

Carleton University
Fall 2015
Department of Political Science

PSCI 3601A
Theories of International Politics
Friday 14:35 - 17:25
Please see Carleton Central for location

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Course Description

This course examines the main theoretical frameworks in the field of international relations. The course provides an overview of theories, debates, and major scholarly traditions in international relations as they have evolved over the past century. This is done through the study of both mainstream and critical approaches to the subject. The course begins with an examination of the two dominant theoretical traditions, Realism and Liberalism, their contemporary (“neo”) variants, and the English School. In the second part of the course, we consider a variety of approaches which have challenged the traditional theories and offered alternative accounts of world politics, including Marxism and Critical Theory, Post-structuralism, Constructivism, Postcolonialism and Feminism.

The course is not limited to providing a general understanding of these theories but rather will provide students with the intellectual tools to critically assess the strengths and weaknesses of each framework. Since theory and practice have a co-constitutive relationship in international relations, it is critical that these theories are tested and analyzed in relation to recent developments in international politics such as the Syrian civil war, the European debt crisis, the Iran nuclear deal, the Ukraine conflict and deteriorating US-Russia relations. By using international relations theories to analyze these issues in class, students will learn how theoretical frameworks can be successfully used to analyze international events as well as their shortcomings.

Texts:

The textbook for this course is available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore:

Burchill, S., Linklater, A., Devetak, R., Donnelly, J., Nardin, T., Paterson, M., Reus-Smit, C., True, J. (2013). *Theories of International Relations* (Fifth Edition). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

The other required readings will be available through the online journals at: <http://www.library.carleton.ca>

Evaluation

Requirement	Percentage of final grade	Due date
Attendance and Class Participation	12%	-
Quiz	13%	Oct. 2
Research Paper	35%	Nov. 27
Final Exam	40%	TBA

Attendance and Class Participation: It is expected students will have read all readings before coming to class. All readings are required readings. Participation grades will be based on the quality and quantity of your class participation. Attendance is a pre-requisite for participation. In addition to attending class, it is expected that you will participate in an informed and consistent manner in weekly discussions. One point will be awarded for attending each class and engaging in discussions.

Quiz: An in-class quiz consisting of multiple choice and true/false questions will be held on **October 2nd**. Attending classes and reading the required course materials will be sufficient to do well on the quiz. There will be no make-up quiz. Students who are unable to take the quiz on the specified date, due to a documented family or medical emergency, will have to make alternate arrangements with the course instructor.

Research Paper: All students will complete a research paper on a theoretical question, issue, or debate studied in the course. The paper can also use a theoretical framework discussed in class to examine a question of international politics. The emphasis however should be on theory, with at least half of the paper focusing on the merits and limitations of the theory under discussion and the case study being used only to demonstrate this. More instructions will be provided in class. The research paper is a **mandatory** requirement of the course, which must be completed in order to achieve a passing grade.

The paper will be 12 pages in length, typed and double-spaced (12 point font size). Papers must include a proper citation style and have a complete and organized bibliography. The research paper must integrate course readings as well as sources derived from your own research.

Late assignments: To ensure fairness extensions will not be granted except on medical grounds, with appropriate documentation. Late assignments will be penalized by one third of a letter grade (e.g. from A- to B+) per calendar day. Assignments submitted more than 7 days late will receive a grade of zero. Assignments sent by email will not be

accepted. Please do not slide assignments under the instructor's office door under any circumstances. Late assignments must be deposited in the Department's drop-box.

Final exam: The exam is comprehensive: it covers the material for the entire term. Further details about the exam will be provided during the term. It will take place during the official exam period and the University will determine the exact date.

cuLearn

This course has a cuLearn page containing the syllabus and my contact information. All lecture notes will also be posted on the course page.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

Week 1 Introduction to the course (September 11)

Burchill, S. and Linklater, A. (2013). Introduction. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 1.

Snidal, D. and Wendt, A. (2009). Why There Is International Theory Now, *International Theory*, 1(1), 1-14.

Week 2 Realism (September 18)

Donnelly, J. (2013). Realism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 2.

Ashley, R. (Spring 1984). The Poverty of Neorealism. *International Organization*, 38(2), 225-286.

Waltz, K. N. (1982). Letter to the Editor. *International Organization*, 36(3), 679-681.

Waltz, K. N. (2004). Neorealism: Confusions and Criticisms. *Journal of Politics and Society*, 15, 2-6.

Week 3 Realism II: Applications (September 25)

Waltz, K. N. (2012). Why Iran should get the bomb: nuclear balancing would mean stability. *Foreign Affairs*, 2.

Mearsheimer, J. J. (2008). The U.S. should act as an honest broker. *Palestine - Israel Journal of Politics, Economics, and Culture*, 15(1), 147-152.

Walt, S. M. (2011). The Myth of American Exceptionalism. *Foreign Policy*, (189), 72-75.

Week 4 Liberalism (October 2), in-class quiz

Burchill, S. (2013). Liberalism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 3.

Doyle, M. (1986). Liberalism and World Politics, *American Political Science Review*, 80 (4), 1151-1169.

Week 5 The English School (October 9)

Linklater, A. (2013). The English School. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 4.

Buzan, B. (2001). The English School: An Underexploited Resource in IR, *Review of International Studies*, 27(3), 471-488.

Week 6 Marxism (October 16)

Linklater, A. (2013). Marx and Marxism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 5.

Pieterse, J. (1988). A Critique of World System Theory. *International sociology*, (3)3, 251.

Week 7 Critical Theory (October 23)

Devetak, R. (2013). Critical Theory. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 7.

Week 8 Constructivism (November 6)

Reus-Smit, C. (2013). Constructivism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 9.

Wendt, A. (1992). Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization*, 46(2), 391-425.

Week 9 Post-structuralism (November 13)

Devetak, R. (2013). Post-structuralism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 8.

De Goede, M. (2003). Hawala Discourses and the War on Terrorist Finance, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 21(5), 513-532.

Week 10 Postcolonialism (November 20)

Said, E. W. (1995). Orientalism, an afterword. *Raritan*, 14(3), 32.

Anghie, A. (2006). The Evolution of International Law: Colonial and Postcolonial Realities, *Third World Quarterly*, 27(5), 739-753.

Shani, G. (2008). Toward a Post-Western IR: The *Umma*, *Khalsa Panth*, and Critical International Relations Theory, *International Studies Review*, 10(4), 722-734.

Week 11 Feminism (November 27), research papers are due

True, J. (2013). Feminism. In Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*, chapter 10.

Keohane, Robert O. (1998). Beyond Dichotomy: Conversations Between International Relations and Feminist Theory, *International Studies Quarterly*, 42(1), 193-197.

Week 12 Review (December 4) Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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).

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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.