POLI 5524
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Seminar: Tuesdays, 10:05-12.55 LSC, Rm 5528
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Office hours: by appointment

POLI 5520Y is the second half of the Department’s survey of International Relations theory for graduate students. There is a longstanding division of labour between the first half of the course and the second, which is partially based on the more general division within IR between “Security Studies” and “International Political Economy” (IPE). POLI 5520X sets things up by reviewing the broadest theoretical debates within the field, with an emphasis on questions of power and order, and looks at theoretical work which focuses on political/military issues like deterrence, balancing, and the meaning of “national security.” POLI 5520Y focuses on the theory and practice of international cooperation and institutions. The subjects covered in this class include the main theories of international cooperation; the logics and dynamics of international cooperation; the structure, functioning and impact of international institutions; the international political economy of trade, finance, and globalization; non state actors in world politics.

The reading list for POLI 5520Y includes some of the “classics” in the field and some of the best of contemporary IR scholarship. Our purpose here is to develop a sound understanding of the basic assumptions and recommendations of the various theoretical perspectives, to assess them logically and empirically, and to think about how we might incorporate them into our own research.

**Assignments and assessment**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Share of final grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>every week...</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion paper/presentation #1</td>
<td>see below</td>
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<td>Discussion paper/presentation #2</td>
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<td>Discussion paper/presentation #3</td>
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<td>Major paper #1</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
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<td>Major paper #2</td>
<td>Session 13</td>
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Class participation
The same rules established for the first part of the course apply to the second part. This is a graduate-level seminar class, and therefore all students are expected to contribute to the discussion. Your class participation grade will be based on the quantity and quality of your contributions to class discussion. Attendance is mandatory. If you miss more than two classes (without a valid reason—e.g., serious illness) you will get a zero for the “class participation” portion of your grade.
Before each class, you should: 1. carefully read all of the required readings assigned for the given week; 2. carefully read the discussion papers for the given week; and 3. make a few preparatory notes for discussion—e.g., a few sentences on the main ideas from each reading, plus a short list of ideas you thought were especially useful, ideas you strongly disagreed with, or ideas you didn’t understand...
Over the course of the semester, there will be three scheduled times when you will have extra responsibility for leading class discussion. For each of these, you will do two things: First, you will prepare a short discussion paper, to be sent out to me and to the other students before class. Second, you will give a very brief presentation in class to lead off discussion of the reading(s) that you reviewed in your discussion paper.
Discussion papers should be very direct and concise (i.e., average 500 words, absolute maximum 750 words). The papers should give not only a clear and effective summary of the assigned reading, but also offer your own insights and opinions on the relevant issues, especially where that involves making creative connections to other readings and/or debates.
You will choose the readings from the syllabus that you are going to write about and present on (and therefore the due dates) in the second class of the semester: January 13. Discussion papers will be due at least 48 hours before the class which will tackle the relevant readings (i.e., 11:30am on the Wednesday before your assigned class). You must send your discussion paper to me and to everyone in the class, through the OWL email system. Because these discussion papers are supposed to be an important part of all students’ seminar preparation, late papers (without a valid excuse) will be severely penalized.
Your in-class presentation should also be brief and to-the-point (i.e., average 5 minutes, absolute maximum 8 minutes). Your presentation should NOT just be a reading of your discussion paper. Instead, you should just quickly summarize your main points, and highlight some of the key issues for the day’s discussion. You should do a quick rehearsal of the presentation (at least once) before class, to make sure that you can keep it within the time limit.

Major Papers
The two major papers’ format mirrors the one established for the first part of the course. For both of the two papers, you will choose your own topic/question, but each will be a different kind of essay. Each of the two papers should be about 4000-5000 words. Presentation is important here, in the sense of having clear and correct prose, careful editing, and proper citations, but also in the sense of being methodical, well-organized, and concise.
The first paper (due on Session 7 March 16) will be a literature review, where you will use three or four recent journal articles to highlight a particular trend in the IR theory literature, and critically assess each article's contributions to the field. You can get some ideas about the scope and format of a typical review essay by skimming the review essays in the back of major IR journals: World Politics has them regularly, and International Organization and International Security have them often. (Remember that we are looking for reviews of multiple items, not just of single books or articles.)
The second paper (due on Session 13; April 13) will be a case study paper, where you will use a particular historical case as an empirical “test” for competing IR theories. The idea here is not that you will revolutionize our understanding of the historical episode itself, or that you will decisively confirm or defeat any of the theoretical perspectives, but rather that you will show that you understand what’s involved in applying and evaluating the theories empirically.

You are strongly encouraged (but not strictly required) to discuss your research paper ideas with me as soon as they are reasonably solid.

**General policies concerning assignments, deadlines, and grades**

The University Calendar makes plain that “[s]tudents are expected to complete class work by the prescribed deadlines. Only in special circumstances (e.g. the death of a close relative) may an instructor extend such deadlines.” Late essays will be assessed a penalty at the instructor’s discretion. Students who miss the deadline for a discussion paper or major paper on account of illness are expected to hand the assignment in within one week of their return to class, with a medical certificate in hand, per academic regulations in the Dalhousie Calendar.

Plagiarism (intentionally or unintentionally representing other people's ideas as your own) is a serious violation of academic ethics, and will be taken seriously in this class. For info on what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and the penalties for not doing so, check out: [http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/index.php](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca/index.php)

**Resources**

In order to keep the cost of readings down, on-line readings have been used wherever possible. Most of these are available through the university library's subscriptions to on-line indexes like JSTOR and ProQuest. The best way to access them is to search with author and title in the library’s journal database: [http://www.library.dal.ca/Find/?find=journals](http://www.library.dal.ca/Find/?find=journals)

There were a number of readings which were not available on-line or through Dalhousie’s libraries; these items have been put together as a course reader. The readers are available from Julia's Copy Services, on the corner of LeMarchant and Cobourg (in the ground level of the apartment building there).

**Class Schedule**

**Session 1 (January 7)**

**Cooperation in International Relations**


Suggested readings


Session 2 (January 14)
Theories of international cooperation


Suggested readings


Session 3 (January 21)
International institutions


Suggested readings


- 5 -


- Oran Young, *International cooperation: Building regimes for natural resources and the environment*, 1989


**Session 4 (February 4)**

**The logics of international cooperation (bargaining, arguing and litigating)**


Suggested readings


Session 5 (February 11)
The dynamics of international cooperation (commitment, compliance, enforcement)


Suggested readings


Session 6 (February 18)
International Organizations as organizations


*Suggested readings*


• M Rama-Montaldo, “International Legal Personality and Implied Powers of International Organizations”, *British Yearbook of International Law*, 1970


February 25: no classes (Study break)

Session 7 (March 3)
The impact of International Organizations


Suggested readings


Session 8 (March 10)
International Political Economy (IPE) – key debates
A Dickins, “The evolution of international political economy”, International Affairs, Vol.82, No.3 (2006), pp 479-492


Suggested readings


Session 9 (March 17)

International Political Economy part 2 – Trade and Finance


Suggested readings

• Eric Helleiner, States and the Re-Emergence of Global Finance: From Bretton Woods to the 1990s Cornell (1997), ch. 1, 7-9.


Session 10 (March 24)
Globalization and international relations


Suggested readings


• Mark Blyth, Great Transformations: Economic Ideas and Political Change in the Twentieth Century Cambridge (2002).

Session 11 (March 31)
Non-state actors in world politics


**Suggested readings**


**Session 12 (April 7)**

**The future of international relations**


**Suggested readings**
