Course Aims and Objectives

PSCI 6600 and PSCI 6601 together constitute the core course in International Relations for the Department of Political Science. Their main aims are: first, to provide students with a solid grounding in all aspects of International Relations theory; and second, to prepare students for their comprehensive examinations at the end of their first year of doctoral studies. PSCI 6601 builds on the material studied in PSCI 6600; in particular, it focuses on the ‘critical’ or ‘reflectivist’ tradition of theorizing in IR. After completing this half of the course, students should have the knowledge and critical tools to compare, assess and analyze different critical theoretical approaches in IR. They should be familiar with the key authors in each tradition, and should be able to identify and discuss the key ideas related to different theoretical approaches. Finally, students should have a clear picture of the relationship between these approaches and the development of the field of IR more broadly.

Class Format

The course is organized as a seminar and meets weekly for one three-hour session. The format of the class is student-led, which means that students introduce and lead discussions each week on selected topics. Each seminar will begin with a short presentation; the presentation will consist of a critical analysis of the key readings for that week. The presentation should have a clear argument, and should outline the key features, strengths and weaknesses of the theorist(s) in question. Presentations should end with three discussion questions that are posed to the class. Presentations should be kept to a length of no more than 15 minutes, and should be supported by a handout that highlights the main points under discussion. The remainder of the class will consist of discussion of the required, and in some cases, the recommended, readings.
Assessment

Seminar Participation 10%
Presentation 15%
Short Essays 25% x 3 = 75%

Seminar Participation: All students are expected to be active participants in the seminar discussion. This includes regular attendance, which is mandatory. Students are expected to attend seminars having done all, at minimum, the required reading.

Presentations: All students are required to do two in-class presentations. Presentations will begin in Week 2; the final presentation will be in Week 11. Only one of these presentations will be formally evaluated; please indicate in advance which presentation you wish to have assessed. Presentations will consist of a critical analysis of the key readings for a particular week. The presentation should have a clear argument, and should outline the key features, strengths and weaknesses of the theorist(s) in question. Presentations should end with three discussion questions that are posed to the class. Presentations should be kept to a length of no more than 15 minutes, and should be supported by a handout that highlights the main points under discussion.

Essays: All students must write three essays. Each essay must be 8 pages in length, exclusive of references (double-spaced, 12 point font, normal margins). Each essay must present a critical analysis of a particular approach to IR theory, as characterized by the work of the authors on the reading list. These essays may incorporate secondary reading material, but this is not compulsory.

Essays are due in class on the following dates: February 10 (Week 6), March 3 (Week 9) and April 7 (Week 12). Extensions will only be granted under exceptional circumstances and with proper documentation. One grade point per day will be deducted for late assignments. The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

*Please note: There will be no class on March 24th. The final class will be held during Review Period of the term, on April 7th.

*Also note: My Wednesday office hours will be cancelled on January 21, February 11 and March 25 due to Graduate Faculty Board meetings. Please see me or my office door for the dates and times of make-up hours.

Course Readings

It is advisable to purchase a good advanced-level reader for use throughout the course. I would recommend either Scott Burchill et al., Theories of International Relations (3rd edition) or Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, eds., International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity (OUP, 2007).
In addition, the following texts are recommended (but not required) for purchase:


The weekly readings are organized into ‘Background’, ‘Required’ and ‘Further’ Readings. Background readings are usually textbook chapters and provide a good overview of the approach; these may be helpful as initial reading, especially if you are unfamiliar with a particular theoretical approach or perspective. The required readings are to be read by everyone each week. Secondary readings are highly recommended and may be helpful for presentations and critical review essays. These readings are also very valuable and highly recommended as part of your preparation for the comprehensive examination.

Books containing primary readings have also been placed on reserve in the University Library. Readings which are taken from academic journals are, in most cases, available through the library's on-line journals.

**Summary of Topics**

1. Post-Positivism: Epistemology and Methodology
2. International Political Theory
3. English School
4. Critical Theory: Frankfurt School
5. Critical Theory: Marxism and the Neo-Gramscians
6. Post-structuralism
7. International Political Sociology
8. Feminist Theory and Methodology
9. Feminist Security Studies and IPE
WEEK 1    Post-Positivism: Epistemology and Methodology
January 6

Background Reading


Required Reading


Further Reading


**WEEK 2  International Political Theory**

**January 13**

**Background Reading**

Chris Brown, 'International Relations as Political Theory' in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theory*.

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**WEEK 3**

**English School**

**January 20**

**Background Reading**

Tim Dunne, 'The English School' in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theory*.

Andrew Linklater, 'The English School' in Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*.

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**WEEK 4**  
**Critical Theory: Frankfurt School**  
**January 27**

**Background Reading**

Richard Devetak, ‘Critical Theory’ in Burchill et al, eds., *Theories of International Relations*.

Nicholas Rengger and Ben Thirkell-White, ‘Still critical after all these years? The past, present and future of Critical Theory in International Relations’. *Review of International Studies*, Volume 33, Supplement S1, April 2007, pp 3-24


**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


Richard Shapcott, *Justice, Community and Dialogue in International Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
Mark Neufeld, *The Restructuring of International Relations Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,  

**WEEK 5  Critical Theory: Marxism and the Neo-Gramscians**
**February 3**

**Background Reading**

Mark Rupert, ‘Marxism and Critical Theory’ in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*.

**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**

*Neo-Gramscian Critical Theory*


**Marxism**


Alejandro Colas, *International Civil Society: Social Movements in World Politics*.


WEEK 6   Poststructuralism
February 10

Background Reading

Richard Devetak, ‘Postmodernism’ in Burchill et al., *Theories of International Relations*
David Campbell, 'Postmodernism' in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *Theories of International Relations*.

Required Reading


Further Reading

James der Derian and Michael Shapiro, eds., *International/Intertextual Relations: postmodern readings of world politics.*


**READING WEEK – NO CLASS FEBRUARY 17**

**WEEK 7 **International Political Sociology
February 24

**Background Reading**


**Required Reading**


Further Reading


WEEK 8 Feminist Theory and Gender Studies
March 3

Background Reading

Jacqui True, ‘Feminism’ in Burchill et al., Theories of International Relations.


Required Reading


Cynthia Enloe, 'Margins, Silences and Bottom Rungs: How to Overcome the Underestimation of Power in the Study of International Relations', in Cynthia


**Further Reading**


WEEK 9 Feminist IPE and Security Studies
March 10

Required Reading


Further Reading

Feminist Security Studies


**Feminist IPE**


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**WEEK 10 Postcolonialism**  
**March 17**

**Background Reading**

Required Reading


Further Reading


Phillip Darby, *At the Edge of International Relations: Postcolonialism, Gender and Dependency*. Cambridge: Continuum International Publishing Group.


*** No class March 24th

**WEEK 11**

**Green Theory**

**March 31**

**Background Reading**

Robyn Eckersley, 'Green Theory' in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theory*.


**Required Reading**


**Further Reading**


**Week 12 Conclusion: Disciplinarity and Diversity in IR**

**April 6** (no presentations this week).

**Required Reading**

Ole Waever, ‘Still a Discipline After all these Debates?’ in Dunne, Kurki and Smith, eds., *International Relations Theory: Discipline and Diversity*.


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**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your
request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 for April examinations**.

**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 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: http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html

**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. 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.

**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.

**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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.