This course provides an introduction to the theoretical concepts used to describe and explain the behavior of states and non-state actors in world politics. The first section provides an overview of international relations theories drawn from three levels of analysis. The dynamics of the international system, bureaucratic politics and the political process, and individual decision making are evaluated. Next, the means and ends of statecraft will be examined. Building from this foundation, particular issues of historical and current significance including the causes of war, the nature and use of force, morality in foreign policy, international political economy, and the environment are presented and analyzed.

**REQUIREMENTS**

This course will meet twice a week. There will be an in-class midterm on February 27 and a final examination. In addition, each student will be required to write a 1-3 page editorial on issues covered in a particular set of readings and lectures. Participation in classroom discussion is strongly encouraged and will be an important determinant of the final grade. The midterm exam will count for 35%, the final for 45%, the paper for 15%, and general class participation for 5% of the course grade.

Reading material has been assigned for each class meeting. Required and recommended books may be purchased at the Georgetown bookstore. All readings are on reserve at the library. Students are encouraged to read the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and *The Economist* or other news sources and should feel free to raise any questions relating the topics of this course to current events or concerns. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

**Books for Purchase:**


Recommended:


Course Outline:

I. Theories and Nature of International Politics
II. Levels of Analysis
III. Means and Ends of Statecraft
IV. Power and Wealth
V. The Future of International Relations

CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS

I. Theories and Nature of International Politics

A. Introduction and Course Overview (January 16)

   Why study international politics? What is it? In theory? In real life? What makes it distinct from domestic politics?

B. Three Approaches to International Politics (January 18)

   How do different assumptions affect how people explain and interpret international politics? What drives international politics? What difference does it make?

   Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, pp. v-34, 119-123.

II. Levels of Analysis

A. International System

1. Realism and the Assumption of Anarchy (January 23)

   What is anarchy? What can you deduce about state behavior under conditions of anarchy?


**Suggested:**

2. **Balance of Power** (January 25)
   What is it? States seem to do it continually, why? Why avoid entangling alliances?


George Washington, "Farewell Address" (on reserve in the library)

**Suggested:**

3. **Cooperation Under Anarchy: Game Theory Models** (January 30)


**Suggested:**

4. **International Law and Institutions I: International Organizations in World Politics** (February 1)

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, pp. 119-123.


5. **International Law and Institutions II: Peacekeeping** (February 6)


B. **Limitations of a Systemic Perspective**

1. **Explaining Foreign Policy** (February 8)


   Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, pp. 228-250.

2. **Bureaucratic Politics and the Political Process Model** (February 13)


   **Suggested:**

3. **Psychology and Decision-Making** (February 15)


   **Suggested:**

C. **Levels of Analysis and the Causes of War** (February 20)

   What insights do the different levels of analysis offer?


Suggested:

D. Review for Midterm (February 22)

** MIDTERM Exam - In Class, February 27 **

III. Ends and Means of Statecraft

A. Nature of Power and Use of Force (February 29)


B. Military Means I: Security and Deterrence (March 5)

Why is it still important to understand weapons of mass destruction?


C. Military Means II: Use for Force Today (March 7)

Is the post-Cold War era going to be different? Is force still relevant?


Suggested:

**Spring Break**

**D. Economic Means** (March 19)

**E. New Problems: Domestic Conflict and International Crisis** (March 21)


**F. Political Means I: Promoting Democracy** (March 26)
How and when does it work? What does it do?


**G. Ends and Moral Considerations in Foreign Policy** (March 28)

Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*, pp. 532-566.

IV. Power and Wealth

A. Power, Wealth, and Interdependence (April 2)


East Holiday April 4

B. International Trade (April 9)


C. The International Monetary System (April 11)


D. Perspectives on North-South Relations and Development I (April 16)


** No Class on April 18 **

Complete unfinished reading.
E. Perspectives on North-South Relations and Development II (April 23)


F. Sustainable Development and the Global Commons (April 25)


Zeigler, War, Peace and International Politics, pp. 421-439.

V. Conclusion: The Future of International Relations (May 30)


Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" in Richard Betts, ed. Conflict after the Cold War, pp. 5-18. (on reserve)


** Final Exam: As scheduled **

Students are responsible for confirming date and time of final exam.

Good Luck!