

DHP H204

CLASSICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THEORY

Fall 2010

Professor Daniel Drezner

OVERVIEW

Most international relations courses you will take focus on “cutting edge” research, filled with recent articles in the most respected journals. Others will focus on policy questions of the day, replete with deep thoughts from *Foreign Affairs* and *Foreign Policy* from the statesmen of the day. Such approaches are valuable, but they often presuppose a familiarity with the classics of international relations that does not exist. Rare is the international relations class that reads any of Thucydides beyond the Melian dialogue, or anything at all by Norman Angell or Halford Mackinder.

Does this matter? Well, yes. To quote John Maynard Keynes:

[T]he ideas of economists and political philosophers, both when they are right and when they are wrong, are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed the world is ruled by little else. Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influence, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler of a few years back. I am sure that the power of vested interests is vastly exaggerated compared with the gradual encroachment of ideas.

In order to genuinely appreciate current debates about international relations, one has to understand the history of thought in international relations. That is the goal of this course.

The basic plan of this course will be the great book approach. One week, one book – in most cases, the whole book. Note that we’ll be proceeding chronologically, beginning with Thucydides. This will give you a chance to measure how much progress the field has made in explaining international interactions. Most weeks, I have kept the amount of secondary readings to a bare minimum so we can talk about the texts themselves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your performance in this class is based on three components: class participation, one short paper, and one long paper. Class participation means several things. First, as I said, I am assuming you will have done the readings, digested their meaning, and ready to discuss them critically in class. Second, you will be expected to give one in-class presentation on the book of the week – what you think the core arguments are, and whether those arguments are used appropriately today. The week you present, you will also be asked to forward discussion questions for the class seminars to me 24 hours before the class session.

A note about the readings. This is a seminar course for graduate students. This means that I expect you to have done all of the readings in advance and that you are prepared to discuss them in class. I place great importance on this: you will note that 35% of your grade is determined by your class participation. Read all of the assigned materials before class meets. I am aware that this is not the only course you will be taking this spring, and I have really, really tried to keep the number of pages per week down. Scanning the syllabus, you will probably believe this claim to be insincere, but trust me, there is a lot that is being left out.

You will also be writing one short paper and one longer paper. The short paper will consist of a 2,500 word effort analyzing a text of international relations theory that's more than 20 years old (you need to clear the book with me beforehand) and addressing two questions:

- How does the author's theoretical approach mesh with its historical antecedents?
- To what extent does the current scholarly and policymaking literature use this work? Is this use slanted in any particular way?

Your longer paper assignment (up to 5,000 words) will be to choose a relatively well-known problem in world politics today and address two questions:

- Do any of the classic texts offer an insight into the problem that is lacking among current streams of thought?
- Would any of these texts suggest a useful policy for the United States to address this problem?

Possibilities for the short paper include:

Graham Allison, *Essence of Decision*
 Raymond Aron, *Peace and War: A Theory of International Relations*
 Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*
 James Bryce, *International Relations*

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, *The War Trap*
 Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*
 G. Lowes Dickinson, *Causes of International War*
 William T.R. Fox, *Theoretical Aspects of International Relations*
 Robert Gilpin, *U.S. Power and the Multinational Corporation*
 Ernst Haas, *Beyond the Nation-State*
 Morton Halperin, *Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy*
 Albert Hirschman, *National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade*
 John A. Hobson, *Imperialism: A Study*
 Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*
 Morton Kaplan, *System and Process in International Relations*
 Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*
 Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye, *Power and Interdependence*
 John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
 Klaus Knorr, *The Power of Nations*
 Stephen D. Krasner, *Defending the National Interest*
 Harold Lasswell, *World Politics and Personal Insecurity*
 Walter Lippman, *The Stakes of Diplomacy*
 A.F.K. Organski, *World Politics*
 Harold Sprout and Margaret Sprout, *Towards a Politics of the Planet Earth*
 Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*
 Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*
 Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*
 Arnold Wolfers, *Discord and Collaboration*
 Quincy Wright, *A Study of War*

All told, your grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Class participation	35%
Short paper	25%
Long paper	40%

REQUIRED BOOKS:

These books should be available at the Tufts university bookstore, Amazon.com, or another online book retailer. An important note: you need to buy these editions. We'll be going to the texts rather often in class. It will be impossible for you to follow along if you're using the Penguin version of Thucydides, for example.

Norman Angell, *The Great Illusion* (available at books.google.com)

E.H. Carr. *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939* (New York: Palgrave, 2001).

Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (New York: Penguin Classics, 1985)

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

V.I. Lenin. *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism* (New York: International Publishers, 1990).

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (New York: Hackett, 1990).

Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783* (Gretna, LA: Pelican, 2003).

Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2001).

Thomas Schelling. *The Strategy of Conflict* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1960).

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War, (Edited by Robert B. Strassler). New York: Touchstone Books, 1998).

COURSE OUTLINE

1) Introduction: Modern IR Theory (9/14)

Stephen M. Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* 110 (Spring 1998): 29-47.

Stephen M. Walt, "The Relationship Between Theory and Policy in International Relations," *Annual Review of Political Science* 8 (2005): 23-48.

Charles Hill, "Novel Ideas," *Foreign Policy* online, August 13, 2010. Accessed at http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/13/novel_ideas?print=yes&hidecomments=yes&page=full.

2) The Origins of International Relations and IR Theory (9/21-9/28)

Session 1:

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Books 1-4.

David A. Welch, "Why International Relations Theorists Should Stop Reading Thucydides," *Review of International Studies* 29 (July 2003): 301-319.

Jonathan Monten, "Thucydides and Modern Realism," *International Studies Quarterly* 50 (March 2006): 3-26.

Session 2:

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Books 5-7.

David Bedford and Thom Workman, "The Tragic Reading of the Thucydidean Tragedy," *Review of International Studies* 21 (January 2001): 51-67.

Richard Ned Lebow, "Thucydides the Constructivist," *American Political Science Review* 95 (September 2001): 547-560.

Suggested: Roger Scott, "Imperialist Democracy, Ancient Athenians and the US Presence in Iraq," *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 59 (September 2005): 335-350.

3) Anarchy and the State of Nature (10/5)

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Book One, chapters 1, 10-17, 29-31.

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapters 1-9, 15-19.

Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, Part One.

Jack Snyder, "Anarchy and Culture: Insights from the Anthropology of War." *International Organization* 56 (Winter 2002): 7-45.

4) The Democratic Peace (10/12)

Immanuel Kant, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose" and "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in *Kant: Political Writings*.

Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Parts I and II." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12 (Summer/Fall 1983): 205-235, 323-353.

John Oneal, "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics* 52 (October 1999): 1-37.

Ivo Daalder and James Lindsey, "Democracies of the World, Unite!" *The American Interest* 2 (January/February 2007).

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), chapter six.

5) Geopolitics (10/19)

Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power upon History*, Preface, Introduction, chapters 1-2, 8-14.

Halford Mackinder, "The Geographical Pivot of History," *The Geographic Journal* 23 (April 1904): 421-437.

Kaplan, Robert D, "The Revenge of Geography." *Foreign Policy* 172 (May/June 2009): 96-105.

Kaplan, Robert D., "The Geography of Chinese Power." *Foreign Affairs* 89 (May/June 2010): 22-41.

6) Marxism and Imperialism (10/26)

Lenin, *Imperialism*.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party."

John R. Oneal and Frances H. Oneal, "Hegemony, Imperialism, and the Profitability of Foreign Investments." *International Organization* 42 (Spring 1988): 347-373.

Simon Johnson, "The Quiet Coup," *The Atlantic*, May 2009.

Ian Bremmer, "State Capitalism Comes of Age," *Foreign Affairs* 88 (May/June 2009): 40-55.

7) Interdependence and Conflict (11/2)

Angell, *The Grand Illusion*.

Susan McMillan, "Interdependence and Conflict," *Mershon International Studies Review* 41 (May 1997): 33-58.

David M. Rowe, "World Economic Expansion and National Security in pre-World War I Europe," *International Organization* 53 (Spring 1999): 195-231.

Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great Power Status," *Foreign Affairs* 84 (September/October 2005): 18-24.

G. John Ikenberry, "The Rise of China and the Future of the West," *Foreign Affairs* 87 (January/February 2008): 23-37.

8) Carl Schmitt and the Clash of Civilizations (11/9)

Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (including Strauss' response)

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72 (Summer 1993): 22-49.

Jennifer Mitzen, "Ontological Security in World Politics: State Identity and the Security Dilemma," *European Journal of International Relations* 12 (September 2006): 341-370.

Dominique Moisi, "The Clash of Emotions," *Foreign Affairs* 86 (January/February 2007):

9) The Resurgence of Realism (11/16)

Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis*.

Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, Chapters 1-2.

Charles Glaser, "Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help." *International Security* 19 (Winter 1995): 50-70.

Elizabeth Economy and Adam Segal, "The G-2 Mirage," *Foreign Affairs* 88 (May/June 2009): 14-23.

10) Globalization and Its Discontents (11/23)

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

Peter Gourevitch, "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics." *International Organization* 32 (Autumn 1978): 881-912.

Rawi Abdelal and Adam Segal, "Has Globalization Passed Its Peak?" *Foreign Affairs* 86 (January/February 2007): 103-114.

11) Rational Choice and International Relations (11/30)

Schelling, *The Strategy of Conflict*.

Stephen Walt, "Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies." *International Security* 23 (Spring 1999): 5-48.

Robert Powell, "The Modeling Enterprise and Security Studies," *International Security* 23 (Fall 1999): 97-106.

12) Hegemonic Transition (12/7)

Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*.

Helen Thompson, "Debt and Power: The United States' Debt in Historical Perspective," *International Relations* 21 (September 2007): 305-323.

Michael Mastanduno, "System Taker and Privilege Taker: U.S. Power and the International Political Economy," *World Politics* 61 (January 2009): 121-154.