

International Relations: Theories and Approaches
GOV 761
Spring 2013

Professor Matthew Kroenig
Georgetown University

Friday: 12:30-3:00

Location: ICC 231

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:30

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Course Objectives:

This is an advanced class on theories of international relations. I assume that students have taken GOV 760 or its equivalent. The main objectives of this class are threefold 1) To familiarize students with current debates in international relations theory, 2) To prepare students for the comprehensive exam and 3) To get students thinking about their own research.

The primary assignment for the class is a mock comprehensive (take home) exam. In addition, I assign short essays that are similar in style to comprehensive exam questions. Finally, each student is required to write a two-page research proposal and discuss this with me.

The reading list includes articles published in the field's top journals in last 15 years. The readings will also showcase some research done by IR faculty here at Georgetown. This may help students in their selection of a dissertation committee. In preparing the syllabus, I have sought to minimize overlap with the most recent offerings of GOV 760, International Security and International Political Economy. The syllabus focuses on articles rather than books because this allows us to discuss several theoretical perspectives in the same week. Each week, I will place the readings in a broader context and will offer a more extensive bibliography of suggested readings.

The syllabus is structured around eleven problem-driven research agendas: the nature of international order, causes of war, crisis behavior, war outcomes, the rise of China, nuclear proliferation, terrorism and insurgency, international organizations, compliance with international agreements, international trade, and international finance. In the past 15 years, the field of international relations has transitioned away from a focus on grand theoretical debates to research that seeks to address real-world problems. In short, the field is increasingly organized around dependent, not independent, variables. This seminar will be similarly organized. In seeking answers to these questions, we will simultaneously cover the most important theoretical developments in the field over the past decade including: the politics of unipolarity, the capitalist peace, audience costs, credible commitments, and the democratic advantage.

Course Requirements:

Grading is based on four components:

1) Class participation and presentations (25%)

This is a seminar, not a lecture course. Your contribution is essential. You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings. Your participation grade is based on:

- a) Active participation in the seminar discussions;
- c) In addition, students will take turns presenting and defending the week's readings.

2) Two short papers (15% each).

The first paper is due by Spring break, the second by April 26. The papers will be on the first and second parts of the course respectively. Each paper should be about 2,000 words. I will discuss these assignments further in class.

3) A short research proposal (10%)

Each student will prepare a two page research proposal by April 26. We will discuss these proposals on the last day of class. All students read all proposals. I *require* each student to discuss ideas or a draft of this proposal with me during office hours at some other point during the semester.

4) A final take home exam (35%).

A mock take-home comprehensive exam. The exam is based on the readings for this class but you can use other materials as well. We will discuss scheduling in class.

Class Schedule

January 11: Introduction

January 18: International Order

Lake, David. "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics." *International Security* (Summer 2007): 47-79.

Ikenberry, John G., Michael Mastanduno and William C. Wohlforth. "Introduction: Unipolarity, State Behavior, and Systemic Consequences." *World Politics* (January 2009): 1-27.

Nexon, Daniel and Thomas Wright. "What's at Stake in the American Empire Debate?" *American Political Science Review* (May 2007): 253-271.

Wendt, Alexander. "Why a World State Is Inevitable." *European Journal of International Relations* (December 2003): 491-542.

January 25: Causes of War and Peace

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

Goemens, Hein and Giacomo Chiozza. "International Conflict and the Tenure of Leaders: Is War Still Ex-Post Inefficient?" *American Journal of Political Science* (July 2004):604-619.

Gartzke, Erik. "The Capitalist Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* (January 2007): 166-191.

Dafoe, Allan. "Statistical Critiques of the Democratic Peace: Caveat Emptor." *American Journal of Political Science* (April 2011): 247-262.

Lieber, Keir. "The New History of World War I and What It Means for International Relations Theory," *International Security* (Fall 2007): 155-191.

February 1: Crisis Behavior

Kroenig, Matthew. "Nuclear Superiority and the Balance of Resolve: Explaining Nuclear Crisis Outcomes." *International Organization* (January 2012): forthcoming.

Slantchev, Branislav. "Military Coercion in Interstate Crises." *American Political Science Review* (November 2005): 533-547.

Weeks, Jessica. "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve." *International Organization* (January 2008): 35-64.

Snyder, Jack and Erica D. Borghard. "The Cost of Empty Threats: A Penny, Not a Pound." *American Political Science Review* (August 2011): 437-456.

February 8: War Outcomes

Reiter, Dan and Allan Stam. "Understanding Victory: Why Political Institutions Matter." *International Security* (Summer 2003): 168-179.

Downes, Alexander B. "How Smart and Tough Are Democracies? Reassessing Theories of Democratic Victory in War." *International Security* (Spring 2009): 9-51.

Reiter, Dan, Allan Stam, and Alexander B. Downes. "Correspondence: Another Skirmish in the Battle over Democracies and War." *International Security* (Fall 2009): 194.

Pilster, Ulrich and Tobias Bohmelt. "Coups-Proofing and Military Effectiveness in Interstate Wars." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (September 2011): 331-350.

Lyall, Jason and Isaiah Wilson II. "Rage against the Machines: Explaining Victory in Counterinsurgency Wars." *International Organization* (January 2009): 67-107.

February 15: The Rise of China

Friedberg, Aaron. "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security* (Fall 2005): 7-45.

Jervis, Robert. "Thinking Systemically About China." *International Security* (Fall 2006): 206-208.

Christensen, Thomas. "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and U.S. Policy toward East Asia." *International Security* (Summer 2006): 81-126.

Johnston, Alastair, I. "Is China a Status Quo Power?" *International Security* (Spring 2003): 5-56.

Drezner, Daniel. "Bad Debts: China's Inflated Financial Power in Great Power Politics." *International Security* (Fall 2009): 7-45.

February 22: Nuclear Proliferation

Kroenig, Matthew. "Importing the Bomb: Sensitive Nuclear Assistance and Nuclear Proliferation," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (April 2009): 161-180.

Kroenig, Matthew. "Exporting the Bomb: Why States Provide Sensitive Nuclear Assistance," *American Political Science Review* (February 2009): 113-133.

Fuhrmann, Matthew. "Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements," *International Security* (Summer 2009): 7-41.

Bluth, Christopher, et al. "Correspondence: Civilian Nuclear Cooperation and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," *International Security* (Summer 2010): 184-200. (Read Kroenig's critique and Fuhrmann's response only).

Hymans, Jacques. "Veto Players, Nuclear Energy, and Nonproliferation: Domestic Institutional Barriers to a Japanese Bomb," *International Security* (Fall 2011): 154-189.

March 1: Terrorism and Insurgency

Lyall, Jason. "Are Coethnics More Effective Counterinsurgents? Evidence from the Second Chechnyan War." *American Political Science Review* (February 2010): 1-20.

Blair, Graeme, Christine Fair, Neil Malhotra, and Jacob Shapiro. "Poverty and Support for Militant Politics in Pakistan." *American Journal of Political Science*, forthcoming, available at online first.

Chenoweth, Erica. "Democratic Competition and Terrorist Activity." *Journal of Politics* (January 2010): 16-30.

Abrahms, Max. "Why Terrorism Doesn't Work." *International Security* (Fall 2006): 42-78.

March 8: Spring Break

March 15: International Organizations

Voeten, Erik. "The Political Origins of the UN Security Council's Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force." *International Organization* (July 2005): 527-557.

Nielson, Daniel L. and Michael J. Tierney. "Delegation to International Organizations: Agency Theory and World Bank Environmental Reform." *International Organization* (Spring 2003): 241-276.

Mansfield, Edward and John Pevehouse. "Democratization and International Organizations," *International Organization* (Winter 2006): 137-167.

Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization* (Autumn 1999): 699-732.

March 22: Compliance with International Agreements

Von Stein, Jana. "Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance." *American Political Science Review* (November 2005): 611-622.

Vreeland, James Raymond. "Political Institutions and Human Rights: Why Dictatorships Enter into the United Nations Convention Against Torture." *International Organization* (January 2008): 65-101 .

Simmons, Beth and Allison Danner. "Credible Commitments and the International Criminal Court." *International Organization* (April 2010): 225-256.

Xinyuan, Dai. "Why Comply? The Domestic Constituency Mechanism." *International Organization* (April 2005): 363-398.

March 29: Easter Break

April 5: International Studies Association Conference

April 12: International Trade

Tomz, Michael, Judith L. Goldstein, and Douglas Rivers. "Do We Really Know that the WTO Increases Trade? Comment." *American Economic Review* (December 2007): 2005-2018.

Mansfield, Edward D., Helen V. Miller, and Peter Rosendorff, "Why Democracies Cooperate More: Electoral Control and International Trade Agreements." *International Organization* (June 2002): 477-513.

Kono, Daniel. "Optimal Obfuscation: Democracy and Trade Policy Transparency." *American Political Science Review* (August 2006): 369-384.

Milner, Helen V. and Dustin Tingley. "Who Supports Global Economic Engagement? The Sources of Preferences in American Foreign Economic Policy." *International Organization* (Winter 2011): 37-68.

Busch, Marc L. "Overlapping Institutions, Forum Shopping, and Dispute Settlement in International Trade." *International Organization* (Fall 2007): 735-761.

April 19: International Finance

Schultz, Kenneth and Barry Wingast. "The Democratic Advantage: Institutional Foundations of Financial Power in International Competition." *International Organization* (Winter 2003): 1-40.

Archer, Candace, Glen Biglaiser, and Karl DeRouen Jr. "Sovereign Bonds and the 'Democratic Advantage': Does Regime Type Affect Credit Rating Agency Ratings in the Developing World?" *International Organization* (Spring 2007): 341-365.

Chwieroth, Jeffrey. "Neoliberal Economists and Capital Account Liberalization in Emerging Markets." *International Organization* (Spring 2007): 443-463.

Mukherjee, Bumba and David Andrew Singer. "International Institutions and Domestic Compensation: The IMF and the Politics of Capital Account Liberalization." *American Journal of Political Science* (January 2010): 45-60.

McNamara, Kathleen. "Consensus and Constraint: Ideas and Capital Mobility in European Monetary Integration." *Journal of Common Market Studies* (September 1999): 455-476.

April 26: Research Proposals