

**PSC 731 Seminar in International Relations**  
**Spring 2008**

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**Introduction:** This course seeks to provide students with a broad introduction to the field of International Relations from a theoretical perspective. As such, this course can be seen as a survey course that will provide students with background in the major theoretical traditions and arguments in the political science sub-field of international relations.

**Requirements and Evaluation Components:**

Readings will be assigned weekly and students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material. Students should be able to identify the major controversies, arguments and themes in the literature. Because this is a graduate level course, it is also expected that you will move beyond just absorbing the material to thinking about the material. Hence, you should be prepared to debate these works with your colleagues and me every week. Generally, I expect to do little talking in a graduate level seminar; the burden is on the students to keep the discussion moving.

*Evaluation Components:*

Participation and Discussion (40 %): You are expected to engage and to debate the material in class. Lack of contribution to the discussion and lack of preparation will hinder your progress in this course.

Weekly Summaries (20%): each week you are expected to produce a weekly summary of the reading that will address, in a coherent essay, the following points: the major question(s) being asked in the research, the methodology being used in the research, the strengths and weaknesses of the research, and what your conclusions from the research.

Examinations (MA Students only) (40 %): a midterm and final (comprehensive) will be given at the halfway point in the course and at the end of the course. The exam questions will reflect the nature of questions you may face on a comprehensive examination.

Research Design (*Ph.D students only*) (40%)—The last week of class, you must turn in a 20-25 page research design paper. This paper will include an introduction, literature review and theory section that presents a new way to study the topic you have chosen. It will also include a discussion of how you would study this question *if you were to carry out the research*. Therefore, it should also include a list of your testable hypotheses, how you plan on testing these hypotheses (e.g., case study, data analysis), the variables you will include in your model, how you will operationalize those variables, how you will collect your data, and what you expect your results

to show. You should choose your topic relatively early in the semester because you will be responsible for doing sufficient additional research in order to produce an appropriate design paper.

\*\*With regard to late assignments – I do not accept them.

## **Books**

Bull, Hedley. *The Anarchical Society*

Carr, E. H. *The Twenty Years' Crisis*

Gilpin, Robert. *The Political Economy of International Relations*

Gilpin, Robert. *War and Change in World Politics*

Keohane, Robert. *Neorealism and Its Critics*

Keohane, Robert. *After Hegemony*

Shannon, Thomas. *An Introduction to the World-System Perspective*

Waltz, Kenneth. *Man, State and War*

Waltz, Kenneth. *Theory of International Politics*

Watson, Adam. *The Evolution of International Society*

Wendt, Alexander. *Social Theory of International Politics*

## **The Agenda:**

### **Theme One The Unit of Analysis and the Levels of Analysis**

Week One: Introduction to course; Nature of International Relations

Readings: Waltz, Kenneth. *Man, State and War*

### **Theme Two Society and System**

Week Two: The English School

Reading: Bull, Hedley. *The Anarchical Society*

Week Three: The English School (cont'd)

Reading: Watson, Adam. *The Evolution of International Society*

Week Four: The Realists

Reading: Carr, E. H. *The Twenty Years' Crisis*

Week Five: State-Centric Realists

Gilpin, Robert. *War and Change in World Politics*

Week Six: The Neorealists

Reading: Waltz, Kenneth. *Theory of International Politics*

Week Seven: Neorealism -- the Critique

Reading: Keohane, Robert. *Neorealism and Its Critics*

### **Theme Three The Liberal/Neoliberal Response**

Week Eight: Keohane, Robert. *After Hegemony*

### **Theme Three Constructivism**

Week Nine:

Readings: Wendt, Alexander. *Social Theory of International Politics* (Chapters 1-4)

Week Ten:

Readings: Wendt, Alexander. *Social Theory of International Politics* (Chapters 5-8)

### **Theme Four International Political Economy**

Week Eleven: IPE Overview

Readings: Gilpin, Robert. *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Chpts 1-5)

Week Twelve: IPE Overview

Readings: Gilpin, Robert. *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Chpts 6-10)

Week Thirteen: Structuralism

Shannon, Thomas. *An Introduction to the World-System Perspective*



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## Academic Dishonesty and Late Assignments

With regard to academic dishonesty, this topic has become a sad commentary on today's student body. As easier access to information becomes available, students, in many cases, have adopted a carefree attitude towards the documentation of their research. As a result, I have been forced to impose standards and procedures that will be used in the evaluation of all my students' class work. The following is from the *Student Handbook* of the University of Nevada, which governs student conduct.

### **Subsection A: Definitions**

*Academic dishonesty is against university as well as the system community standards. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: Plagiarism: defined as submitting the language, ideas, thoughts or work of another as one's own; or assisting in the act of plagiarism by allowing one's work to be used in this fashion. Cheating: defined as (1) obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination through verbal, visual or unauthorized use of books, notes, text and other materials; (2) obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination prior to that examination; (3) taking an examination for another student, or arranging for another person to take an exam in one's place; (4) altering or changing test answers after submittal for grading, grades after grades have been awarded, or other academic records once these are official.*

### **Subsection B: Sanctions for Violation of Academic Standards**

*Sanctions for violations of university academic standards may include the following: (1) canceling the student's enrollment in the class without a grade; (2) filing a final grade of "F"; (3) awarding a failing mark on the test or paper in question; (4) requiring the student to retake the test or resubmit the paper. A student may also be subject to discipline for academic dishonesty pursuant to the provisions of the Board of Regents Code, Title 2, Chapter 6.*

(Student Handbook, p. 168).

### **The Department of Political Science's statement on plagiarism is as follows:**

*Plagiarism is theft. It is using other people's written or spoken words as your own. Some people consider the use of 7 to 10 words in a row, copied from another source, as plagiarism, unless the words are enclosed in quotation makers and a source cited. It doesn't matter if these words are copied from a Web site, a textbook, a newspaper article or your roommate's paper. Copying words is plagiarism. You must include citations and quote marks when using other people's writing, because plagiarism is a serious offense in any discipline. So is deception, making up stuff and passing it off as the truth. Both are firing offenses in the professional world. In the Department of Political Science, students face a range of penalties for plagiarism and deception, namely:*

- *A grade of "F" on a minor assignment*
- *A request that the student drop the class*
- *Withdrawal of the student by the professor*

- *An “F” in the course*
- *A notation on the student’s transcripts*
- *Expulsion from the university.*

*A combination of these penalties may also be used. If you need more information or have questions about plagiarism, ask your nearest political science professor.*

Self-plagiarism is cheating and will result in a failing grade as well. This policy also includes using papers from previous courses and submitting them as a new paper for the current course.

**My policy** here is simple: students who violate any of the conditions established by the Department of Political Science and/or university regulations with regard to academic dishonesty will fail my course (you will not be allowed to drop it or withdraw from it), and I will pursue administrative charges against the student to the extent that the University of Nevada, Reno will allow. There is no excuse for academic dishonesty. If you do not know procedures for documentation or understand conditions for exams, it is your responsibility to investigate or to ask about them.