

International Relations, Yesterday and Tomorrow:

Theory, History, and Policy Debates

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This course is a broad introduction to the politics of international relations. It seeks to acquaint students with the major theories, concepts, and debates about world politics. It will begin by looking at the great theoretical debates in the field – particularly between the realist and liberal schools of thought. The topics will include: the nature of the international system and states; the rise and transformation of the international order over the centuries; the origins and consequences of war; international institutions and the problems of cooperation; the interaction of domestic politics and international politics; the role of ideas and norms about sovereignty; the rise of transnational challenges; the changing character of American hegemony; the rise of China; and the future of international politics.

At the heart of this course is a grand debate over the “problem of order” in world politics. This is a debate over rival visions of world politics. How is order created and maintained in a world of sovereign states? Who commands and who benefits? Do we live in an international of laws that govern the behavior of states and peoples, or are we at least on the road to such an order? Or is all this a sham, and the reality is that we live in a state of international anarchy, where the rules are set by those with the power to make them, and states abide by them only when it is in their interest to do so? Is it a world of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Morgenthau, or a world of Kant and Wilson? Or is it something in between? This course will explore these grand questions through a focus on theory, history, and current global policy problems.

We will have two books ordered:

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues (Pearson, 12th Edition, 2014).

G. John Ikenberry, After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major War (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001).

Session One. July 2 Critical Problems and Theoretical Debates: Can the World be Governed?

G. John Ikenberry, After Victory, Chapter One.

Stewart Patrick, "World Order: What, Exactly, are the Rules?" The Washington Quarterly, Spring 2016.

https://twq.elliott.gwu.edu/sites/twq.elliott.gwu.edu/files/downloads/TWQ_Spring2016_Patrick.pdf

The "Trump Effect" on World Politics

Walter Russell Mead, "The Jacksonian Revolt: American Populism and the Liberal Order," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 96, No. 2 (March/April 2017).

G. John Ikenberry, "The Plot Against American Foreign Policy," Foreign Affairs (May-June 2017), pp. 1-7.

https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/gji3/files/may-june_2017_foreign_affairs.pdf

Session Two. July 3 Realism

Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," Art and Jervis

Stephen Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," Art and Jervis.

John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,"

http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~russellw/Teaching_files/Mearsheimer%20-%20Realism.pdf

Session Three. July 4 Liberalism

Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs"

John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," International Security (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125.

<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2539197?uid=3739808&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21104584861167>

Debate: Is the World Getting More Peaceful?

Interview with Steven Pinker. <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-09-29/world-actually-becoming-more-peaceful-believe-it-or-not>

Session Four. July 5 International Institutions and Order

Robert Keohane, "International Institutions: Two Approaches," International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 32, 1988, pp. 379-96. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-663-00202-4_20

G. John Ikenberry, After Victory, Chapters Two and Three.

Debate: Do Institutions Matter?

John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," International Security (Winter 1994/95), pp. 5-49. <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2539078?uid=3738032&uid=2&uid=4&sid=21103796129641>

Session Five. July 6 Foundations of the International Political Economy

Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," in Art and Jervis.

Grieco and Ikenberry, States and Markets, Chapters Three and Four

Session Six July 9 19th Century: Great Britain, Empire, and the Balance of Power

Henry Kissinger, World Order, Chapter Two, "The European Balance of Power System."

G. John Ikenberry, After Victory, Chapter Four, "The Settlement of 1815."

Session Seven July 10 11 20th Century: America and Postwar Liberal Order Building

G. John Ikenberry, After Victory, Chapter Five, “The Settlement of 1919,” and Chapter Six, “The Settlement of 1945.”

Ikenberry, “Liberal Internationalism, 3.0,” Perspectives on Politics (Spring 2009).
<http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntlSec/NewReadings2add/LiberalIntl3perspecPollkenbe09.17.pdf>

Session Eight July Transnational Actors and Networks

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks,” in Art and Jervis.

Phil Williams, “Transnational Organized Crime and the State,” in Art and Jervis.

Slaughter, Anne-Marie, “The Real New World Order,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 76, No. 5 (September-October 1997), pp. 183-97.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/53399/anne-marie-slaughter/the-real-new-world-order>

Session Nine July 12 South Korea and Rising Non-Western States

Dennis Patterson and Janjsoop Choi, “Diplomacy, trade, and South Korea’s Rise to International Influence,” International Area Studies Review, November 2017.
<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2233865917740726>

Articles from special issue of Ethics and International Affairs, Spring 2018.

Session Ten July 13 The Rise of China and International Order

Aaron Friedberg, “Hegemony with Chinese Characteristics,” The National Interest (July-August, 2011). <http://nationalinterest.org/article/hegemony-chinese-characteristics-5439>

John Mearsheimer, "Can China Rise Peacefully?" The National Interest (April 2014)
<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/can-china-rise-peacefully-10204>

G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," Foreign Affairs
(Feb/March 2008). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63042/g-john-ikenberry/the-rise-of-china-and-the-future-of-the-west>

Session Eleven July 16 The North Korea Crisis

40 Maps to explain the crisis

Session Twelve July 17 American Grand Strategy in the Post-Cold War Era

Andrew Bracevich, "Saving 'America First:' What Responsible Nationalism Looks Like," Foreign Affairs (September-October 2017).
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2017-08-15/saving-america-first>

White House, "National Security Strategy of the United States," December 2017.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905.pdf>

Session Thirteen July 18 The Future of Multilateralism and Global Security

Stewart Patrick, "The Unruled World: The Case for Good Enough Governance," Foreign Affairs (January/February 2014).
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015_national_security_strategy.pdf

Edward Luck, "The Responsibility to Protect: Growing Pains or Early Promise?" Ethics and International Affairs, 2011. <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/francis-deng/3172-edward-luck-the-responsibility-to-protect-growing-pains-or-early-promise>

Session Fourteen July 19 The Future of Global Order

Michael Cox, "Power Shifts, Economic Change, and the Decline of the West," Art and Jervis. (13th ed.)

Barry Posen, "Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?" Art and Jervis.

G. John Ikenberry, "The Future of the Liberal World Order," Art and Jervis (13th ed.)

Session Fifteen July 20 Examination