

Department of Political Science

**PSCI 4800B**  
**Advanced International Relations Theory**  
Fridays 11:35-2:25  
Paterson Hall, Room 236

**Instructor:** Fiona Robinson

**Office Hours:** Mon 9:30-11:30

**Office:** Loeb C674

Fri 9:30-11:30

**Telephone:** 520-2600 x2766

**E-mail:** [Fiona.Robinson@carleton.ca](mailto:Fiona.Robinson@carleton.ca)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course will provide students with an overview of the main theoretical approaches in the academic study of International Relations. Emphasis will be placed on epistemology (how knowledge claims are made) and methodology (how research should proceed) in the context of both traditional and recent theoretical approaches. In particular, the course will focus on different understandings of the nature and purpose of theory, and will be framed by the debate within the discipline between ‘explanatory’ and ‘constitutive’ theories. Students are encouraged to think critically about both the explicit claims and the hidden assumptions of all the theoretical approaches studied, and to consider the relationships between the approaches. Students should aim to complete the course with a better understanding of the role of theory in the study of world politics, the relationship between theory and practice, and the importance of critical analysis in evaluating theoretical perspectives.

**FORMAT**

The class is structured as a weekly three-hour seminar. Most of your learning will occur through readings, presentations and class discussions. Each week, however, the instructor will begin each session with a short lecture (20 minutes) to introduce key themes and ideas associated with each topic. This will be followed by the student presentations. The remainder of the class will operate as a seminar, in which all students are expected to participate actively. Some weeks the discussion will take place among the whole group; other weeks, we will split into small groups for discussion, with representatives from each group reporting to the class. There will be a short break in each class at about 1 pm.

**EVALUATION**

Participation	<b>20 %</b>
Presentations	<b>20% (2x10%)</b>
<b>Critical Review</b>	<b>20% (due February 17<sup>th</sup>)</b>

**Research Essay      40% (10% proposal due March 10<sup>th</sup>; 30% essay due March 31<sup>st</sup>)**

- 1. Participation:** Your participation grade will be marked on the basis of the *regularity, quality and collegiality* of your participation in class discussions. Attendance at weekly seminars is mandatory. To earn a grade of 15 or higher out of 20, you must have perfect or near perfect attendance, and have made regular, informed contributions to the discussion. If you have to miss a seminar for a legitimate reason, please inform me as soon as possible (preferably before the seminar). Students are expected to have completed the required reading before the seminar and to arrive prepared to discuss that week's material. Your participation should reflect your comprehension of the readings, and your ability to think and comment critically on the central ideas, and to observe how the main ideas relate to other readings and themes in the course. ALL students are required to show respect for the instructor and the other students in the group during presentations and group discussions. A demonstrated willingness to encourage and engage respectfully with the ideas of others is a requirement for a superior participation grade.
- 2. Presentations:** Students will be required to do one in-class presentation on a topic to be assigned during the first seminar. The presentation should be approximately 15 minutes long, and it should address the main themes and issues addressed by that week's readings. The presentation should NOT be a summary or précis of the readings. Rather, students should organize their presentation by themes, and should discuss the views of various authors on those themes. A separate assessment sheet outlining marking criteria for the presentations will be distributed in the first class.
- 3. Critical Review:** Students are required to submit a critical review which compares and contrasts the arguments from two of the course readings. The review should be approximately 5-7 pages, and should examine the similarities, differences and relationships between the two arguments. While this is not a formal essay, the review should contain a clear thesis and put forward a specific argument. It should also be properly referenced and documented.
- 4. Research Essay:** Students will be required to write one substantial research essay on a topic of their choice. The essay should be approximately 15-20 pages, typed and double-spaced. This essay must make use of sources beyond the course reading list, and must be properly documented. 25% of the mark for the essay is reserved for the essay proposal, which should include a suggested title, a research question(s) and a working hypothesis with one paragraph of explanation, and a preliminary annotated bibliography. The essay outline is due in class on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>. The essay is due in class on Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>. Late papers will be penalized one grade point per day. (i.e. a B+ paper that is one day late will be reduced to a B).

## **TEXTBOOK AND READINGS**

There is one required text for this course:

Scott Burchill, Jack Donnelly, Richard Devetak, Andrew Linklater, Matthew Paterson, Christian Reus-Smit and Jacquie True, *Theories of International Relations*. 3rd edition. London: Palgrave, 2005.

There is also one recommended text:

Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski, eds., *International Relations: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

These books are available in the Carleton University Bookstore, and have been placed on reserve in the Library. All other required readings for this course will be placed on Reserve in the Library or are available on-line.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

**January 6**

#### **Week 2: Understanding Theory: Positivism and Beyond**

**January 13**

Scott Burchill, 'Introduction' in Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*.

Robert Keohane, 'International Institutions: Two Approaches', *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 4, 1988.

Steve Smith, 'Positivism and Beyond' in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski, eds., *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Colin Wight, 'Philosophy of Social Science in International Relations', in Walter Carlneas, Beth Simmons and Thomas Risse, eds., *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2003.

#### **Week 3: Methodology**

**January 20**

Michael Nicholson, 'The Continued Significance of Positivism?' in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, eds., *International Relations Theory: Positivism and Beyond*.

Jennifer Milliken, 'The Study of Discourse in IR: A Critique of Research and Methods', *European Journal of International Relations*, June, 1999, 5:225-254.

J.A. Tickner, 'What is your Research Program? Some Feminist Answers to International Relations Methodological Questions', *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 49, no. 1, March, 2005, pp. 1-22.

Robert Cox, 'Social Forces, States and World Order: Beyond International Relations Theory', *Millennium* (10), 1991, pp. 126-55.

#### **Week 4: Liberalism**

##### **January 27**

Scott Burchill, 'Liberal Internationalism' in Burchill et al, *Theories of International Relations*.

Michael Doyle, 'Liberalism and World Politics', *American Political Science Review*, vol. 80, no. 4, 1986.

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, 'The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order', *Review of International Studies*, 25, no. 2, April, 1999:179-196.

Francis Fukuyama, *The End of History and the Last Man*. New York: Macmillan, 1992. Chapters 4 and 19.

#### **Week 5: Realism**

##### **February 3**

Jack Donnelly, 'Realism' in Burchill et al, *Theories of International Relations*, 2005.

Kenneth Waltz, Kenneth Waltz, 'Explaining War', excerpt from *Man, the State and War*, in Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism, Globalism and Beyond*. Third Edition. Needham Heights: Allyn & Bacon, 1999.

John Mearshimer, 'Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War', *International Security*, vol. 15, no. 1, Summer, 1990.

Barry Buzan, 'The Timeless Wisdom of Realism?' in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski, eds., *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

#### **Week 6: Marxism**

##### **February 10**

Linklater, Chapter 5, 'Marxism', in Burchill et al, *Theories of International Relations*.

Andrew Gamble, 'Marxism after Communism', *Review of International Studies*, vol. 25, no. 5, 1999.

Immanuel Wallerstein, 'The Inter-State Structure of the Modern World System', in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski, eds., *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Michael Cox, 'Rebels without a Cause? Radical Theorists and the World System after the Cold War', *New Political Economy* 3:3, 1998 (445-60).

**Week 7: Critical Theory**

**February 17**

Richard Devetak, 'Critical Theory' in Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*.

Andrew Linklater, *The Transformation of Political Community: Ethical Foundations of the Post-Westphalian Era*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998, Ch. 6 (pp. 179-212).

Robert Cox, 'Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: An Essay in Method', *Millennium*, Vol. 12, pp. 162-75.

Andrew Linklater, 'The Achievements of Critical Theory', in Smith et al, *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*.

**Week 8: Constructivism**

**March 3**

Christian Reus-Smit, 'Constructivism' in Scott Burchill et al, *Theories of International Relations*.

Alex Wendt, 'Constructing International Politics' *International Security*, 20, no. 1, Summer 1995, pp. 71-81.

Thomas Risse and Kathryn Sikkink, 'The socialization of international human rights norms into domestic practices: Introduction' in Thomas Risse, Stephen C. Ropp and Kathryn Sikkink, eds., *The Power of Human Rights: International Norms and Domestic Change*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

E. Adler, 'Constructivism' in Walter Carlneas, Beth Simmons and Thomas Risse, eds., *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2003.

**Week 9: Postmodernism**

**March 10**

Devetak, Richard, 'Postmodernism' (ch 7) in Scott Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*

David Campbell, *Writing Security*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998. Chapter 1, 'Provocations of Our Time' and chapter 2, 'Rethinking Foreign Policy'.

Cynthia Weber, 'Performative States', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, vol. 27, no. 1, 1998.

Edward Said, *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage, 1978. Introduction, pp. 1-28.

**Week 10: Feminism**

## **March 17**

True, Jacqui, 'Feminism' in Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*

J. A. Tickner, *Gendering World Politics: Issues and Approaches in the Post Cold War World*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001, chapter 1, 'Troubled Encounters: Feminism Meets IR'.

V. Spike Peterson, 'Feminist Theories Within, Invisible to and Beyond International Relations', *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, 10 (2), 2004, pp. 35-46.

Georgina Waylen, 'Putting Governance into the Gendered Political Economy of Globalization', *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 6:4, December, 2004, 557-578.

**\*\*\*No class Friday March 24<sup>th</sup>\*\*\***

## **Week 11: Ethics and Justice**

### **March 31**

Kimberly Hutchings, *International Political Theory: Rethinking Ethics in a Global Era*. London: Sage, 1999. Chapter 2, 'The Ethics of International Politics'.

Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000. Introduction and Chapter 2(pp. 1-26 and 52-70).

Fiona Robinson, 'Care, Gender and Global Social Justice: Rethinking 'Ethical Globalization'', *Journal of Global Ethics* (forthcoming in 2006).

David Campbell and Michael Shapiro, 'Introduction: From Ethical Theory to the Ethical Relations' in Campbell and Shapiro, eds., *Moral Spaces: Rethinking Ethics and World Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999.

## **Week 12: Conclusion: Rethinking theory and practice in IR**

### **April 7**

Marysia Zalewski, 'All these theories yet the bodies keep piling up': theory, theorists, theorising', in Smith, Booth and Zalewski, eds., *International Relations Theory: Positivism and Beyond*.

William Wallace, 'Truth and Power, Monks and Technocrats: theory and practice in International Relations', *Review of International Studies*, 1996, 22, 301-321.

Ken Booth, 'Discussion: A Reply to Wallace', *Review of International Studies*, 1997, 23, 371-377.

Steve Smith, 'Power and Truth: a reply to William Wallace', *Review of International Studies*, 1997, 23, 507-516.

---

### Academic Accommodations

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance ([www.carleton.ca/equity](http://www.carleton.ca/equity)).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: [www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf)

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, *subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.*

**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.