

# International Relations Theory

*What?* POLI715, University of South Carolina, Fall 2015

*Who?* Tobias Heinrich, [heinriict@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:heinriict@mailbox.sc.edu), GAMB333. No official office hour; just chat me up or email me anytime.

*When and where?* Tuesdays, 2.50–5.35p, GAMB335.

## Outline

The, or perhaps an, answer to the question “War, what is it good for?” is among the foci of the political science subfield of International Relations (IR). Much more falls under it, though. This course will introduce the social scientific study within IR.<sup>1</sup> This encompasses not only discussions of the delineations and demarcations of the subfield (*vis-à-vis* others), but also a broad overview of currents in IR. Given the vast scope, time on details will be scant. More specialized courses will provide more in depth perspective.

The course is an overview by design so that questions, concepts, and associated debates will be front and center. However, as modern political science (and thereby also IR) is heavily reliant on quite technical aspects (game theory, statistics, simulations), we will not be able to ignore these. As most students are very early in their graduate school career, familiarity with the aspects will not required, and engagement with them will be. Foremost, this means asking questions.

If you participate fully, you will

- learn about the broad strokes of the evolution of IR;
- develop an eye for questions in IR and of interest to IR scholars;
- be exposed to the cutting edge of debates within subtopics within IR;
- deepen your skills as a social scientist.

## Required material

We will focus on original material published in journals; no books necessary per se. Some material will be available via Blackboard.

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<sup>1</sup> As this syllabus had to be created on short notice, intellectual debt is owed to other producers of syllabi of similar courses: Mark Crescenzi, Cliff Morgan, Ben Fordham, Simone Dietrich, Randy Stone, Paul Hensel, Jim Morrow, Mike Ward, Bahar Leventoglu, David Sobek, Sam Bell, and Andy Owsiak.

## Expectations, Grading, Rules, etc.

There will be several requirements that are graded. These are:

- *Mock comps, weight of 5.* PhD students will have to pass a written comprehensive exam after their third year. Toward the end of the semester (mid-November, probably), you will take a mock version of that. 3-4 questions will be given, and you have to answer two within a six-hour span of your choosing. This will be fully open-notes, open-books, open-Wiki, open-Google, etc. Exact dates will be discussed.
- *Early mock comps, weight of 3.* Just as above, however given in early October with exact dates to be determined. 2-3 questions will be given, and you have to answer one within a three-hour span.
- *Literature review, weight of 4.* Trace the history and evolution of themes of a research question in roughly ten pages. This also has to include a discussion of data sources. More details will be given. Due date is November 24.
- *Detailed outline for literature review, weight of 1.* Due October 27. Early consultation with the instructor is quasi-mandatory.
- *Weekly questions, weight of 2.* Ten times by Monday before class, post two questions about the readings on Blackboard for everyone to see in response to the readings. The questions have to be non-trivial! Fine questions get full points, trivial ones 50, and absent ones 0.

For everything, you will be graded on a 0-100 scale; the final grade is simply the weighted average of these which are translated into letter grades via the following scheme: A 92-100, B+ 87-91, B 80-86, C+ 77-79, C 70-76, D+ 67-69, D 60-66, and F 0-59. The standard rules of rounding are applied. The University of South Carolina Honor Code applies.

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability Services: 777-6142, TDD 777-6744, email [sasds@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sasds@mailbox.sc.edu), or stop by LeConte College Room 112A. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services.

## Course schedule

This is a rough schedule of the sequence of what will be covered in class. I will most probably amend things quite a bit. So, always check what will be next.

### Week 1: 'Howdy' and more.

*Read:* Hesli, Lee & Mitchell (2012), Maliniak, Oakes, Peterson & Tierney (2011), Frieden & Lake (2005), and Reiter (2015).

## Week 2: Approaching IR, Part I

*Read:* Zinnes (1980), Bueno de Mesquita (1985), Singer (1961), Lake (2011), Ray (2001), and Most & Starr (1984).

## Week 3: Approaching IR, Part II

*Read:* Bean (1973), Staton & Moore (2011), Alesina & Spolaore (1997), Tilly (1985, PDF on Blackboard), Besley & Persson (2010), Powell (2013), and Acemoglu (2003).

## Week 4: -isms, Part I

*Read:* Mearsheimer (2001, see Blackboard PDF), Moravcsik (1997), and Powell (1994).

## Week 5: -isms, Part II

*Read:* Wendt (1992), Kratochwil & Ruggie (1986), Tickner (1997), Reiter (2014), and Galtung (1971).

## Week 6: *Con rason o sin ella*

*Read:* McDermott (2004). And read the following in this order: Walt (1999), Bueno de Mesquita & Morrow (1999), Martin (1999), Niou & Ordeshook (1999), Powell (1999), and Zagare (1999).

## Week 7: War and conflict, Part I

*Read:* Maoz & Russett (1993), Tomz & Weeks (2013), Gibler (2007), Hensel (2001), Stein (2015), and Marinov, Nomikos & Robbins (2015),

## Week 8: War and conflict, Part II

*Read:* Fearon (1995), Fearon (1997) and Colaresi (2004). And read the following in this order: Schultz (1999), Weeks (2008), and Weiss (2013)

## Week 9: Cooperation, Part I

*Read:* Axelrod (1981), Morrow (1994), Fearon (1998), Lake (1996), Koremenos, Lipson & Snidal (2001), and Schultz (2010).

## Week 10: Cooperation, Part II

*Read:* Abbott & Snidal (1998), Downs, Rocke & Barsoom (1996), Simmons & Danner (2010), Hollyer & Rosendorff (2011), and Kucik & Reinhardt (2008).

## Week 11: Mobility of goods, money, and people

*Read:* Simmons & Elkins (2004), Kono (2006), Hainmueller & Hopkins (2014), Hainmueller & Hiscox (2010), Peters (2014), McGillivray & Smith (2004), Wellhausen (2015), and Hiscox (2002).

## Week 12: Economic statecraft (aid, sanctions)

*Read:* Bueno de Mesquita & Smith (2009), Wagner (1988), Nielsen (2013), McLean & Whang (2010), Morgan & Schwebach (1997), Bapat & Kwon (2015), and Milner & Tingley (2010).

## Week 13: Civil conflict, terrorism, repression, torture

*Read:* Gurr (1968), Lake (2003), Bueno de Mesquita (2005), Conrad & Moore (2010), Dragu & Polborn (2014), Buhaug (2010), Hill & Jones (2014), and Bueno de Mesquita (2013).

## Week 14: Domestic consequences of IR-related policies

*Read:* Poast & Urpelainen (2015), Hyde & O'Mahony (2010), Abadie & Gardeazabal (2008), Hersh (2013), Kono & Montinola (2009), and Iqbal (2006).

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