

GVPT 708A

Seminar in International Relations Theory Fall 2019
Thursdays, 12:30PM-3:15PM, Synchronous, online

Gabriella Lloyd

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Zoom Personal Meeting Room: <https://umd.zoom.us/j/6292737914>

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Office Hours (in Zoom): TR, 3:30-5PM, or by appointment.

This seminar introduces students to key theoretical, methodological, and substantive concerns in international relations scholarship. The course begins with an overview of major approaches to the field. We will then examine specific substantive issues relating to international conflict, international political economy, international institutions and organizations, and international normative change. The course is designed as the core seminar for Ph.D. students enrolled in the Government and Politics graduate program who have chosen international relations as one of their areas of specialization. The course will be conducted in seminar format; students are expected to be prepared to discuss the readings in class each week.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation (40%): This is a reading-intensive course. Students are expected to do all of the readings in advance and be prepared to discuss in class.

Every student should post at least 2 critical questions to the class discussion board by 9 AM Wednesday morning. Late posts will not count towards course credit.

Every student is expected to contribute actively to class discussion. This means posing your own questions to the class and responding to questions posed by others. You should take some time before class to review the questions posted to the discussion board by your classmates and prepare responses. You may be called on to share your thoughts during class.

Students are expected to arrive prepared to class prepared to discuss the readings. I recommend taking notes on the readings that record their main contributions and describe the key concepts. You may be called on to summarize this information during class.

Exams (45%): Students will be tested on their knowledge of IR theory during mid-term and final exams. Both exams will mimic the conditions of a typical IR General Exam.

All exams are open-book and open-note. The questions on both exams will be selected by me and come from the list of Practice IR General Exam Questions posted to our course webpage on ELMS. Students will have access to the full pool of questions all semester and are encouraged to prepare answers for them as we progress through the semester. You should be the sole author of your exam responses, although you should include in-text citations of literature where appropriate.

During the mid-term exam, students will have 1.5 hours to answer one question. During the final exam, students will have the full class period to answer two questions.

Mid-term exam: 15%

Final exam: 30%

Peer-review (15%): After each exam, you will have one week to review an anonymized exam submitted by one of your classmates.

Review the exam and provide constructive feedback in the form of a written memo submitted to me. I will share your anonymized feedback with the classmate whose exam you reviewed.

Everyone will meet with me in-person (via Zoom) to receive feedback on their exam.

Mid-term exam peer-review: 5%

Final exam peer-review: 10%

Policy on Excused Absences related to COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, self-certified notes will serve as documentation for COVID-19 related absences or missed course expectations. This means that students do not need a note signed by a doctor or other health professional for COVID-19 related absences.

In the event that students cannot complete the regular course assessments due to COVID-19 related absences, faculty can suggest alternative assignments for students to make up missing work and complete the course. According to university policy, these alternative assignments are permitted and cannot be the basis for an Arbitrary and Capricious grading claim.

Readings:

Students should order the following books through Amazon:

John Mearsheimer. 2014. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (revised ed.). New York: Norton

Patrick J. McDonald. 2009. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 0521744121

David A. Lake and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691026971

Peter Katzenstein, ed. 1996. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. ISBN: 0231104693

Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691122482

Elizabeth Saunders. 2011. *Leaders at War: How Presidents Shape Military Interventions*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 0801449227

Jack Snyder. 1991. *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 0801497647

Christina L. Davis. 2012. *Why Adjudicate? Enforcing Trade Rules in the WTO*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691152769

Kenneth N. Waltz. (first published 1979; new edition 2010). *Theory of International Politics*. (Original edition: New York, NY: Random House; new edition: Waveland PR INC) ISBN (of new edition): 1577666704

Recommended, not required: Susan D. Hyde. 2011. *The Pseudo-Democrats Dilemma: Why Election Observation Became an International Norm*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. ISBN: 0801449669

Journal articles should be retrieved from the library webpage.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (September 3): Introduction

Jack Snyder. 2009. "One World, Rival Theories" Foreign Policy. (on ELMS)

Jeffrey A. Frieden and David A. Lake. 2005. "International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600 (1): 136–56.

David A. Lake. 2011. "Why 'Isms' Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress." *International Studies Quarterly* 55: 465-480.

Week 2 (September 10): Realist theories

John Mearsheimer. 2014. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (revised ed.). New York: Norton. (whole book recommended; chapters 1-5, 8 required)

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York, NY: Random House, ch. 5, 6, 8. (on ELMS)

Snyder, Jack. 1991. *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, chapters 1-3, 7-8 required (whole book recommended).

Morgenthau, Hans. "A Realist Theory of International Politics" and "Political Power" from *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (on ELMS)

Week 3 (September 17): Liberal theories (I)

Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (read whole book)

Kenneth Oye. 1985. "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy." *World Politics* 38(1): 1–24.

Michael Doyle. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1151-1169.

Andrew Moravcsik. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics." *International Organization* 51(4): 513-553.

Week 4 (September 24): Liberal theories (II)

Powell, Robert. 1994. "Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate." *International Organization* 48 (2): 313-344.

Nye Jr., Joseph S. 2019. The rise and fall of American hegemony from Wilson to Trump. *International Affairs* 95(1): 63-80.

Parmar, Inderjeet. 2018. "The US-led liberal order: imperialism by another name?" *International Affairs*, 94(1): 151-172.

Samina Yasmeen. 2008. "India and Pakistan: From zero-sum to shared security", in Jean-Marc Coicaud and Nicholas J. Wheeler (ed) *National interest and international solidarity: particular and universal ethics in international life*. United Nations University Press. Ch 1 (on ELMS)

Week 5 (October 1): Rational decision-making and its limits

James Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49(3): 379-390

David A. Lake and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, chapters 1-4

Albert S. Yee, 1997. Thick Rationality and the Missing "Brute Fact": The Limits of Rationalist Incorporation of Norms and Ideas. *The Journal of Politics* 59(4): 1001-1039.

Week 6 (October 8): Norms, identity, culture, and emotions

Peter Katzenstein, ed. 1996. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, (whole book recommended; chapters 1-5, 8, 11-13 required)

Week 7 (October 15): Bureaucracies and policy making

**** Mid-term exam today (1.5 hours) ****

David A. Welch. 1992. "The Organizational Process and Bureaucratic Politics Paradigms: Retrospect and Prospect." *International Security* 17(2): 112-146.

Bendor, Jonathon and Thomas H. Hammond. 1992. "Rethinking Allison's Models." *American Political Science Review* 86(2): 301-322.

Recommended but not required: Graham T. Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *The American Political Science Review* 63 (3): 689-718.

Week 8 (October 22): Bargaining theory

**** Mid-term exam peer-review due by 5 PM (Submit via ELMS)****

David A. Lake. 2010/2011. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War." *International Security* 35 (3): 7-52.

Barbara F. Walter. 1997. "The critical barrier to civil war settlement." *International Organization* 51(3): 335-364.

Robert Powell. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60 (1): 169-203.

Dan Reiter. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War," *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-43.

Week 9 (October 29): Domestic determinants of international conflict (I: institutions, democratic peace, and audience costs)

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-807.

Jessica L. Weeks. 2012. "Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 106 (2): pp. 326-347.

Michael Tomz. 2007. "Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach." *International Organization* 61 (4): 821-840.

Jessica Chen Weiss. 2013. "Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China." *International Organization* 67 (1): 1-35.

Week 10 (November 5): Domestic determinants of international conflict (II: individuals, coalitions, and diversionary dynamics)

Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2011. *Leaders at War: How Presidents Shape Military Interventions*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (whole book recommended, chapters 1, 2, and 7 required)

Sarah Croco. 2011. "The Decider's Dilemma: Leader Culpability, War Outcomes, and Domestic Punishment." *American Political Science Review* 105 (3): 457-477.

M. Taylor Fravel. 2010. "The Limits of Diversion: Rethinking Internal and External Conflict" *Security Studies* 19: 307-341.

Week 11 (November 12): The politics of international trade and investment

Ronald Rogowski. 1987. "Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade." *American Political Science Review* 81 (4): 1121-1137.

Michael J. Hiscox. 2001. "Class versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade." *International Organization* 55 (1): 1-46.

Layna Mosely. 2000. "Room to Move: International Financial Markets and National Welfare States," *International Organization* 54 (4): 737-773.

Nita Rudra. 2002. "Globalization and the Decline of the Welfare State in Less Developed Countries," *International Organization* 56 (2): 411-445.

Week 12 (November 19): Economics and security

Patrick J. McDonald. 2009. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press (read the whole book (required))

**** November 26: No class — Thanksgiving Break ****

Week 13 (December 3): International law and institutions

Christina L. Davis. 2012. *Why Adjudicate? Enforcing Trade Rules in the WTO*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (whole book recommended; chapters 1-3, 8 required)

James Morrow. 2007. “When Do States Follow the Laws of War?” *American Political Science Review* 101 (3): 559-572.

Todd Allee and Paul Huth. 2006. “Legitimizing Dispute Settlement: International Legal Rulings as Domestic Political Cover.” *American Political Science Review* 100 (2): 219-234.

Week 14 (December 10): ** Final exam (full class period) **

December 17: ** Final exam peer review due by 5 PM (Submit via ELMS) **