

# *International Relations Theory*

INR 6607 SECTION 7586  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE - UF  
FALL 2008

Prof. Badredine Arfi  
Office: 209 Anderson Hall  
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Place: CBD 234  
Time: W 3:00 – 6:00pm – Periods 8-10  
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Office hours: Mondays 4:00-5:00p.m.  
                  Tuesdays 4:00-5:00p.m.  
                  By appointment

## DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a focused introduction to various theories and approaches to the study of international relations. Although social theory and philosophy have thrived in the last two hundred years or so with much new incisive/decisive insight about the foibles of human societies and systems, IR scholars are still bogged down with recycling much of the same “*déjà-vu*” thinking. Whereas we have learned and can – and should – still keep learning from so-called conventional IR theory, it is simply naïve and self-wounding to keep ignoring the tremendous achievements that many more social theorists and philosophers have accomplished, especially in the latter part of the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This sustained lack of serious and thorough learning from social theory and philosophy emerges as one of the most important impediments that might explain the not-so-exciting fate of IR theories in explaining and understanding momentous and many less-than momentous events and issues that have been unfolding for the last hundred years or so. As a way of alerting students to these lingering disciplinary issues as well as equipping them with effective tools which they will definitely find useful as future scholars dealing with IR issues, this course seeks to explicate key theoretical assumptions underpinning various IR approaches as well as exploring just how and why they are worthwhile considering – that is, in what ways they challenge conventional IR theory, and in what ways they compare and contrast with each other.

## CONSTITUTIVE AND REGULATIVE RULES

- Students are required to “digest” the week’s readings before each class and thus come to class prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their wisdom with the class.
- Each student is required to formulate two discussion questions generated by the readings each week, and submit them to the course WebCT every Tuesday 1:00-8:00pm (look for Weekly Student Question Sets Folder)

- Each student is required to write ten 3-4 page summary/critique papers over the course of the semester. The papers are to be submitted to WebCT on Tuesday 1:00-11:59pm (look for Weekly Student Paper Folder).
- Each student is required to make two 15-minute presentations and lead the subsequent discussions for the first hour of class on the topics addressed in two of his/her weekly summary/critique papers. The student making the presentation should submit his/her paper to WebCT on Tuesday 1:00-8:00pm (look for Presentations folder). The remaining students should download the paper being presented from the same folder, read it before class and be prepared to raise issues from it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.
- Students are required to take a final examination. The exam is intended as a “real” practice for the international security comprehensive exam. As such, the format will mimic the comprehensive exam as much as possible. It will be a take-home exam, with one question. The answer should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words.
- **Zero-percent tolerance on plagiarism: see file describing plagiarism (posted on WebCT).**

#### GRADING POLICY

- Class participation: 5% of the final grade.
- Submitting through email two questions every week: 14 sets of questions are required and count all-together for 5% of the final grade.
- Presenting two papers and leading the ensuing discussions: 10% of the final grade.
- Each weekly paper: 5% of the final grade. Thus: ten required papers → 50% of the final grade.
- Final examination: 30% of the final grade.

*Note: Late papers or exams will not be accepted.*

### Required Texts

1. Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall (eds.). 2005. Power in Global Governance. Cambridge University Press.
2. Robinson, Fiona. 1999. Globalizing Care: Ethics, Feminist Theory, and International Relations. Westview Press.
3. Buzan, Barry. 2004. From International to World Society? English School Theory and the Social Structure of Globalisation. Cambridge University Press.
4. Campbell, David. 1998. National Deconstruction: Violence, Identity, and Justice in Bosnia. University of Minnesota Press.
5. Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman (eds.) 2003. Progress in International Relations Theory. The MIT Press. *Available as eBook at the Library*.
6. Hasenclever, Andreas, Peter Mayer, and Volker Rittberger. 1997. Theories of International Regimes. Cambridge University Press.
7. Schmidt, Brian C. 1998. The Political Discourse of Anarchy: A Disciplinary History of International Relations. SUNY Press.
8. Shapcott, Richard. 2001. Justice, Community, and Dialogue in International Relations. Cambridge University Press. *Available as eBook at the Library*.
9. Walker, R. B. J. 1995. Inside/Outside: International Relations as Political Theory. Cambridge University Press.
10. Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. Theory of International Politics. McGraw Hill.
11. Wendt, Alexander. 1999. Social Theory of International Politics. Cambridge University Press. *Available as eBook at the Library*.
12. Wight, Colin. 2006. Agents, Structures and International Relations. Cambridge University Press.
13. Williams, Michael C. 2005. The Realist Tradition and the Limits of International Relations. Cambridge University Press.
14. Required Additional Weekly Readings Posted on WebCT

Note: Most of the books have been put on reserve at the West Library.

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## *Weekly Reading Assignments and Outline of the Course*

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### **Week 1 / August 27: A "Rejuvenated" Morgenthau?**

- Week 1 on WebCT

### **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1: LABOR DAY**

### **Week 2 / September 3: Putting Realism on Structural Grounds: Neo-Realism**

- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. Theory of International Politics. McGraw Hill. Chaps. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- Week 2 on WebCT

### **Week 3/ September 10: Exploring/Limiting Realism**

- Williams, Michael C. 2005. The Realist Tradition and the Limits of International Relations. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 3 on WebCT

### **Week 4/ September 17: Regulating/Empowering beyond States: International Regimes**

- Hasenclever, Andreas, Peter Mayer, and Volker Rittberger. 1997. Theories of International Regimes. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 4 on WebCT

### **Week 5/ September 24: Instituting Internationally**

- Week 5 on WebCT

### **Week 6/ October 1: Any "Progress" in IR Theory?<sup>1</sup>**

- Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman (eds.) 2003. Progress in International Relations Theory. The MIT Press - Chaps 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14
- Week 6 on WebCT

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<sup>1</sup> This class will be rescheduled to be held on another day of the week upon agreement with all students.

**Week 7/ October 8: Contextualizing Realism-Institutionalism/Constructing Constructivism**

- Wendt, Alexander. 1999. Social Theory of International Politics. Cambridge University Press. Chaps. 1-6.
- Week 7 on WebCT

**Week 8/ October 15: The English Interlude?**

- Buzan, Barry. 2004. From International to World Society? English School Theory and the Social Structure of Globalisation. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 8 on WebCT

**Week 9/ October 22: What If Power Were Still "Is" ....?**

- Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall (eds.). 2005. Power in Global Governance. Cambridge University Press
- Week 9 on WebCT

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24: HOMECOMING**

**Week 10/ October 29: Ontological Moves in IR Theory**

- Wight, Colin. 2006. Agents, Structures and International Relations. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 10 on WebCT

**Week 11/ November 5: The Logic of the Möbius Strip in IR Theory**

- Walker, R. B. J. 1995. Inside/Outside: International Relations as Political Theory. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 11 on WebCT

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11: VETERANS DAY**

**Week 12/ November 12: Historically de-Anchoring Anarchy in IR**

- Schmidt, Brian C. 1998. The Political Discourse of Anarchy: A Disciplinary History of International Relations. SUNY Press.
- Week 12 on WebCT

**Week 13/ November 19: IR Theorizing via Deconstruction**

- Campbell, David. 1998. National Deconstruction: Violence, Identity, and Justice in Bosnia. University of Minnesota Press.
- Week 13 on WebCT

**Week 14/ November 26: Gazing at/Voicing/Listening to Others: Justice in IR Theory?**

- Shapcott, Richard. 2001. Justice, Community, and Dialogue in International Relations. Cambridge University Press.
- Week 14 on WebCT

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27-28: THANKSGIVING**

**Week 15/ December 3: Con-Joining Ethics and (Other) IR Theory**

- Robinson, Fiona. 1999. Globalizing Care: Ethics, Feminist Theory, and International Relations. Westview Press.
- Week 15 on WebCT

**Week 16/ December 10: Resurgence of Religion in IR, Or IR (re-)Awakening to Religion?**

- Week 16 on WebCT

**READING DAYS DECEMBER 11-12**

**FINAL EXAMS: DECEMBER 13, 15-19**

**COMMENCEMENT: DECEMBER 19 - 20**