This seminar provides an overview of the field of international relations. It is designed primarily for students pursuing the PhD in Political Science, Public Policy or other related fields. The primary focus is on fundamental theoretical debates and their relationship to empirical social science. The course is meant to complement other graduate offerings, which focus more narrowly on debates about discrete theoretical, empirical and methodological issues.

The requirements for the course:

1. **Attendance and active participation in discussion.** In addition to general participation, students will be assigned each week to serve as critics and defenders of 1-3 readings.

2. **Two 3-5 pp. papers.** Comment critically on 1-3 readings for the week. Students may select any reading as the focus of the paper, but should not write about a reading on which they assume critic-defender role. These papers are to be completed and distributed to the entire class by e-mail by 6 p.m. on the Monday preceding class. Students must be prepared to discuss this paper in class. These papers should respond to and comment on the respective readings, or referee debates among established authorities, but they should not simply do that. While a certain amount of summary, commentary and “refereeing” is appropriate, students are expected to advance some original theoretical, empirical or methodological contribution to our understanding of the underlying issues.

3. **Oral presentation of articles selected by students.** During the final weeks of the course, we will have regular seminar discussion for two hours and in the final hour of the seminar students will lead discussion of 1-2 articles. These articles may: (a) reflect current published research (i.e. work that has appeared in the last five years in a major journal); and/or (b) classic works pertaining to a major strand of IR theory not otherwise covered in the syllabus. In either case, students will be expected to select articles of significance to theoretical and/or empirical debates in international relations on an issue that has not received sufficient attention in the assigned readings. These articles must be approved by the instructors.

4. **One 10 pp. paper.** This paper, due on “Dean’s Date,” should address an important issue in general international relations theory in a way that prepares the way for empirical work. This paper should develop a new idea as a basis for an empirical research paper or project that advances the
sub-discipline theoretically. We do not want you to conduct the research, or to write a classic research prospectus. Instead, the paper should contain a statement of the theoretical puzzle, a short literature review, and a specification of causal mechanisms to be analyzed empirically. It should contain competing empirical claims. The paper should not, however, enter into detailed discussion of methodology (e.g. case selection, measurement, statistical estimation strategy, process-tracing via qualitative sources, or other practical problems of realizing the research strategy). Though theoretical, the paper should not be entirely abstract, and thus empirical examples are encouraged to illustrate, clarify and establish the potential significance of theoretical arguments. Topics should be selected in consultation with the instructors.

All written work should be submitted in electronic form by e-mail attachment only. Grading will be on the basis of attendance, participation in class discussion, evidence of having completed the readings, and written assignments. All readings are on reserve on Blackboard, at the library, or to be provided directly. You should search for copies of books at on line providers like amazon, if you desire copies; we recommend you purchase them used.

All e-mail connected with the course should begin the Subject Heading with “POL551: …”. Papers should be submitted by e-mail attachment to both instructors in e-mail with subject headings in caps beginning with “POL 551: - <YOUR NAME> - <ASSIGNMENT NAME>” Papers submitted in any other way may be missed and not graded.

The following books are recommended for purchase:

D. Lake/R. Powell, eds. [Strategic Choice and Int’l Relations]
K. Waltz, [Theory of International Politics]
K. Waltz, [Man, the State, and War]
H. Milner, [Interests, Institutions, and Information.]

R. Keohane, [After Hegemony.]
S. Walt, [Origins of Alliances]
J. Snyder, [Myths of Empire]
Y. Khong, [Analogies at War]
A. Wendt, [Social Theory of International Politics]
**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1 – 22 SEPTEMBER 2010:**  
**INTRODUCTORY SESSION – ANARCHY AND CLASSICAL THEORY**

*Classical Theory and Traditional Paradigms*


Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, skim Chs. 2-3, 5 for major themes, read Chs. 4, 6, 8.

**WEEK 2 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2010:**  
**PARADIGMS, THEORIES, MODELS, LEVELS, CATEGORIES AND ACTORS**

*Levels of Analysis, Neo-Realism…*

K. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chs. 1-2, 4-6, and 8.

*…and its Critics*


*Refutation or Reformulation?*


*Rationalism vs. Constructivism*


*Paradigms as guide for prediction*

WEEK 3 – 6 OCTOBER 2010:
SOCIAL PRESSURES AND STATE PREFERENCES

The Role of State Preferences


Ideational Sources of Societal Preferences


Economic Interdependence and Societal Preferences


Ronald Rogowski, Commerce and Coalitions, Required Chs. 1, 6. Skim 2-5.


Interdependence and Conflict

WEEK 4 – 13 OCTOBER 2010:
DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS AND STATE PREFERENCES

Domestic Representation


Helen V. Milner, Interests, Institutions, and Information, pp. 131-133, read Chapters 1, 9, chapter (2, 3 or 4, choose one), chapter (6, 7 or 8, choose one).


Bureaucratic Politics


S. Krasner, "Allison in Wonderland: Are Bureaucracies Important?" Foreign Policy (Summer 1972), pp. 159-179.


Institutions and the Democratic Peace

J. Snyder, Myths of Empire, Chs. 1-2, 8, and one empirical chapter.


WEEK 5 – 20 OCTOBER 2010 (Kris Ramsay guest participation):
POWER, BARGAINING, AND ORDER

What is Power?


Hegemony and Hegemonic Stability

Gilpin, War and Change in International Politics, Ch. (1), 4, 5

David Lake, Hierarchy in International Relations (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009), Chapters 1-2.


Power Distribution and Order


Bargaining and Conflict

Thomas Schelling, Strategy of Conflict, Ch. 2.


WEEK 6 – 27 OCTOBER 2010 (Robert Keohane guest participation):
INFORMATION AND INSTITUTIONS

Institutions and Regime Theory

Stephen Krasner, Regimes “Introduction” and “Conclusion” in International Organization (Spring 1982).

Kenneth A. Oye, ed., World Politics 38, 1(October 1985), Chapters by Oye and Keohane/Axelrod


…and their Critics


The English School

Variation in the form and function of international institutions


Explaining Compliance


Student Presentations to be Added
WEEK 8 – 17 NOVEMBER 2010:
TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSGOVERNMENTAL ACTORS

**Transgovernmental Networks**


**International Officials**


**Mobilization from within and outside of states**


**Student Presentations to be Added**
WEEK 9 – 22 NOVEMBER (note we meet on Monday in Robertson 011):
IDENTITY AND SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION

Identity and Constructivism: The Ontology

Alexander Wendt, Social Theory of International Politics, Chapters 1, 4, 5 (pp. 233-245 only), 7.


Socialization


Alastair Iain Johnston, Social States (2008), Chs. 1, 5.

Feedback and Evolution of the International System over Time


Student Presentations to be Added
WEEK 10 – 1 DECEMBER 2010 (Ian Hurd as guest participant):
STRATEGIC CULTURE, NORMS, COGNITIVE AND PERCEPTUAL BIASES

Ideas


Strategic Culture and Instrumental Beliefs


Cognitive Bias, Analogical Reasoning, and Threat Perception


Yuen Foong Khong, Analogies at War, Chs. 1, 7.

Peruasion and Norms

M. Barnett, "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East," Ch. 11 in Katzenstein, Culture of National Security.


Martha Finnemore, National Interests in International Society, (1996), Ch. 1 (pp. 24-33 only), 3.


Student Presentations to be Added
Week 11 – *** NB: 6 December 2010 (5:30 P.M. at 187 Prospect Avenue) 
Alliances, Balancing, Deterrence and “Neo-Classical Realism”

Neo-Classical Realism


And its Critics…


Learning from History


Polarity and Perceptions


The Domestic Politics of Alliances


Deterrence


Student Presentations to be Added
**WEEK 12 – 15 DECEMBER 2010:**
**THE DEMOCRATIC DIFFERENCE**

**Democratic peace**


**Democratic foreign policy and international institutions**


**Democracy and trade**


**Student Presentations to be Added**