

Field Seminar in  
**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
17.418

Fall 2013  
E53-438  
Tuesdays, 1-3pm

Department of Political Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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### **Description**

This seminar provides an overview of the field of international relations. Each week, a different approach to explaining international relations will be examined. By surveying major concepts and theories in the field, the seminar will also assist graduate students in preparing for the comprehensive examination and further study in the department's more specialized offerings in international relations.

The seminar will meet once a week. Master's students and undergraduates may enroll only with the instructor's permission.

### **Requirements**

A successful seminar requires attendance at every meeting, completion of all readings and active, engaged participation. To stimulate discussion, students will be assigned as discussants.

In addition, this seminar has three writing assignments:

1. Three short essays, no more than 750 words or three pages long. The essays should critically examine a hypothesis, theory, question, concept or controversy contained in one or more readings for each week. The essay may address only a subset of the readings, but under no circumstances should the essay simply summarize assigned texts. A copy of the essay must be e-mailed to Professors Fravel and Narang as an attachment (.doc or .pdf) by 5pm on the day preceding each meeting.
2. A take-home exercise due at the end of the term. The question for the take-home will be distributed on **December 11** and will simulate the department's general exam in International Relations.
3. Weekly research abstracts, no more than 300 words long. Based loosely on the topic or issues raised in discussion each week, these abstracts should state a hypothesis, outline its importance and describe how it might be tested. The abstract should be emailed to Professor Fravel as an attachment (.doc or .pdf) within 24 hours after each meeting with the subject heading "17.418 memo." Each abstract should have a title.

Grades will be determined as follows: participation (30%), short essays (30%) and final exercise (40%). Research memos count toward class participation.

Readings for the course are on reserve in library and available on the following Stellar site:  
<https://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/17/fa13/17.418/index.html>

### **SCHEDULE OF READINGS**

#### **10 September**

##### **Introduction and Organization**

#### **17 September**

##### **Overview of the Field**

Morgenthau, Hans. *Politics Among Nations* (New York: Knopf, 1948), Ch. 1-2

Kahler, Miles. "Inventing International Relations," in Michael Doyle and John Ikenberry, eds., *New Thinking in International Relations* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1997): 20-53

Katzenstein, Peter, Robert Keohane, and Stephen Krasner. "International Organization and the Study of World Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (1998): 645-685.

Schmidt, Brian C. "On The History and Historiography of International Relations" in Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, Beth A. Simmons eds., *Handbook of International Relations* (SAGE, 2002): 3-22

Waltz, Kenneth. *Theory of International Politics*, Ch. 1

Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. "A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (2006): 227-249

Frieden, Jeffry A. and David A. Lake. "International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 600, No. 1, (2005): 136-156

Walt, Stephen M. "The Relationship Between Theory And Policy In International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 8 (2005): 23-48

#### **24 September**

##### **Material Approaches**

Waltz, Kenneth. *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979): Chs. 5, 6, 8

Mearsheimer, John J. *Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2001): 1-54.

Wagner, R. Harrison. "What Was Bipolarity?," *International Organization*, Vol. 47, No. 1 (Winter 1993): 77-106

Lake, David. "Anarchy, Hierarchy, and the Variety Of International Relations," *International Organization* Vol. 50, No. 1 (Winter 1996): 1-34

Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall. "Power in International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 59, No. 1 (Winter 2005): 39-75

Schroeder, Paul. "Historical Reality vs. Neo-Realist Theory," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Summer, 1994): 108-148

Wohlforth, William C. "The Perception of Power: Russia in the Pre-1914 Balance," *World Politics*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Apr., 1987): 353-381

Butt, Ahsan. "Anarchy and Hierarchy in International Relations: Examining South America's War-Prone Decade, 1932-1941," *International Organization*, Vol. 67, No. 3 (July 2013): 575-607.

## 1 October

### Rationalist Approaches

Oye, Kenneth. "Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy," *World Politics*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (1985): 1-24

Keohane, Robert O. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984): 49-109

Jervis, Robert. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (January 1978): 167-214

Schelling, Thomas. *Arms and Influence* (Yale University Press, 1967): 1-125

Lake, David A. and Robert Powell, "International Relations: A Strategic Choice Approach," in David A. Lake and Robert Powell, eds., *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1999): 1-38

Morrow, James. "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment and Negotiation," in David A. Lake and Robert Powell, eds., *Strategic Choice and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1999): 77-114

Tomz, Michael. *Reputation and International Cooperation: Sovereign Debt across Three Centuries* (Princeton: Princeton UP): 1-38

## 8 October

### Ideational and Identity-Based Approaches

Ruggie, John Gerard. "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge," *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (Autumn 1998)

Wendt, Alexander. "Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring, 1992): 391-425

Finnemore, Martha. *National Interests in International Society* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996): 1-33

Weldes, Jutta. "Constructing National Interests," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 2, No. 3, (1996): 275-318

Haas, Mark L. *The Ideological Origins of Great Power Politics, 1789-1989* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005): 1-39

Goddard, Stacie E. "Uncommon Ground: Indivisible Territory and the Politics of Legitimacy," *International Organization*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (January 2006): 35-68

Goldstein, Judith and Robert Keohane, "Ideas and Foreign Policy: An Analytical Framework," in Judith Goldstein and Robert Keohane, eds., *Ideas and Foreign Policy* (Cornell: Cornell University Press, 1993): 3-30

Abdelal, Rawi, Yoshiko Herrera, Alastair Iain Johnston and Rose McDermott, "Identity as a Variable," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (December 2006): 695-711

**15 October**

**\*\*\* NO CLASS [Columbus Day Break] \*\*\***

**22 October**

### **Cognitive and Bureaucratic Approaches**

Allison, Graham T. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3 (Sep., 1969): 689-718

Bendor, Jonathan and Thomas H. Hammond, "Rethinking Allison's Models," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 86, No. 2 (Jun., 1992): 301-322

Byman, Daniel L. and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 4, (March 2001): 107-146

Saunders, Elizabeth. "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy." *International Security*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Fall 2009): 119-161.

Jervis, Robert. "Hypotheses on Misperception," *World Politics*, Vol. 20, No. 3 (April 1968): 454-479

Levy, Jack S. "Prospect Theory, Rational Choice, and International Relations," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 41, No. 1 (March 1997): 87-112

Hymans, Jacques. *The Psychology of Nuclear Proliferation: Identity, Emotions, and Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006): 1-46

Kennedy, Andrew. *The International Ambitions of Mao and Nehru: National Efficacy Beliefs and the Making of Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011): TBD

McDermott, Rose. "Experimental Methodology in Political Science," *Political Analysis*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (November 2002): 325-342.

**29 October**

### **Domestic Institutions and Preferences**

Frieden, Jeffrey A. "Actors and Preferences in International Relations," in *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), pp. 39-76

Moravcsik, Andrew. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (Autumn 1997), pp. 512-553

Frieden, Jeffrey A. "Sectoral Conflict and Foreign Economic Policy, 1914-1940," *International Organization* Vol. 42, No. 1 (1988): 59-90

Narizny, Kevin. *The Political Economy of Grand Strategy* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007): 1-38

Friedberg, Aaron L. "Why Didn't the United States Become A Garrison State?" *International Security*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (Spring 1992): 109-142

Fearon, James D. "Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Theories of International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 1 (1998): 289-313

Putnam, Robert. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Summer 1988): 427-460

## 5 November

### War and Conflict

Van Evera, Stephen. *Causes of War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999): Chap. 6.

Gilpin, Robert. *War & Change in World Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1981): Chap. 5.

Fearon, James D. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (Summer 1995): 379-414

Snyder, Jack. *The Ideology of the Offensive: Military Decisionmaking and the Disasters of 1914* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), Ch. 1

Levy, Jack. "Organizational Routines and the Causes of War," *International Studies Quarterly* (June 1986): 193-22

Copeland, Dale. *The Origins of Major War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2000): TBD

Lake, David. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War," *International Security*

## 12 November

### Peace and International Cooperation

Bull, Hedley. *The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics* (New York: Columbia UP, 1977), Chs. 1-3

Martin, Lisa L. "Interests, Power, and Multilateralism," *International Organization*, Vol. 46 No. 4 (1992): 765-792

Mearsheimer, John. "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security* Vol. 13, No. 3 (1994): 5-49

Keohane, Robert, and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (1995): 39-51

Fearon, James. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization*, Vol. 52, No. 2 (1998): 269-305

Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore, "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of Intl Organizations", *International Organization* Vol. 53, No. 4 (1999): 699-732

Ikenberry, G. John. "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order," *International Security* Vol. 23, No. 3 (1998/99): 43-78.

Beth A. Simmons and Allison Dannera, "Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court," *International Organization*, Vol. 64, No. 2 (April 2010), pp 225-256

## 19 November

### War, Peace and Domestic Politics

Owen, John M. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn 1994): 87-125

Layne, Christopher. "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace," *International Security* Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn 1994): 5-49

Mansfield, Edward and Jack L. Snyder. "Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War," *International Organization*, Vol. 56, No. 2 (Spring 2002): 297-337

Narang, Vipin and Rebecca Nelson. "Who are these Belligerent Democratizers? Reassessing the Impact of Democratization on War," *International Organization*, vol. 63, No. 2 (April 2009): 357-379 (Plus Mansfield/Snyder Response in same issue: 381-390).

Fearon, James D. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88, No. 3 (September, 1994): 577-592

Fravel, M. Taylor. "The Limits of Diversion: Rethinking Internal and External Conflict," *Security Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (May 2010): 307-341.

Schultz, Kenneth A. "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War," *International Organization*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (Spring, 1999): 233-266

Jack Snyder and Erica D. Borghar, "The Cost of Empty Threats: A Penny, Not a Pound," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 105, No. 2 (August 2011): 1-20

Trachtenberg, Mark. "Audience Costs: An Historical Analysis," *Security Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (2012): 3-42.

"Do Audience Costs Exist? A Symposium," *Security Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (2012): 369-415.

## 26 November

\*\*\*\* NO CLASS \*\*\*\*

## 3 December

### Nuclear Proliferation and Deterrence

Schelling, Thomas. *Arms and Influence* (Yale University Press, 1967): 1-125

Glaser, Charles. "Why Do Strategists Disagree about the Requirements of Strategic Nuclear Deterrence," in Lynn Eden and Steven E. Miller, eds., *Nuclear Arguments: Understanding the Strategic Nuclear Arms and Arms Control Debates* (Cornell UP 1989): 109-171

Narang, Vipin. "What does it take to Deter?: Regional Nuclear Postures and International Conflict," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 57, No. 3 (July 2013): 478-508.

Powell, Robert. "The Theoretical Foundations of Strategic Nuclear Deterrence," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 100, No. 1 (Spring 1985): 75-96

Singh, Sonali Singh and Christopher R. Way. "The Correlates of Nuclear Proliferation: A Quantitative Test," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 48, No. 6 (2004): 859-885

Robert Rauchhaus, "Evaluating the Nuclear Peace Hypothesis A Quantitative Approach," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (April 2009): 258-277

Alexander H. Montgomery and Scott D. Sagan “The Perils of Predicting Proliferation,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 53, No. 2 (April 2009): 302-328

Tannenwald, Nina. “Stigmatizing the Bomb: Origins of the Nuclear Taboo,” *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Spring 2005): 5-49

Todd S. Sechser and Matthew Fuhrmann, “Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail,” *International Organization* Vol. 67 , No. 01 (January 2013), pp 173 - 195

## 10 December

### Unipolarity

Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, *World Out of Balance: International Relations and the Challenge of American Primacy* (Princeton University Press, 2008): TBD

Pape, Robert. “Soft Balancing against the United States,” *International Security*, Vol 30, No. 1, (Summer 2005): 7-45

Posen, Barry R. “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?” *Current History* (November 2009): 347-352

Special Issue, *World Politics*, January 2009, Selected Articles, TBD

Monteiro, Nuno. “Unrest Assured: Why Unipolarity is not Peaceful,” *International Security*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (Winter 2011/2012): 9-40.

Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, William C. Wohlforth, “Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment,” *International Security* (Winter 2012/13), Vol. 37, No. 3: 7–51.