globalization gone too far?”

*The most lasting questions in international politics revolve around war and its causes. The next sections focus on debates about war, its causes, and critiques. The documentary Fog of War explores the history of former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and war in the 20th century.*

2/14 **Causes of War**  
IR Theory, Chapters 24 (Waltz), 25 (Gilpin), and 46 (Pruitt and Snyder)

2/16 **Movie**  
*Fog of War*

2/19 **Movie**  
*Fog of War*  
IR Theory, Chapter 48 (Gaddis)  
What are McNamara’s and Gaddis’s answers for what kept the peace?

2/21 **Bipolar versus Multipolar: Which is More Stable?**  
IR Theory, Chapters 13 (Waltz), 14 (Deutsch and Singer), 28 (Morgenthau), and 29 (Organski)

2/23 **Discussion: Critical Views**  
Two of these chapters develop different critical approaches to international relations theory, particularly realism. The third chapter provides a realist response.

IR Theory, Chapters 35 (Wendt), 36 (Tickner), 38 Mearsheimer)

*The pressures and opportunities of international politics change with one’s POSITION and TIMING in the world. In these next classes we will examine differences between states in the developed world versus states in the developing world.*

2/26 **State Formation in the West**  
\*Charles Tilly, “How War Made States, and Vice Versa.”

2/28 **States in the Developing World**  
\*Christopher Clapham, “The Third World State.”

3/2 **Discussion: States in the Middle East**

Why are there no great regional powers in the Middle East? There are certainly a number of geographic and social reasons why we should expect such a power. How does Lustick use the Tilly framework to answer this mystery?

\*Ian, Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Power."

3/5            **Global Chaos?**  
IR Theory, Chapters 52 (Huntington), 53 (Kaplan), 54 (Sadowski)

3/7            **Global Chaos cont'd and Exam Review**

3/9            **MIDTERM EXAM**

3/12-3/16    **SPRING BREAK**

*How to achieve cooperation among states involves a number of debates. Can we ever cooperate? Do international institutions help states to cooperate?*

3/19            **Sources of Cooperation and Stability**  
IR Theory, Chapters 32 (Keohane), 33 (Axelrod)

3/21            **Pressures Against Cooperation**  
IR Theory, Chapter 27 (Jervis), 37 (Grieco)

3/23            **Discussion: Integration and International Organizations**  
How are international organizations expected to encourage cooperation among states? What problems are there in the ability of states to cooperate thru such institutions?  
IR Theory, Chapter 34 (Puchala) and 22 (Barnett and Finnemore)

*While strict international relations theory is focused on states, new actors are now serious players in international politics. These actors are not easy to define as the example of terrorism will demonstrate. Finally, we will tackle the question of what drives Middle Eastern anger toward the US, policy or freedom.*

3/26            **Discussion: Terrorism**  
What are the rival definitions of terrorism? What is at stake in these definitions?  
\*Grenville Byford, "The Wrong War."  
\*Benjamin Netanyahu, "Defining Terrorism."

3/28            **Non-State Actors and Terrorism**  
IR Theory, Chapters 55 (Hoffman)

3/30            **Discussion: What explains the hatred?**  
These articles pose radically different accounts for why popular perception in the Middle East is anti-American.  
\*David Waldner, "Origins of Militant Islam" and Oil and Despots in the Middle East."  
\*Victor David Hanson, "Why the Muslims Misjudged Us."

*These last few weeks we will be focusing on American foreign policy issues. Primarily this will focus on whether or what kind of empire the US constitutes. In parallel, we will read Packer's book on the forces and personalities behind the US invasion of Iraq. How do we make sense of the debate and Packer's account? Keep up as we will cover about 3 chapters a week.*

4/2            **Assassin's Gate**

Chapter 1-2

4/4

**American Empire?**

Tony Judt, "Dreams of Empire," *New York Review of Books*, 51, 17 (November 4, 2004)

This piece can be accessed through the library electronic data base. It is not on electronic reserve.

4/6

**Discussion: Go Empire!**

What are the arguments for an imperial American role in the world?

\*Niall Ferguson, "Clashing Civilizations or Mad Mullahs."

Max Boot, "American Imperialism? No Need to Run Away from the Label," *USA Today* May 5, 2003. Link below,

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-05-05-boot\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/opinion/editorials/2003-05-05-boot_x.htm)

4/9

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 3

4/11

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 4

4/13

**Discussion: Intervention debates**

What are the ethics and factors affecting debates about intervention?

IR Theory, Chapters 59 (Krasner), 60 (Hoffmann)

4/16

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 5

4/18

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 6

4/20

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 7

4/23

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 8

4/25

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 9-10

4/27

*Assassin's Gate*

Chapter 11-12

4/30

**Final Review**