

James Madison College  
Michigan State University  
Fall 2005  
MC 220  
Phone: 3-1692 (o)

Professor Simei Qing  
Office: #314 S. Case Hall  
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## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY: WORLD POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

### **Scope of the Course**

MC 220, the first half of a yearlong introduction of the field of International Relations, adopts a historical, theoretical and policy-oriented approach to the study of world politics. It provides an overview of the key theories and concepts in the IR field. It examines the major strengths and weaknesses of each theory through historical case studies, in an attempt to discern which aspects of world politics each explains well, or poorly. And it introduces current policy debates concerning the construction of a new world order in the post-Cold War era, particularly the post-9/11 period, to assess the policy-relevance of each theory. Throughout the course the focus is on the implications of different theories or lenses for understanding major international events and the primary challenges to the development of new theoretical frameworks in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Course Objectives**

- Learn about the key components, major strengths and weaknesses of different IR theories and perspectives
- Learn about the meaning of “scientific understanding” of world politics and the controversy over “positivism” in the IR field
- Learn about the different underlying assumptions regarding the causes of war and conditions for peace in the field of international relations
- Learn about the concepts of conflict management and resolution and think about their relevance in the post-9/11 world
- Enhance one’s ability to analyze current policy debates in the war on terrorism

### **Course Requirements**

There will be two midterm and one final exams based on the material covered in the lectures and required readings.

In addition, each student will be expected to prepare an analytical essay of 8 pages, typed double-space, on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor. By **October 17**, you should turn in the form on paper topic (see the last page of the syllabus).

## **Determinants of Grades**

Class Participation and Discussions	25%
First Midterm Exam:	5%
Second Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	25%
Term Paper	25%

## **Required Readings**

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: *International Relations Theory* (New York: Allyn and Bacon, Third Edition, 1999)

Robert Jervis: *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1976)

Akira Iriye: *Cultural Internationalism and World Order* (Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1997)

Roger Fisher: *Beyond Machiavelli: Tools for Coping with Conflict* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1994)

## **Recommended Readings**

Mohammed Ayoob: *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System* (Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1995);

Joseph Nye, Jr.: *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*;

John J. Mearsheimer: *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001);

Dennis Clark Pirages and Theresa Manley Degeest ed.: *Ecological Security: An Evolutionary Perspective on Globalization* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2004);

Michael G. Schechter and Preet S. Aulakh: *Rethinking Globalization(s)* (New York and London: St. Martin's Press and Macmillan Press, 2000);

Robert W. Cox and Michael G. Schechter, *The Political Economy of a Plural World: Critical Reflections in Power, Morals and Civilization* (London, New York: Routledge, 2002).

Phil Williams, Don Goldstein, and Jay Shafritz: *Classic Readings of International Relations, Second Edition* (Thomson Learning Academic Resource Center, 1999).

## **Honors Option**

The focus of our honors sessions will be on the competing interpretations concerning the nature of international relations in the post-Cold War world. We will read two recent books: John Mearsheimer: *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* and Joseph Nye, Jr.: *Soft Power: The Means to Success to World Politics*.

The awarding of an "H" for this course requires that a student earn a minimum of a 3.5 in all of the normal requirements of the course, attend honors session discussions, and write a 15-page research paper.

## **Instructional Model**

There are two important ways I get to know you as a student and a scholar. First, I expect to speak with you individually when you are working on your papers, and I make myself available for that purpose with regular office hours, extra office hours, and appointments. Second, there will be honors seminars offered in conjunction with this course. All students are invited to join this discussion group.

## CALENDER

### Introduction

- August 29 Introduction
- August 31 Theory, Images, and International Relations

#### Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, pp. 1-15.

### Part I. Mainstream Theories of International Relations

- September 7 Realism (1): Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War

#### Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: "Realism: Major Actors and Assumptions: A Summary," *International Relations Theory*, pp. 55-59.

- September 12 Realism (2): The Concept of Power

#### Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: "Power," *International Relations Theory*, pp. 64-66;

Thucydides: "Funeral Oration of Pericles," in Thucydides: *The Peloponnesian War*, on Google website, type: Thucydides, Funeral Oration of Pericles;

Thucydides: "The Melian Dialogue," in Viotti and Kauppi: *International Relations Theory*, pp. 100-105.

- September 14 Realism (3): Historical Origins of Modern Nation-States in Europe

#### Required Readings:

On Google website, type: The Peace of Westphalia.

September 19 Realism (4): The Concept of National Security

Required Readings:

Niccolo Machiavelli: "On Princes and the Security of Their States," in *International Relations Theory*, pp. 59-60, 105-108.

September 21 Realism (5): The System of Balance of Power

Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: "System," in *International Relations Theory*, pp. 66-79;

Thomas Hobbes: "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 108-110;

Jean Jacques Rousseau: "The State of War, Confederation as Means to Peace in Europe," Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 111-126;

Robert Gilpin: "War and Change in World Politics," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 145-153;

Recommended Readings:

Mohammed Ayoob: *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System*

September 26 Realism (6): Two Different Schools in the Realist Tradition -- Classic Realism and Neo-realism

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 14 - 20; 82-87;

Robert O. Keohane, "Theory of World Politics: Structural Realism and Beyond," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 153-183.

September 28 Liberal Internationalism (1): Historical Origins of Liberal Internationalism

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi: Paul Viottie and Mark Kauppi: "Major Actors and Assumptions: A Summary," and "Transnationalism," in *International Relations Theory*, pp. 199-203, 210-219;

Akira Iriye: "Internationalist Imagination," in *Cultural Internationalism and World Order*, pp. 13-50;

Woodrow Wilson: "Fourteen Points",  
<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wilson14.htm>

October 3 Liberal Internationalism (2): The Concept of Economic Interdependence

Required Readings:

Ernst Haas: "Multilateralism, Knowledge, and Power," *International Relations Theory*, pp. 319- 331;

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, Jr.: "Realism and Complex Interdependence," *ibid.*, pp. 307-319.

October 5 Liberal Internationalism (3): The Concept of International Law and Morality

Required Readings:

Hugo Grotius: "War, Peace, and the Law of Nations," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 410-415;

Immanuel Kant: "Morality, Politics, and Perpetual Peace," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 415-421.

Recommended Readings:

Robert W. Cox and Michael G. Schechter, *The Political Economy of a Plural World: Critical Reflections in Power, Morals and Civilization*.

October 10 Liberal Internationalism (4): The System of Collective Security

Required Readings:

Robert S. McNamara: "A New System of Collective Security in the post-Cold War World," at JMC library;

Michael Doyle: "Liberalism and World Politics," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 233-246.

October 12 Liberal Internationalism (5): Debates over Globalization in the Post-Cold War Era

Required Readings:

E. H. Carr: "Peaceful Change," and "The Prospect of A New International Order," in E. H. Carr: *The Twenty Years' Crisis*, at JMC Library;

Andrew Moravcsik: "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 246-257;

John Gerard Ruggie: "Multilateralism: The Anatomy of an Institution," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 331-339.

Robert W. Cox: "Toward a Post-Hegemonic Conceptualization of World Order: Reflections on the Relevancy of Ibn Khaldun," at JMC Library.

Recommended Reading:

Michael G. Schechter and Preet S. Aulakh: *Rethinking Globalizations* (New York and London: St. Martin's Press and Macmillan Press, 2000);

Dennis Clark Pirages and Theresa M. Degeest ed., *Ecological Security: An Evolutionary Perspective on Globalization* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Inc., 2004).

October 17 Debates over Ways of War and Peace between Realists and Liberal Internationalists

Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: "Realists and Their Critics," "Pluralists and Their Critics," *International Relations Theory*, pp. 82-88; 222-225;

*Paper Topic Due (See the Last Page of the Syllabus)*

October 19 *The First Midterm Exam (Blue Books are Required)*

**Part II. Alternatives to Mainstream IR Theories**

October 24 Globalism (I): Its Critiques of Mainstream IR Theory

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 341-362;

J.A. Hobson, "The Economic Taproot of Imperialism," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp.365-368;

Immanuel Wallerstein, "Patterns and Perspectives of the Capitalist World-Economy," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 369-376;

Barry Gills and Ronen P. Palan, "The Neostructuralist Agenda in International Relations," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 377-382;

Craig N. Murphy, "International Organization and Industrial Change," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 383-396.

October 26 Globalism (II): Critiques of Globalism

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi, 357-360.

October 31 Critical Theory, Postmodernist Theory, and Feminist Theory in International Relations

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 18-21;

J. Ann Tickner: "Identity in International Relations Theory: Feminist Perspectives," *The Return of Culture and Identity in IR Theory* (Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publisher, 1996), on reserve at JMC Library.

November 2 The Cognitive Psychological Approach to the Study of International Relations (1): Rethinking Thucydides' Thesis in *The Peloponnesian War*

Required Readings:

Robert Jervis: *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Part I, chapters 1, 2, & 3.

November 7 The Cognitive Psychological Approach to the Study of International Relations (2): Rethinking Machiavelli's Primary Arguments in *The Prince*

Required Readings:

Robert Jervis: *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Part II, chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7.

November 9 The Cognitive Psychological Approach to the Study of International Relations (III): Rethinking the Causes of War in the Mainstream IR Theory

Required Readings:

Robert Jervis: *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Part III & IV.

November 14 Culture and International Relations (1)

Required Readings:

Judith Goldstein and Robert Keohane: "Ideas and Foreign Policy," in Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 297-306;

November 16 Culture and International Relations (II)

Required Readings:

Akira Iriye: *Cultural Internationalism and World Order*, chapters 2, 3, 4 & conclusion.

November 21 Normative Considerations and International Relations Theory

Required Readings

Viotti and Kauppi, pp. 16, 397-405.

November 23 *Second Midterm Exam (Bluebooks are Required)*

**Part III. Conflict Management and Resolution in IR Theory**

November 28 Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution in IR Theory (1)

Required Reading:

Roger Fisher: *Beyond Machiavelli: Tools for Coping with Conflict*, introduction, and chapters 1-3.

November 30 Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution in IR Theory (3)

Required Readings:

Roger Fisher: *Beyond Machiavelli*, chapters 4-6, and conclusion.

**Summary**

December 5-7: Course Summary

Required Readings:

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi: national Relations Theory: Toward a New Synthesis?) pp. 427-432.

December 9 (5:00 p.m.) ***Final Paper Due***

December 15 (3 – 5: 00 pm) ***Final Exam (Bluebooks are Required)***





