This graduate level introduction to international relations theory is intended equally for MA and PhD students, and for those who do and do not plan further work in international politics. We obviously cannot study all important theories in one term. I have chosen topics largely on the basis of my judgment of the most important theoretical issues in the field, with two major exclusions: theories of international political economy and theories of foreign policy. The resulting course operates at the “system” level and gives special attention given to political realism (Realpolitik) -- the oldest and still most popular theoretical perspective in the field -- and recent “constructivist” work.

The course situates theories and approaches to international relations along two axes. Substantively, we explore the place(s) of force, institutions, and ideas and values in international relations. Methodologically, we explore theories and approaches, variously labeled “rationalist” and “problem-solving,” that take actors or the international system as fixed or given, and those, often labeled “constructivist” or “critical,” that focus on the processes by which international relations is socially constructed and the possibilities for its transformation. Taken together, they to provide students not only an introduction to leading contemporary theoretical work in the field but a set of tools and resources that will allow them to think more deeply and systematically about international issues.

Grades will be based on a one day, take-home final exam (9am until 6pm) and a 15 page review essay (which will count for 1/3 of the final grade). The review essay is optional for MA students, who may choose to be graded on the final exam alone. In addition, the final grade may be raised (but not lowered) by a + or – on the basis of unusually good (quantity not quality) participation in sections.

Reading assignments, by class, follow. In general, it is probably desirable to do the readings in the order listed in the syllabus. The marked with a dagger (†) will be the focus for the discussion sections. And, just in case any of you might be tempted to be insanely dedicated, don’t even think about trying any of the recommended reading; it is largely for future reference.

You should consider purchasing the following books, based on your interests and budget. They are listed in rough order of utility for the course.

Robert O. Keohane, ed., *Neo-Realism and Its Critics*.
Scott Burchill and Andrew Linklater, eds., *Theories of International Relations* (4th edition)
Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*
Ken Booth and Nicholas J. Wheeler, *The Security Dilemma: Fear, Cooperation and Trust in World Politics*
Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall, *Power in Global Governance*
WEEK 1:  
INTRODUCTION AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS  

Note: You need to do these readings before the end of the term, but it is not crucial that you do more than the Waltz reading now.

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, ch. 1.


†Barry Buzan, “The Level of Analysis Problem Reconsidered in International Relations Theory,” in Ken Booth and Steve Smith, *International Relations Theory Today*..


WEEK 2:  
CLASSICAL REALISM  


*E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis*, ch. 1, 6, and 7 and pp. 102-108.


John Herz, *Political Realism and Political Idealism*.

Hans Morgenthau, *In Defense of the National Interest*.

Robert W. Tucker, *The Inequality of Nations*.

Martin Wight, *Power Politics*.

WEEK 3:  
STRUCTURAL REALISM  


†Kenneth N. Waltz, Theory of International Politics, ch. 4-6 (= ch. 2-5 in Keohane, Neo-Realism and Its Critics).

Barry Buzan, “The Timeless Wisdom of Realism?” in Smith, Booth, and Zalewski.

**WEEK 4:**

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AND CONSTRUCTIVISM


Andrew Linklater, “The English School,” in Burchill and Linklater OR


James D. Fearon and Alexander Wendt. “Rationalism and Constructivism in International Relations Theory.” In Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, eds., Handbook of International Relations OR

Andrew H. Kydd, “Methodological Individualism and Rational Choice” in Reus-Smit and Snidal.


Barry Buzan, From International to World Society?

Andrew Linklater and Hidemi Suganami, The English School of International Relations.

Martin Wight, “Why There is No International Theory,” in Bull and Wight, Diplomatic Investigations (reprinted in Der Derian).
WEEK 5:
INTERNATIONAL ANARCHY


Alexander E. Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, ch. 6.


Brian C. Schmidt, *The Political Discourse of Anarchy: A Disciplinary History of International Relations.*


Jack Donnelly, *Realism and International Relations*, ch. 3.


WEEK 6: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS


Glenn H. Snyder, “Process Variables in Neorealist Theory,” in Frankel, *Neo-Realism: Restatements and Renewals*

Ole Wæwer, “Insecurity, Security, and Asecurity in the Western European Non-War Community,” in Michael Barnett and Emanuel Adler, eds., *Security Communities.*


Jack Donnelly, *Realism and International Relations*, ch. 5.


Ernst B. Haas, “The Balance of Power: Prescription, Concept or Propaganda?” *World Politics* 5 (July 1953), 442-77.


Thomas J. Bierstecker and Cynthia Weber (eds.), *State Sovereignty as Social Construct*.

**WEEK 7: NORMS AND IDEAS**


[each section will focus on one of the following readings, to be determined by the TA]


Jack Donnelly, *Realism and International Relations*, ch. 6.
Friedrich V. Kratochwil, *Rules, Norms, and Decisions*.
Ernst B. Haas, *When Knowledge is Power*, Chapters 1, 2, 4-8.
Emanuel Adler, “Cognitive Evolution: A Dynamic Approach for the Study of International Relations and Their Progress,” in Emanuel Adler and Beverly Crawford (eds.), *Progress in Postwar International Relations*.

**WEEK 8:**

**“POWER” IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Michel Foucault, “Truth and Power,” in *Power/Knowledge* (reprinted in Paul Rabinow (ed.), *The Foucault Reader*).
†Barnett and Duvall, *Power in Global Governance*, chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13. (Each section will focus on two of these chapters, to be determined by the TA.)
Ludwig Dehio, *The Precarious Balance*.
Paul Seabury, (ed.) *The Balance of Power*.

**WEEK 9:**

**CRITICAL THEORY AND POST-MODERNISM**


Richard Devetak, “Postmodernism,” in Burchill and Linklater.

Peter Lawler, “The Ethics of Postmodernism” and Jacqui True, “The Ethics of Feminism” in Reus-Smit and Snidal.


Bull, *The Anarchical Society*, ch. 10-14

Steven Roach, ed., *Critical Theory and International Relations: A Reader*.


Andrew Linklater, *The Transformation of Political Community*.

Andrew Linklater, *Critical Theory and World Politics*.

Stephen Gill, ed., *Gramsci and International Relations*.


Brooke Ackerly, Maria Stern, and Jacqui True, eds., *Feminist Methodologies for International Relations*.


**WEEK 10: MORALITY, FOREIGN POLICY, AND JUST WAR**


Richard Tuck, *The Rights of War and Peace*.

Albrecht Schnabel and Ramesh Thakur, eds., *Kosovo and the Challenges of Humanitarian Intervention*.

Kok-Chor Tan, “The Duty to Protect,” in Terry Nardin and Melissa S. Williams (eds.), *Humanitarian Intervention*. 