UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
Political Science 5330
Fall 2014

Professor
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Department of Political Science
Office: Benedict Hall 301
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3p and Wednesdays 10-11am; and by appointment
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Class Time/Location: W 4:30 pm - 7:20 pm/BEND 205

Catalog Description
Examines the political structures and the interactions that characterize the global nation-state political system.

Course Content
The aim of the course is to introduce the main theories and evidence of International Relations. Scholars approach the study of IR in various ways. However, the scholarship does have a long history in the utilization of a science based epistemology, one that we will deeply tap into during the semester. In addition, the subfield has moved away from the purely theoretical approach that marked the realist and neorealist era and is evolving towards more rigorous testing. In keeping pace with this evolution, we will study and judge the theories by first examining what they are attempting to explain, how well they explain, and if the empirical evidence supports their explanation.

After a relatively brief discussion of methodology, the course will tackle one broad question: Why are some states’ relations characterized by conflict while others are cooperative? In the first part of the course we will examine theories that attempt to explain conflict. The second part is associated with cooperation, primarily in the economic realm (international political economy). At the end of the course, however, we may see that conflict and cooperation are two sides of a continuum.

Course Policies
We will follow polices outlined in the 2014-2015 Graduate Catalogue (http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/). In addition, all participants are expected to follow a professional decorum at all times.
Course Texts
Required texts:
This textbook is available at the UTEP Bookstore and online at www.utepbookstore.com

Some recommended texts:


Course Obligations
There is a mix of obligations you must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) participation in discussions; 2) two exams (midterm and final); and 3) five essays on the course readings. Late assignments will be accepted only under extreme circumstances.

All assignments that are completed outside the seminar are to be typed using the following format:
1) double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
2) new times roman font (12 point),
3) 1 inch margins,
4) title page (title, course, name, and date),
5) page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
6) stapled with no plastic cover of any type, and
7) citations (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography when necessary.

Participation
What distinguishes a seminar format from the lecture variety is the degree of student participation. During the seminar, I will present the ideas of the weeks’ readings and pose several questions that will begin our discussion. While I have certain broad goals each evening, there will be a degree of flexibility to where the discussion will take us. The aim is to leave each evening with a deeper understanding of the readings so that you can synthesize and offer a constructive critique of the research and research agenda of the scholarship.
Exams
There will be two take home exams for the course: one midterm and one final. The examination answers will be in an essay format. The lengths are approximately five pages for the midterm and approximately seven pages for the final, excluding references. The midterm will cover the material presented up to October 17 and the final will be cumulative. I will give you the exam questions on October 29 and December 9. The exams are due by 5pm the next day (October 30 and December 10, respectively). Only physical essays will be accepted (i.e. no electronic versions including email attachments). Exam essays should be given to me personally or placed in my department mailbox. Do not slip essays under my door. Collaboration on the exams is strictly prohibited.

Essays
You will need to write five essays that synthesize and critique a particular week’s readings in five to seven pages. Each essay is due one week after the particular week you choose. Which week you choose is up to your discretion with one the exception: please do not write an essay based on the first night’s readings.

A synthesis and critique needs to answer the following questions, but organized in a thematic manner. First, what are the major points of the readings? What are they trying to explain and what are the explanations? While it is tempting to create a ledger of all that was said, recall that you only have five to seven pages. Instead present the answers to the questions in the critique. The critique should answer the following: What are the major problems of the readings? What can be done to improve the explanations and/or testing of the theories? We will discuss the essays’ content on the first night and follow-up as the semester progresses.

Grades
Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students' final grades for the course. Letter grades will be based on the absolute scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Due</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>15 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>25 percent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Five Essays</td>
<td>Students Discretion</td>
<td>40 percent (8 percent each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>All Meetings</td>
<td>20 percent</td>
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**Readings**

**August 27 – No Class Due to the annual American Political Science Association meeting**

**September 3 – The Scientific Study of International Relations**

**September 10 – Realism and Neorealism and Their Assessments**

**September 17 - The Role of Institutions in International Relations**
September 24 – Power Transition Theory

October 1 – The Democratic Peace

October 8 – Decision Makers and Decision Making
October 15 – The Theory of Deterrence
1) Brodie, Bernard. 1959. *Strategy in the Missile Age*. Chapter 8

October 22 – National Cycles and International Relations

Midterm Examination due October 30 by 5pm

November 5 – Constructivism
November 12 – Hegemonic Stability Theory

November 19 – Domestic Politics and International Relations

November 26 – International Trade: Cooperation and Conflict
November 28 – Regional Integration: Europe and Beyond


Recommended:


Final Exam due December 10 at 5pm