American University of Beirut, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

PSPA 310: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

COURSE DESCRIPTION (from the catalog)
“This course is a survey of the major theoretical traditions (realism, idealism, constructivism) and the current foci of theoretical debate. Issues include the limits of international cooperation, the origins of war, and changing concentrations of power in the study of international relations.”

LEARNING OUTCOMES
If they complete this course satisfactorily, students should have developed the following skills:

- **Key Concepts**: Students will be familiar with the key concepts of international relations, including the security dilemma, the democratic peace, the state system, interdependence, hegemonic stability, etc.

- **International Relations Theory**: Students will have a comprehensive knowledge of the contending approaches to the study of international relations, particularly realism and idealism, mercantilism, Marxism, and feminism. They will not only be able to distinguish these schools, but also provide an intellectual genealogy for each.

- **Theoretical Reasoning**: Students will be able to analyze the same event through the lenses of multiple theories, and to explain persuasively which theory they believe is most applicable.

- **Research Sources**: Students will be able to use the major academic journals both to follow current debates about international relations and to conduct research on more arcane subjects.

- **Research Design**: Students will be able to conduct original research in international relations theory, including the formulation and testing of original hypotheses.

- **Rapid Comprehension**: Students should be able to read texts in international relations quickly, stripping them down to their basic ideas in the same automatic manner that a commando strips down a Kalashnikov.

GRADING CRITERIA
For at least the first half of the semester, students will be prepared written summaries of the readings and will be given weekly feedback on their performance in the class. Much of the course grade, however, will hinge on a final paper that will test the student’s ability to apply international relations theory to Middle Eastern cases.

In the absence of any special circumstances, grades in PSPA classes are expected to follow the standard AUB curve, which is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Professional-quality work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Outstanding performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Great potential, but flawed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good work, real insights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Good work, average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Acceptable, w. weaknesses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE POLICIES

- **Class attendance:** Class attendance and participation are necessary to successful learning and will be reflected in the grades. Students who must miss class need to justify their absences to the professor. Students are responsible for work assigned in class, even if they miss the relevant sessions.

- **Class participation:** Students are encouraged to ask questions. Even the most elementary questions, so long as they are sincere and not frivolous, may be useful to the class. Those who participate by asking questions or making intelligent comments will have their grades boosted.

- **Tardiness:** Arriving late for class is rude to the professor and to other students. Repeated offenses will result in a grade penalty.

- **Civility:** Students are expected to be reflective about how their behavior affects other students and the whole class. Cell phones must be turned off at the beginning of class or they will be confiscated. Students should show consistent courtesy to the professor and their peers. Rude, sarcastic, or deliberately offensive behavior will be penalized.

- **Late assignments:** Coursework handed in late will be penalized. Prof. Sadowski tries to finish grading within two class sessions of an assignment’s completion. No assignments will be accepted after that time and a grade of “zero” will be assigned for the missing work.

- **Assignment Formatting:** All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, in a font not smaller than 12 points.

- **Composition:** Since many AUB students are writing in their third language, grammar and spelling will not form part of the grade (although the professor may urge students with extreme problems to seek additional help). However, the clarity of any argument is always critical, so the structure or logic of every assignment will be carefully assessed.

- **Footnoting:** A proper “apparatus” (footnotes or endnotes) is a critical part of all scholarly work. Whenever students cite a fact that is not commonly known, or any quotation, or whenever they draw upon a particular source for their argument, a note must be provided. Students who do not will find their grades penalized.

- **Academic Dishonesty:** Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated: no credit will be given for assignments when it is evident, and the offending student may be referred to the Dean’s office for disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty can include misrepresenting yourself and your situation, using notes or interpersonal consultations in a closed book exam, copying another student’s work, and, most importantly, plagiarism.

- **Plagiarism:** This is the use of another person’s words or ideas without proper credit. It may include something as simple as copying a few sentences off the Internet or something as elaborate as hiring a ghostwriter to prepare an entire paper. If you have any doubts about whether some activity involves plagiarism, consult Professor Sadowski or visit the following website: [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html).
• **Special Needs:** Students with learning disabilities or other special needs should contact the professor early in the course so that appropriate remedies can be devised.

• **Time Management:** Students who have problems meeting these expectations often lack a basic talent for time management. For an introduction to this critical life skill, students should consult [http://www.d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat/time_man_princ.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/student/loon/acad/strat/time_man_princ.html) or [http://www.campusaccess.com/campus_web/student/s3acad_time.htm](http://www.campusaccess.com/campus_web/student/s3acad_time.htm)

**RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS**

Most of the required reading for this course will be available as Xeroxes at Future Graphics on Jean d'Arc Street. However, one book will be available for students to buy at the AUB Bookstore:


Students who hope to pass the MA comprehensive examination in international relations should also be familiar with recent developments in the literature. The only way to do this is to regularly read articles from the major journals in the discipline. These include:

- Foreign Affairs
- Foreign Policy
- International Affairs
- International Organization
- The National Interest
- Peace and Conflict Studies
- Security Studies
- World Politics

**READING SCHEDULE**

**First Week: How to Read an International Relations Text**

There are no required readings for this week, however, students who wish to may begin to familiarize themselves with the field by reading the following essays from the Future Graphics Xeroxes:


**Second Week: An Intellectual Map of the IR Field**

**FIRST THEME: PEACE AND WAR**

Third Week: Realism and Neo-Realism


Fourth Week: Idealism and Neo-Wilsonianism


Fifth Week: Constructivism and Feminism


**SECOND THEME: PROSPERITY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY**

Sixth Week: Liberalism


Seventh Week: Merchantilism


Eighth Week: Marxism


**THIRD THEME: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

Ninth Week: Transnationalism


Tenth Week: State Persistence

Eleventh Week: Chaos Theory


**FOURTH THEME: STUDENT SELECTED TEXTS**

**Twelfth Week**
- Text to be selected by students

**Thirteenth Week**
- Text to be selected by students

**Fourteenth Week**
- Text to be selected by students

**Fifteenth Week**
- No assigned readings: students should review their notes.

**BACKGROUND READINGS**

Students at the graduate level are expected to do more than just read required texts: they need to be constantly reading independently, both to build up background knowledge of their field and to advance their specific research interests. A student who has not done reading above and beyond their course requirements should not expect to pass a comprehensive examination in international relations.

To get an idea of what sort of reading is expected at an American graduate school, look at the IR comprehensives reading list for the University of Chicago at: [http://www.charleslipson.com/courses/IR-Reading-list.htm](http://www.charleslipson.com/courses/IR-Reading-list.htm)

Other useful background readings include:

**Overviews**
- Peter Katzenstein, ed., *Exploration and Contestation in the Study of World Politics*
- James Rosenau, *Along the Domestic-Foreign Frontier*
- Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, *International Relations Theory*
- Scott Burchill, ed., *Theories of International Relations*
- Rudra Sil and Eileen Doherty, eds., *Beyond Boundaries*
- Jonathan Haslam, *No Virtue Like Necessity*
- David Boucher, *Political Theories of International Relations*
- Stephen Hobden and John Hobson, eds., *Historical Sociology of International Relations*
- William Thompson, *The Emergence of the Global Political Economy*
- James Caporaso and David Levine, *Theories of Political Economy*
- Michael Brown, ed., *Theories of War and Peace*
- Charles Lipson, ed., *Theory and Structure in International Political Economy*
- Brian Schmidt, *The Political Discourse of Anarchy*
- David Skidmore and Jeffrey Frieden, eds., *Contested Social Orders and International Politics*
- James Daugherty, et al., *Contending Theories of International Relations*
- Michael Brown, ed., *Theories of War and Peace*
Martin Griffiths and Terry O’Callaghan, *International Relations: The Key Concepts*
Justin Rosenberg, *The Follies of Globalisation Theory*

**Realist Approaches**
- Stefano Guzzini, *Realism in International Relations and International Political Economy*
- Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics*
- Dale Copeland and Stephan Walt, eds., *The Origins of Major War*
- Jack Donnelly, *Realism and International Relations*
- Robert Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and Its Critics*
- Barry Buzan and Richard Little, *International Systems in World History*
- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*
- Donald Kagan, *While America Sleeps*
- Robert Kaplan, *Warrior Politics*
- Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy*
- Alastair Murray, *Reconstructing Realism*
- Michael Sheehan, *The Balance of Power*
- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*
- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*
- Stephen Walt, *The Origins of Alliances*
- Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*
- Edward Carr, *The Twenty Year’s Crisis*

**Idealist Approaches**
- Mark Franke, *Global Limits*
- Jeffrey Legro, *Cooperation under Fire*
- Michael Mandelbaum, *The Ideas that Conquered the World*
- Jeane Kirkpatrick, *Legitimacy and Force*
- Stephan Van Evera, *Causes of War*
- David Baldwin, ed., *Neorealism and Neoliberalism*
- Michael Brown, ed., *Debating the Democratic Peace*
- Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*
- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*
- Stephen Krasner, ed., *International Regimes*
- Joseph Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*
- Dan Reiter, * Democracies at War*
- Thomas Friedman, *Longitudes and Attitudes*
- Brink Linsey, *Against the Dead Hand*
- Barry Eichengreen, *Globalizing Capital*
- Jagdish Bhagwati, *The Wind of the Hundred Days*

**Constructivist Approaches**
- Daniel Philpott, *Revolutions in Sovereignty*
- R.B.J. Walker, *Inside/Outside*
- Bill McSweeny, *Security, Identity and Interests*
- Henry Nau, *At Home Abroad*
- Judith Goldstein, ed., *Ideas and Foreign Policy*
- Darryl Jarvis, *International Relations and the Challenge of Postmodernism*
- Iver Neumann, *Uses of the Other*
John Lechte, *Fifty Key Contemporary Thinkers*
Peter Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security*
Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory and International Politics*
Ted Hopf, *Social Construction of International Politics*
Maja Zefuss, *Constructivism in International Relations*

**Marxism and Its Successors**
Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Essential Wallerstein*
Andre Gunder Frank, *ReOrient*
Robert Brenner, *The Boom and the Bubble*
Michael Hudson, *Super Imperialism*
Maria Mises, *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale* (1986)
Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent*
David Renton, ed., *Marx on Globalization*
Boris Kagarlitsky, *New Realism, New Barbarism*
Eric Hobsbawm, *On the Edge of the New Century*
Stephen Gill, *Power and Resistance in the New World Order*
Nick Dyer-Witheford, *Cyber-Marx*

**Feminist Approaches**
Joshua Goldstein, *War and Gender*
Cynthia Cockburn, *The Space Between Us*
Lois Lorentzen and Jennifer Turpin, eds., *The Women & War Reader*
J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations*
Robert Dean, *Imperial Brotherhood*
Ida Blom, et al., eds., *Gendered Nations*
John Hoffman, *Gender and Sovereignty*
Christine Sylvester, *Feminist Theory and International Relations in a Postmodern Era*
Jill Steans, *Gender and International Relations*
Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases*
V. Spike Peterson, *Global Gender Issues*
V. Spike Peterson, *Gendered States*
Cynthia Enloe, *The Morning After*

**Mercantilist Approaches**
Ravi Batra, *Myth of Free Trade*
Friedrich List, *National System of Political Economy*
Robert Gilpin, *Global Political Economy*

**Foreign Policy Debates**
G. John Ikenberry, *After Victory*
Robert Chase, ed., *The Pivotal States*
Walter Mead, *Special Providence*
Andrew Bacevich, *American Empire*
Ralph Peters, *Beyond Terror*
G. John Ikenberry, ed., *America Unrivalled*
Charles Kupchan, ed., *The End of the American Era*
Alexander Lennon, ed., *What Does the World Want from America*
John Gray, *Al-Qaeda and What It Means to Be Modern*