

PSC 5315-01

The Development of International Relations Thought

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Course Purpose and Overview

This course examines the underlying nature of international politics. That is, it asks what the basic reality is at which we look when we try to describe the forces that drive international relations. Is that reality fundamentally conflictual or not? Is it ultimately governed by any rules? Who or what are its most important participants? Is it best described as a society, a community, or an anarchy? In trying to answer these questions, the course will also necessarily deal with specific aspects of international politics, such as the balance of power, the causes of war, international law, nationalism, and globalization. We shall examine three views of what constitutes international relations, illustrating these schools of thought by examining the writings of analysts who may be said to exemplify each tradition over a wide span of time. Therefore, although the implication of our attention to these authors is that their thoughts have relevance to contemporary issues, the course will not be limited to currents in today's international relations. Indeed, the grounding assumption of the course is that what has been written about international relations over centuries continues to have relevance in the present.

Course Objectives

During this course, students will:

- 1) Demonstrate an understanding of the conception of international relations held by major political thinkers.
- 2) Demonstrate the ability to think critically about interpretations of international politics put forward from a variety of viewpoints.
- 3) Demonstrate the capacity to link historical thinkers to questions of contemporary international relations.

Textbooks

The following books are useful for studying the development of international relations thought, though in some cases the required reading will be posted on Canvas:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Penguin Classics, 2003), ISBN 0-14-043195-0

Thomas Hobbes, *De Cive* (Kessinger, 2010), ISBN 1-162-65939-4
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago, 1998), ISBN 9780226500447
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Discourses* (Chicago, 1998), ISBN978- 0-226-50036-2
Dante Alighieri, *De Monarchia* (Kessinger Publishing Company, 2010), ISBN 1-166-69650-2
Edmund Burke, *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, vol. 3 of *Select Works of Edmund Burke* (Liberty Fund, 1999), ISBN 0-86597-167-6
Edmund Burke, *Speeches on American Taxation, On Conciliation with America, & Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol* (Textbook Publishers, 2003), ISBN 1-7581-9040-9
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Plan for Perpetual Peace, On the Government of Poland, and Other Writings on History and Politics* (Dartmouth College Press, 2005), ISBN 978-1-61168-034-8
Hugo Grotius, *Prolegomena to the Law of War and Peace* (Macmillan, 1957), ISBN 0-672-60240-7
Immanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace and Other Essays* (Hackett, 1982), ISBN 9-7809-1514-5478

Other shorter required readings, including the two articles that it is hoped all members of the class will have completed before the initial class meeting, will also be posted on Canvas.

Grades

Grades in this course will be determined by the following:

Class participation:	30%
Critique:	20%
Term paper:	30%
Take-home final exam:	20%

Class Participation

It goes without saying that in a graduate seminar informed and regular participation in the class discussions is vital, both to one's own performance in the course and to the exchange of ideas for the class as a whole. By University policy, students must attend seventy-five percent of all class sessions to receive credit for the course. Any absences, or attendance without preparation, will adversely affect the class participation grade and therefore the overall course grade.

Examination

The one examination for this course will be an open-book, take-home comprehensive final examination due on Tuesday, December 9.

Critique

Each member of the class will have added responsibilities on one of the sessions listed below. For that occasion, he or she will read not only the required assignment expected of everyone but also the recommended reading(s) listed for that session. Based on that supplementary knowledge, he or she will write a five-to-seven-page paper critically examining the treatment by the relevant thinker of the continuing questions we shall ask about all the figures we consider, as referred to in the course overview above. This paper will be important in structuring the discussion for that day. Critiques are to be distributed to all members of the class by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Wednesday on which the class meets. This special responsibility of the designated student of course does not diminish the expectation that all members of the class will present their own ideas and evaluations of the material each week, based on a thoughtful reading of the required assignment.

Term Paper

A research paper of at least twenty pages is required. This paper may examine the international thought of any pre-twentieth-century figure, whether political theorist, historian, or statesman, whose work is not represented in the class schedule below. In considering whom to choose, members of the class may find it helpful to consult one or more among three readers on the international thought of many such authors—Chris Brown et al., eds., *International Relations in Political Thought* (Cambridge, 2002), Arnold Wolfers and Laurence Martin, eds., *The Anglo-American Tradition in Foreign Affairs* (Yale, 1956), and Murray Forsyth et al., eds., *The Theory of International Relations* (Allen & Unwin, 1970). The papers will explain the international thought of the subject and critically evaluate its accuracy and adequacy, referring to the same questions mentioned in the course overview.

A paper proposal will be due in class on September 13. This is a one-page document in which you describe the topic on which you intend to write the term paper, as well as a preliminary list of at least seven sources that you intend to use. The paper itself is due on November 29.

Policies

Honor Code: All students are expected to abide by the Baylor Honor Code. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for failure of the course.

Class Schedule and Assignments

Date

Topic

Readings

August 23	Introduction	Required: Martin Wight, “Why Is There No International Theory?” from Herbert Butterfield and Martin Wight, eds., <i>Diplomatic Investigations: Essays in the Theory Of International Politics</i> (Harvard, 1968); Michael Donelan, “The Political Theorists and International Theory,” from Michael Donelan, ed., <i>The Reason of States: A Study in International Political Theory</i> (Allen & Unwin, 1978)
August 30	TBA	
September 6		Dante Required: <i>De Monarchia</i> Recommended: A.P. D’Entreves, <i>Dante as a Political Thinker</i>
September 13		Machiavelli (I) Required: <i>The Prince</i> , entire Recommended: Markus Fischer, “Machiavelli’s Theory of Foreign Politics,” in Benjamin Frankel, ed., <i>Roots of Realism</i> , pp. 248-279 --paper proposal due
September 20		TBA
September 27		Machiavelli (II) Required: <i>The Discourses</i>

Book One, chaps. 6, 9, 26, 38, 43, 58, 59); Book Two, chaps. 1, 4, 9, 12, 12, 30; and Book Three, chaps. 10, 11, 32, 40, 41, 42

Recommended:

Anthony D'Amato, "The Relevance of Machiavelli to Contemporary World Politics," in Anthony Parel, ed., *The Political Calculus*

October 4

Grotius

Required: Grotius, *Prolegomena*

Recommended:

Hedley Bull, ed., *Hugo Grotius and International Relations*; Wight, *Four Seminal Thinkers in International Theory*, pp. 29-61

October 11

Hobbes

Required: *Leviathan*, Parts One, chaps. 13, 14, and Two, chaps. 17, 18, 23

Recommended:

Laurie Johnson, *Thucydides, Hobbes, and the Interpretation of Realism*

October 18

Rousseau

Required: Rousseau, *The Plan for*

Perpetual Peace

Recommended:

Kenneth Waltz,

Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis, section on

	Rousseau (pp. 165-186 in the 1959 Columbia edition); "Rousseau on War and Peace," in Stanley Hoffmann, <i>Janus and Minerva: Essays in the Theory and Practice of International Politics</i> (Westview, 1987), pp. 25-51
October 25	<p>Burke (I) Required: Burke, <i>Speeches on American Taxation</i>, speeches on American taxation and on conciliation with America</p> <p>Recommended: David Fidler and Jennifer Welsh, eds., <i>Empire and Community</i> (Westview, 1999), pp. 3-67</p>
November 1	TBA
November 8	<p>Burke (II) Required: Burke, <i>Letters on a Regicide Peace</i>, letter 1</p> <p>Recommended: James Davidson, "Natural Law and International Law in Edmund Burke," <i>The Review of Politics</i>, 21 (July 1959), pp. 483-494; R.J. Vincent, "Edmund Burke and the Theory of International Relations," <i>Review of International Studies</i>, 10 (July 1984), pp. 205-218.</p>
November 15	Kant (I)

Required: Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, essays on “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent” and “Speculative Beginning of Human History”

Recommended:
Wight, *Four Seminal Thinkers in International Theory*, pp. 63-87;
W.B. Gallie, *Philosophers of Peace and War* (Cambridge, 1979), pp. 8-36

November 22

Thanksgiving holiday

November 29

Kant (II)

Required: Kant, *Perpetual Peace*, essay on “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch”

Recommended:
Andrew Linklater and Hidemi Suganami, *The English School of International Relations*, pp. 155-188

--term papers due

December 6

--final exam due