The seminar is designed to prepare students to carry out methodologically sound research at the cutting edge of international relations theory. To achieve this purpose, the course begins with an examination of philosophies of science and research methods used in international relations scholarship. We will then explore six core debates in IR theory with reference to both definitive works and recent contributions. We will focus on critiquing these works systematically and assessing the next steps in the research program they represent. The course presumes that you are already familiar with the key works and paradigms in the field as presented in Govt 551: Foundations of IR Theory. Greater understanding of the core works in the field is a positive externality in this course, but it is not the focus. Its goal is to teach you to evaluate the literature, assess its merits and limitations, and make progressive contributions to the field. We will analyze contributions to ongoing debates and research programs using a set of research design questions as a guide. Students are expected to apply the same critical skills when writing and presenting their own research in class. Student presentations and papers will be evaluated using the same research design criteria.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Required and supplemental reading material has been assigned for each week. All students will be responsible for writing four two-page critiques that evaluate a common theme, argument, or method addressed by at least three of the readings assigned for a particular week using the research design criteria as a guide. Classroom discussion will center around the critiques. Each student will also write one-page critiques of two of their colleagues’ penultimate papers. Copies of the critiques are due to the author and Professor Shambaugh at the beginning
of the class following the student’s presentation. Critiques for the students who deliver their papers on the last day of class will be due on Friday, May 1, by 5:00pm.

In addition, each student will be responsible for writing an article-length paper, approximately 30 pages in length. Students are expected to evaluate, critique, test, and build upon a theoretical debate or puzzle in the IR literature. Topics need not be limited to those discussed in class, but they must be approved by the professor. In the paper, students should develop competing hypotheses and test them empirically using either qualitative or quantitative methods. The papers will be evaluated using the research design criteria specified on the first day of class. They should be written so that they could be submitted to a journal after suggested revisions. Students are encouraged to revise and submit their final papers for publication.

Each student is required to present their proposals in class on either February 12 or 19. The presentations will be judged on their professional quality and on the ability of the students to apply the research design criteria. All presentations will be strictly limited to 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of questions and answers by the class.

Each student will also present a penultimate version of his or her paper to the class. Student presentations should be no more than 15 minutes in length and will be followed by 15 minutes of questions and answers. Presentations should be treated as if they were taking place at the International Studies Association or American Political Science Association annual meeting. Appropriate use of overheads, PowerPoint slides, and other presentation materials is encouraged. You may identify an article, chapter, or other material for members of the seminar to read in advance of your presentation. Professionally polished final papers are due in Professor Shambaugh’s mailbox by 5:00pm on the last day of classes, May 4.

Grades will be estimated as follows. 65% of the grade will depend on the final paper, 5% on your classroom presentation of the paper at the end of the term, 5% on the paper topic, 4% on each of the four critical essays, 2% on each of the constructive critiques of your colleagues’ papers, and 5% on participation in class discussions. All assignments will be down graded ½ a letter grade per day after the due date. Except in truly extraordinary circumstances, no extensions will be granted. This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor. Changes will be posted on http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/shambaugh/.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS


COURSE OUTLINE

I. Designing a Social Science Research Project
II. Philosophy of Science and the Purpose of IR Theory and Research
III. Core Debates in International Relations
IV. Student Presentations

CLASS SCHEDULE

I. **Designing a Social Science Research Project** (January 15)

Read and reread throughout the semester:


George Shambaugh, “Research Design Criteria.”

II. **Philosophy of Science and the Purpose of IR Theory and Research** (January 22)


Evaluate Theory Progression: Balance of Power


Evaluate Methodological Progression: Public Opinion and Foreign Policy


Evaluate Modeling Progression: Game Theory and Deterrence

III. Core Debates

1. Power I: Scope, Domain, and Magnitude (January 29)

   Conceptions


   Power, Politics, and Military Capabilities


   Robert Lieber, “Unipolarity, Primacy and American Foreign Policy,” working paper.


   Power, Politics and Economic Capabilities


Suggested:

1b. **Power II: Multiple Faces, Resources and Capabilities** (February 5)

Controlling the Agenda


Suggested:
Power, Institutions, and Ideas


Suggested:

PRESENTATION OF PAPER TOPICS  (February 12, 19)

You are required to meet with Professor Shambaugh and receive approval before submitting your topic proposal. The presentations will be strictly limited to 10 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

2. Sovereignty and the State under Conditions of Anarchy  (February 26)

Sovereignty


States Acting Under Systemic Constraints


Suggested:
Stephen D. Krasner, *Sovereignty: Organized Hypocrisy*

Thomas Biersteker and Cynthia Weber, eds. *State Sovereignty as a Social Construct*

3. **International-Domestic Linkage and State-Societal Relations** (March 4)

Global Markets and National Policies

Stephen Haggard, Sylvia Maxfield and Ben Ross Schneider. 1997. “Theories of


Global Politics and National Policies


4. **Strategic Interaction and the Problem of Cooperation** (March 18)

General Theories and Hypotheses about Strategic Interaction


Reciprocity


Suggested:

5. **Non-State Actors in World Politics** (March 25)

**NGOs**


**Private Actors**


Ideas


6. **Institutions: Context, Tools, and Filters** (April 1)

Institutional Context


William Clark, “Agents and Structures: Two Views of Preferences, Two Views of Institutions,” *International Studies Quarterly* 42 (1998). (The context is domestic, but the implications for IR are important.)


Institutions as Tools


Institutions as Filters


**April 8: Easter Break**

**IV. Student Presentations (April 15, 22, 29)**

Student presentations should be no more than 15 minutes in length and will be followed by 15 minutes of questions and answers. The presentation should be treated like a formal paper presentation at the International Studies Association or American Political Science Association annual meetings. Appropriate use of overheads, PowerPoint slides, or other presentation materials is encouraged.
Polished final papers must be received by May 4 at 5:00 in Professor Shambaugh’s mailbox. All late papers will be down graded $\frac{1}{2}$ letter grade per day late.