

James Madison College
Michigan State University
Fall 2007
MC 220
Phone: 3-1692 (o)

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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, post-9/11 world, to assess the policy-relevance of each theory. Throughout the course the focus is on the far-reaching implications of different theories or analytical lenses for understanding today's world politics, and on the great importance of developing new theoretical frameworks to encounter new challenges in the 21st century.

Course Objectives

- Learn about the key components, major strengths and weaknesses of each IR theory or analytical lens
- 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 concerning the root causes of war and basic conditions for peace in different IR theories
- Learn about the primary concepts and skills of conflict management and resolution in international affairs
- Enhance one's ability to analyze current policy debates on world politics

Course Requirements

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

In addition, each student will write two papers: one short review essay (4 pages) and one long analytical essay (8 pages). In the short review essay, you will compare one mainstream IR theory with two non-mainstream IR theories, to examine their different strengths and weaknesses in analyzing international affairs, and to offer your own

critiques. In the long analytical essay, you will employ one theoretical approach or a combination of several approaches to analyze a contemporary international issue.

By **October 22**, you should turn in the form on your long analytical essay topic (see the last page of the syllabus). During the course, guidelines on how to write these essays will be sent to you.

Determinants of Grades

Class Participation and Discussion	20%
Midterm Exam:	5%
Short Essay	15%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam:	30%

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);

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);

Amitai Etzioni: *From Empire to Community* (New York: St Martins, 2004);

Fabio Petito ed.: *Religion in International Relations* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

Honors Option

The focus of our honors sessions will be on the developing new approaches to encounter new challenge in the 21st century. We will read and debate over two books: *From Empire to Community* and *Religion in International Relations*.

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 long analytical essay.

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

Required Readings:

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

Part I. Mainstream Theories of International Relations

- September 5 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 10 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 12 Realism (3): Historical Origins of Modern Nation-States in Europe

Required Readings:

On Google website, type: The Peace of Westphalia.

- September 17 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 19

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 24

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 26

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 1 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 3 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 8 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 10 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);

October 15 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;

October 17 ***Midterm Exam (Blue Books are Required)***
To ensure fairness in grading, no make-up exams will be given without a doctor’s note.

Part II. Alternatives to Mainstream IR Theories

October 22 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.

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

October 24

Globalism (II): Critiques of Globalism

Required Readings:

Viotti and Kauppi, 357-360.

October 29

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.

October 31

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 5

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 7 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 12 Culture and International Relations (1)

Required Readings:

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

November 14 Culture and International Relations (II)

Required Readings:

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

November 19 Normative Considerations and International Relations Theory

Required Readings

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

November 21 Workshop on Writing Papers

Part III. Conflict Management and Resolution in IR Theory

November 26 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 28 Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution in IR Theory (3)

Required Readings:

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

Summary

December 3-5: Course Summary

Required Readings:

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

Short Essay Due

December 10 (5:00 p.m.) *Long Analytical Essay Due*

December 13 (5:45 – 7: 45 pm) *Final Exam (Bluebooks are Required)*
To ensure fairness in grading, no make-up exams will be given without a doctor's note.

