Theories of International Relations: POS 370

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Spring Semester 2009
M-W-F 12:35 – 1:30
Humanities 137

This course examines three leading theoretical schools of thought in global politics. We will read works by Hans Morgenthau, by Immanuel Kant, and by Thomas Paine as representatives of the realist, liberal, and cosmopolitan research traditions. We conclude the course with a discussion of contemporary world politics in light of these three traditions. The goal of the course is to systematically compare and evaluate claims made by realists, liberals and cosmopolitans concerning global politics. Students will be evaluated by reading quizzes, group works, classroom participation, one take-home midterm, and a research paper. Given the demands of the course, we strongly recommend that students have already taken Political Science 102.

The reading loads for this course vary a great deal from meeting to meeting. On some days the amount of reading is light. On other days a great deal of reading is assigned. Since it is expected that you do all the assigned readings before coming to class, be prepared, read ahead in the syllabus and plan accordingly so that the reading is completed on time. Unannounced reading quizzes will be frequent with the goal of compelling students to do the reading before class.

Since so many concepts discussed in this course are highly relevant to contemporary international relations, it is recommended that students make sustained efforts to peruse at least one of the following publications: The Washington Post, The Economist, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times—especially "The Week in Review" section of the Sunday Times. The BBC World News (TV PBS/Ch. 17 @ 6:00pm or http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/) is another good source of information on world events. We will take a little time each week to discuss some of the contemporary issues in international relations and their theoretical underpinnings and explanations. Short articles may also be handed out in class as additional readings.

Grading and Assignments:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Critique</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take-Home Exam (5-6 pages)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Paper Proposal and Bibliography</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Draft of Paper (5 pages)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (10-12 pages)</td>
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Grading and Assignments (continued):
1) Reading quizzes will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Reading quizzes will be given at various times over the semester. The quiz will be directly related to the assigned readings for that particular day. For students who have done the reading and thought about the material, the quizzes are not difficult to pass. You must pass at least two thirds (66%) of the quizzes to receive full credit. Given this leniency in grading, no make-ups for reading quizzes are allowed.

2) The take-home examination will consist of one short essay of 5-6 typed pages, double-space, normal margins and font, and with numbered pages. Extensive and detailed citations of the assigned readings are essential for this examination. An electronic copy must be emailed and a hard copy must also be turned in.

3) Selecting a paper topic should be done early and should relate directly to the theoretical concerns addressed in the course. Although the paper topic is entirely up to the student, it must be approved by the professor at an early stage and it must directly incorporate course material. We will discuss possible topics at great length before the initial topics are due.

4) The first draft of the research paper will have a strong introduction that completes the following tasks. First, it lays out a clear argument that is directly related to course material. Second, it neatly frames that argument within a case study. Third, it provides a "road map" of how the paper will develop in terms of the evidence. This draft will be critiqued by both the professor and a peer.

4) The final draft of the research paper will account for 30% of your total grade. I expect grammatically correct, clearly written, cogently argued essays of no less than ten pages and no more than twelve pages of text (not including bibliography). I have high expectations for this paper. Past students have found the research paper one of the best aspects of this course since it allowed them to research an aspect of international relations in which they have a very keen interest.

5) The peer critique involves a short (2 page) constructive critique of a fellow student paper. Copies of this critique will be given to the author of the paper and to the professor. Specific details of the critique process will be covered in class.

6) Participation is based on active discussions informed by the readings. This is not a freebie. A midterm participation grade will be assigned to provide an indication of how you are faring.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND READINGS:


Paine, Thomas. Rights of Man (Hackett or any other edition of Rights of Man is acceptable. Feel free to substitute).

All books are available at Mary Jane's Books located (at Western and Quail) and at the University Bookstore. Additional readings will by posted on ERES, the library's electronic reserve system (http://library.albany.edu/reserves). The student password for this course is "Walker370". Other readings will have to be retrieved by the student using J-Stor, as noted in the syllabus. If you have any problem accessing the required readings, please contact me immediately.

COURSE POLICIES:

1) Study Groups: We strongly encourage students to form study groups. This is a good way to compare notes and exchange ideas on the central questions for the course. In a world where information can be transferred electronically with such ease, the personal exchange of ideas and the face-to-face intellectual interaction are features for which the university is uniquely suited. Take advantage of these opportunities. In addition to the social benefits of these interactions, research has shown that forming study groups and making friends in class are two of the best predictors of good final grades. But in the end, all written work for this class must be work of the individual student.

2) Plagiarism and Inadequate Citation: Intellectual honesty is the foundation and fabric of the university. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at any level. I will refer any cases of suspected plagiarism to the Office of Judicial Affairs. To help deter plagiarism, I will continue to employ "Turnitin.com" to identify cases of plagiarism. All research papers and midterms must be submitted both in electronic copies and hard copies. We will discuss issues of proper citation as we work through written assignments in class. Many questions about degrees of plagiarism and citation can be reviewed from the University Library website. As a general rule, if you have a question about citing a source, you should probably cite it.

3) Absences and Late Work. If you miss a class, try to get notes from one of your classmates. **If you cannot meet a deadline, talk to the professor in advance.** If you miss an exam or paper deadline without prior communication, a Dean's excuse must be presented in a timely fashion. Unless discussed in advance, all papers are due at the beginning of class on the date noted in the syllabus.

4) Try to have all the assigned readings done before you come to class. This will help ensure good discussions. It is also essential for reading quizzes and high participation grades.

Course Schedule:
PART I: KEY CONCEPTS

**Wednesday, January 21**
Course Introduction and Basic Concepts: Sovereignty, Anarchy, and Power

**Friday, January 23**
Theory and International Relations
Walt, *One World, Many Theories* (ERES)
Monday, January 26
Theories and the Levels-of Analysis
Russett, Starr, and Kinsella, "The Levels of Analysis." *World Politics: A Menu for Choice* (pp. 13-21) [Class Handout]

Wednesday, January 28
Forming Arguments about Theories

Friday, January 30
NO CLASS—CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN FOUNDERS AND FOREIGN POLICY

Monday, February 2
The Realist Tradition
Morgenthau Part I (pp. 1-26)

Wednesday, February 4
The Perpetual Struggle for Power
Morgenthau, Part II (pp. 29-83)

Friday, February 6
Power of Prestige and Ideology
Morgenthau, 84-112

Monday, February 9
Assessing and Measuring National Power
Morgenthau, 115-165

Wednesday, February 11
The Balance of Power
Morgenthau, 183-216

Wednesday, February 13
Morgenthau's Critiques of Morality, Law, and IO
Morgenthau, Part V; VII (pp. 219-249; 271-73)

Friday, February 13
The Hope for Diplomacy and the Problems of Peace
Morgenthau, pp. 331- 390.

****WINTER BREAK****

Monday, February 23
Wednesday, February 25
Realism and Progress

Friday, February 27
Reviewing Morgenthau's Realism: Fitting the Levels of Analysis to the Theory
Thompson, "Writing Politics Among Nations" *International Studies Notes* (ERES)

PAINE'S COSMOPOLITANISM

Monday, March 2
Cosmopolitanism and Rights of Man in a Global Setting

Wednesday, March 4

Friday, March 6
Paine, *Porgess, and the Security Dilemma*
*Duelling; Of the English Navy; Of Gunboats* (ERES)

Monday, March 9
Paine, Intervention, and World Government.
Letter to the Inhabitants of Louisiana; Compact Maritime for the Protection of Neutral Commerce. (ERES)

Wednesday, March 11
Paine's Cosmopolitanism in International Relations Theory

Friday, March 13
Promoting Democracy by Military Intervention
Thinking about Research Topics

KANT AND LIBERALISM

Monday, March 16
Kant's Ideas on History and Progress
Editor's Introduction to Kant," pp. 1-15.
Kant, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose" pp. 41-53.
Wednesday, March 18
Kant, "An Answer to the Question of What is Enlightenment" pp. 54-60.

Friday, March 20
Kant's Plan for Peace
Kant, "Perpetual Peace" pp. 93-130.

Monday, March 23
Perpetual Peace and Wilson’s Internationalism?
Wilson, "Fourteen Points"

Wednesday, March 25
Kant, "Metaphysics of Morals" pp. 131-175.
(Pay careful attention to the latter sections on "International Right" 164-175.

Friday, March 27
Concluding Thoughts on Kant and Review for Midterm.
Take-Home Midterm Handed Out

Monday, March 30
No Class

Wednesday, April 1
Hard Copies of Midterm Turned in during class—no later than 1:00pm—in HU 137.
5-6 typed pages with embedded citations from the assigned readings.
Discussion of Possible Research Topics.

PART III:
THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF CONTEMPORARY POLITICS:
THE QUESTION OF INTERVENTION

Friday, April 3
Liberalism and Intervention.
Walker, "Tales of Two Liberalisms." International Studies Quarterly (ERES).

Monday, April 6
Realism and Intervention
Morgenthau, "To Intervene or Not to Intervene," Foreign Affairs (1967) (J-Stor/Library Website)

NO CLASSES—SPRING BREAK

Wednesday, April 15
Draft Workshop: Critiquing "Amelia’s" First Draft
Read "Amelia’s Draft" and the "Guide to Constructive Criticism" (Class Handout)
Friday, April 17
PAPER PROPOSAL AND BIBLIOGRAPHY ARE DUE
(250 word abstract plus bibliography)
Brief oral presentation of your topic to the class.

Monday, April 20
Composing an Argumentative Essay

Wednesday, April
G. W. Bush and Intervention

Friday, April 24
NO CLASS—NY State Political Science Meetings, NYC.

Monday, April 27
A Case Study of Intervention

Wednesday, April 29
**First Draft is Due**
Note: First drafts of the paper are due at the beginning of class. These drafts should have a developed argument and they should also map out the direction of the paper. The length should be no more than six pages PLUS an extensive bibliography. Drafts will be graded on the clarity of the argument, how well alternative explanations are addressed, and how it fits to course material.
BRING THEE COPIES (one for professor; one for peer reviewer; one for author to mark up during discussion)

Friday, May 1
Workshop on Revising "Wilbur’s" Draft
Read "Wilbur’s Draft" paper and re-read the "Constructive Guide to Peer Review" from ERES.

Monday, May 5
Peer Reviews are Due. BRING TWO COPIES (One for author; one for instructor).

Final Papers are due no later than Monday, May 11 at Noon in the Contact Office in HU 016. These papers must include the 1) the original proposal, 2) the first draft with instructor's comments and 3) final draft with pages numbered and complete bibliography. An electronic copy of the final draft must also be submitted.

Papers can be picked up and discussed starting Monday afternoon May 18th from my main office (206 Milne Hall) on the Downtown Campus (442-5297).