

DOPP 5434 – Foundations Course, MA in International Political Affairs (Part II—Winter Term)

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Office Hours: By appointment
Office: C205

Fall/Winter Terms, 2022/23
Thurs: 13.30-15.10 (Fall Term)
Room: A211

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98814206822?pwd=Y2RPaG5iRG5WMHJ3QUg2dmtGZ2JCUT09>

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Over the course of two semesters, this mandatory seminar provides an advanced introduction to the foundations of international relations and the discipline's main concepts and theories. The course will begin by examining the roots of contemporary international relations as a result of the "Global Transformation"—to use Buzan and Lawson's term—that witnessed nothing less than a fundamental shift in the nature of international politics and the international order beginning in the nineteenth-century. Stated simply, international relations as both practice and academic discipline emerged out of the global processes and transformations that developed globally over the course of the hundred years from roughly the end of the Napoleonic Wars to the end of World War I. The remainder of the course will explore many of the myriad concepts and theories that constitute the foundation of how world politics is defined, studied, examined, and debated. We will begin by looking at the cornerstones of international relations theory, including constructivist, liberal, and realist international relations. In winter term, the course will turn its attention towards alternative and more recent developments in international relations theory that look to challenge prevailing notions of how we understand the field. This includes Marxist, feminist, queer, post-colonial, and post-structuralist international relations. Taken together, we will examine the ramifications of these various approaches to thinking about international relations and explore how they are applied to issue-specific domains of world politics.

LEARNING GOALS:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- develop an understanding of the foundations of international relations both as a practice and as a field of study.
- gain new perspectives on many of the basic assumptions and ontological conventions prevalent in the discipline of international relations.
- evaluate, compare, and contrast different interpretations and explanations of world politics.
- recognize the interpretative possibilities in any given world political phenomena.
- critically reflect upon and evaluate their own standpoints on world politics as well as those of others.

COURSE EVALUATION

Fifteen percent of your grade is based on class participation in class. For this reason, attendance is absolutely necessary: if you are not in class, you are not participating. If you are to miss a session, please contact me before class time. Of course, attendance is not the same as participation. Students are expected to contribute to class discussion in a constructive manner. Not only will this be beneficial to both your own and your colleagues' understanding of the material, it will also allow me to gauge how well you are comprehending and synthesizing the course material. To do this, it is imperative that you complete the assigned readings for each week *before* we meet.

Each student will be required to lead class discussion once during the winter term. This assignment should be seen primarily as an exercise to help you organize your thoughts about the readings. These presentations are not meant to serve as a summary of the material, but rather as a platform for exploring that given week's material more deeply. Class discussion will constitute an additional **fifteen percent** of your final grade. Presentations for **PART 1** of each of our themes for the semester will follow the same form as last semester, namely a critical reading of the texts for the week. Presentations for **PART 2** of each theme will take the form a class debate organized by the presenters. The first half of class should be used to present the general parameters of the problem to be debated, including an engagement with the materials read for the week. The second half of class will then be used for debate. The role of the presenter will be to both pose the questions or themes to be addressed and to organize the debate itself.

The majority of the grade (**70%**) will come from six writing assignments spread out over two semesters, each worth **around 12 percent**. The papers will deal directly with each of the seven main categories of international relations theory we deal with over the course of the academic year. During winter term, students will be asked to submit three assignments, due at midnight on the Wednesday after the second session we deal with each theory. Students can choose to write any **three** of the **six** following assignments: annotated bibliography, case study, comparative history, literature review, political manifesto, or response paper. Please note, you can only submit one of each type of assignment. Details will be discussed in class. Please refer to the online resources for what is expected from the each of the assignments.

ASSESSMENT:

Attendance and Participation	15%
Class Presentations	15%
Response Papers (<i>Six in total, 500 words each</i>)	70%

To be submitted on the following dates at 23.59:

Feb. 1
Feb. 8
Mar. 15
Apr. 7

Grading scale:

A	93.3 – 100	B-	80 – 83.3
A-	90 – 93.3	C+	76.6 – 80
B+	86.6 – 90	F	0 – 76.6
B	83.3 – 86.6		

CLASS POLICIES

- Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will result, at a minimum, in the student failing the class. The case will then be referred to the Committee on Academic Dishonesty. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what constitutes plagiarism and academic dishonesty. For reference, please consult the following university documents: *Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism*, the *CEU Policy Document* and the *MA Handbook*.
- All assignments must be submitted electronically using **MS Word** to Moodle. The papers should be saved with the format “**Last Name First Name – Assignment Name.**” For example, if I were to submit response paper one, it would be “**Tokic Mate – RP 1.**” The due date of all assignments is indicated in the syllabus, and can be submitted until 23.59. For each 24 hour period past the deadline, the assignment will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade. Papers will not be accepted more than seven days after the due date.
- If you have an issue with a grade you’ve received, I am more than willing to take your concerns into consideration. I will not, however, hear any verbal requests for a grade change. Instead, I ask that you write me a short (250 word) explanation as to why you feel the grade I gave you was unsatisfactory. I will then return to the work with fresh eyes. Please note: this means the possibility exists that the grade can go down as well as up. Also, I will not consider a change of grade request more than ten (10) days after grades have been returned to you. This allows us both to address whatever issues you might have fresh.
- All content for the class will be made available on online. It goes without saying that you are responsible for all information contained in this syllabus, imparted in class and provided electronically.
- Finally, the classroom is an electronics free room. Use of mobile telephones, computers, tablets or other electronic instruments is prohibited. Please come to class with writing utensils to take notes: it has been demonstrated that one learns much more taking handwritten notes than by way of typing or recording!

COURSE SCHEDULE: WINTER TERM, 2022

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS

Thursday, January 12: (NO ASSIGNED READINGS)

WEEK 2: CONSTRUCTIVISM, PART 1

Thursday, January 19:

- Alex Wendt. “Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization*, vol.46 (1992):391-425.
- Ian Hurd. “Legitimacy and Authority in International Politics.” *International Organization*, vol.53 (1999):379-408.

WEEK 3: CONSTRUCTIVISM, PART 2

Thursday, January 26:

- John Ruggie, "What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-Utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge." *International Organization*, vol.52, no.4 (1998):855-85.
- Stefano Guzzini. "The Concept of Power: A Constructivist Analysis." *Millennium*, vol.33, no.3 (2005):495-521.

WEEK 4: CRITICAL THEORY AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM, PART 1

Thursday, February 2:

- Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Order: Beyond International Relations Theory." *Millennium*, vol.10, no. 2 (1981):126-155.
- Andrew Linklater. "The Achievements of Critical Theory." In: Andrew Linklater. *Critical Theory and World Politics: Citizenship, Sovereignty and Humanity*. London: Routledge, 2007. p.45-59.

WEEK 5: CRITICAL THEORY AND POSTSTRUCTURALISM, PART 2

Thursday, February 9:

- Richard Ashley. "The Poverty of Neorealism." *International Organization*, vol.38, no.2 (1984):225-286.
- Columba Peoples. "Security after Emancipation? Critical Theory, Violence and Resistance." *Review of International Studies*, vol.37, no.3 (2011):113-35

WEEK 6: NO CLASS

Thursday, February 16: No Class

WEEK 7: FEMINIST/QUEER IR, PART 1

Thursday, February 23:

- Anne Sisson Runyan and V. Spike Peterson. "The Radical Future of Realism: Feminist Subversions of IR Theory." *Alternatives*, vol.16, no.1 (1991):67-106.
- Gillian Youngs. "Feminist International Relations: A Contradiction in Terms? Or: Why Women and Gender Are Essential to Understanding the World 'We' Live in." *International Affairs*, vol. 80, no. 1 (Jan 2004):75-87.

WEEK 8: FEMINIST/QUEER IR, PART 2

Thursday, March 2:

- Cynthia Weber. “Queer International Relations: From Queer to Queer IR.” *International Studies Review*, vol.16, no. (2014):596-622.
- Melanie Richter-Montpetit. “Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Sex (in IR) But Were Afraid to Ask: The ‘Queer Turn’ in International Relations.” *Millennium*, vol.46, no.2 (2018):220–240.
- V. Spike Peterson. “Towards Queering the Globally Intimate.” *Political Geography*, vol.56 (2017):114-116.

WEEK 9: NON-WESTERN IR, PART 1

Thursday, March 9:

- Amitav Acharya. “Dialogue and Discovery: In Search of International Relations Theories Beyond the West.” *Millennium*, vol.39, no.3 (2011):619-637.
- Pinar Bilgin. “Thinking Past Western IR?” *Third World Quarterly*, vol.29, no.1 (2008):5-23.

WEEK 10: NON-WESTERN IR, PART 2

Thursday, March 16:

- John Hobson and Alina Sajed. “Navigating Beyond the Eurofetishist Frontier of Critical IR Theory: Exploring the Complex Landscapes of Non-Western Agency.” *International Studies Review*, vol.19 (2017):547-572.
- Arlene Tickner. “Core, Periphery and (neo)Imperialist International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 19, no.3 (2013):627-646.

WEEK 11: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

Thursday, March 23:

- Göran Therborn “Globalizations: Dimensions, Historical Waves, Regional Effects, Normative Governance.” *International Sociology*, vol.15, no.2: (2000):151-179.
- David Armstrong. “Globalization and the Social State.” *Review of International Studies*, vol.24, no.4 (1998):461–478.

WEEK 12: CONCLUSIONS

Thursday, March 30: No assigned readings