

Department of International Studies  
**IS 300 International Relations Theory**

Spring 2012  
M-W-F 12-12:50 pm  
Buckman 325

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**Course Description:**

The course is a survey of the major theoretical approaches in the field of international relations. The first part of the course is devoted to its primary purpose of familiarizing students with the major IR paradigms as well as several middle-range theories. The second part will cover theoretical perspectives of comparative politics. The course will also introduce students to research methods in the social sciences.

The main objectives of the course are:

- a) to gain knowledge of fundamental concepts, theories and classifications
- b) to accumulate factual knowledge
- c) to continue developing critical thinking skills

By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to

- a) identify the key assumptions of the theories covered in class
- b) analyze and critically evaluate world developments through theoretical lens

**Required Readings:**

Lim, Timothy. Doing Comparative Politics, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2010.

Viotti, Paul R. and Mark V. Kauppi. International Relations Theory. Fourth Ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2009.

Additional readings are posted in the professor's public folder.

**Course Requirements:**

Exams: There will be two take-home exams in this course: a mid-term and a final. The mid-term exam will be distributed on Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> and will be due on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup> by 12pm in class. The final exam will take place during the final exams week. It will be comprehensive.

Quizzes: There will be eight unannounced quizzes throughout the semester. The lowest score will be dropped. There will be no make-up for the quizzes unless the student has a documented excuse.

Paper: Students are required to write a research paper on a topic of their choice, approved by the instructor. The length of the paper should be approximately 15 pages. The paper is due on April 7th.

It is recommended that students start thinking about their topics early in the semester. They should have their research questions, theses, hypothesis, and dependent/independent variables ready by the dates noted in the course schedule. Each student will circulate their respective question, thesis, and hypothesis among their fellow students no later than 8 pm the day before they are due in class. Late submission will result in a deduction of three percent per day. The late penalty will be deducted from the overall paper grade.

Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussion. Participation grade is determined by attendance, participation in class discussion, and short class presentations. Students who have five or more unexcused absences will automatically receive “0” for this component of the final grade.

On days marked in the syllabus as “class discussion” students are expected to have read their fellow students’ submissions and be prepared to discuss them.

Each student is expected to give one presentation of the class material during the semester. The presentations should be approximately 10-12 minutes long. Students will pick their topics on a first-come-first serve basis.

Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Paper	25%
Quizzes	20%
<u>Participation</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	100%

**Grading Scale:**

A	93-100 %	C+	78-79	D-	62-60
A-	92-90	C	77-73	F	60-
B+	88-89	C-	72-70		
B	87-83	D+	68-69		
B-	82-80	D	67-63		

**Course Policies:**

Make-up Exams: There will be no make-up exams unless the instructor has been notified ahead of time. If a student cannot attend an examination, s/he must advise the instructor as soon as possible, and prior to the day of the exam. If the student has a valid and documented excuse, s/he will be allowed to take the exam before the regularly scheduled

exam time. Valid excuses include: illness (documented by a doctor's note, not a relative or a roommate); college function (documented); family emergency, such as a funeral (also documented).

Papers: Late papers will be lowered by three percent (3%) for each day they are late. Papers submitted a week after their due date will not be accepted. If the student has a valid and documented excuse and has notified the instructor ahead of time, s/he may be allowed to submit the paper at a later time.

Papers should be submitted both electronically and in hard copy by the required deadline.

All written work must be typed using Times New Roman font, size 12 pt., double-spaced, with up to 1" margins. Wikipedia, MSN Encarta, Britannica Online are **NOT** acceptable sources!

Tardiness: Entering or leaving the room while class is in progress is not acceptable, so please plan your arrival to the classroom accordingly. Doing so signals disrespect to the instructor and to fellow students alike, and suggests that the class is not a high priority to the student. Students who arrive late or leave early will not be allowed to sign the attendance sheet.

Honor Code: It is understood that the students will observe the honor code of Rhodes College. Any evidence of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will result in a failing grade and notification of college officials.

Disabilities: Every effort will be made to accommodate students with disabilities. To do so as effectively as possible, students who need special accommodations should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester

Laptops and cell phones: Students who use laptops in class must do so exclusively for the purpose of note-taking. Surfing the web, emailing, or playing computer games in class conveys disrespect to your fellow students as well as the instructor, and can be disruptive for the entire class.

Please turn off your cell phones before the class begins and refrain from using laptops during class.

This syllabus is subject to change.

### **Course Schedule**

Wed	<b>January 11</b>	Introduction to the course
Fri	13	Thinking about Theory and Methodology; V&K, Ch.1 (pp. 1-35); Writing a research question
Mon	16	<b>Martin Luther King Observance – No classes</b>
Wed	18	Steve Smith, Foundationalism; Dressler, What is at Stake at the Agency-Structure Debate

Fri	20	<b>IR Theories</b> Great Debates in IR: Kal Holsti
Mon	23	Realism V&K, Ch. 2 (pp. 42-97)
Wed	25	Mearsheimer, Tragedy of Great Power Politics
Fri	27	Walt, Origins of Alliances
Mon	30	Mearsheimer, The False Promise of Int'l Institutions
Wed	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Liberalism</b> V&K, Ch. 3
Fri	3	Liberalism Cont'd; Regime Theories
Mon	6	Integration Theory: Neofunctionalism
Wed	8	Liberal Intergovernmentalism, Moravcsik & Vachudova
Fri	10	<b>Research Questions Due:</b> class discussion
Mon	13	Class Discussion Cont'd
Wed	15	Hall, The Three New Institutionalisms
Fri	17	Pierson, The New Politics of the Welfare State
Mon	20	Marxism, V & K, Ch. 4
Wed	22	Marxism Cont'd
Fri	24	English School, V&K, Ch. 5
Mon	27	Constructivism, V&K, Ch. 6; Wendt
Wed	29	Constructivism: van de Wilde, Security: New Framework for Analysis
Fri	<b>March 2</b>	Constructivism: Societal Security; Huysmans
Mon	5	<b>Hypotheses/Arguments</b> Due Class Discussion
Wed	7	Class Discussion Cont'd
Fri	9	<b>Mid-Term Exam Due</b>
MWF	12/14/16	<b>Spring Break</b>
Mon	19	Critical Theory and Postmodernism, V&K, Ch. 7
Wed	21	Post-Colonialism; Said: Orientalism
Fri	23	Feminism, V&K, Ch. 8; J. A. Tucker 9/11 and Feminism
Mon	26	Feminism Cont'd
Wed	28	Homer-Dixon, Environmental Security
Fri	30	Green Theory: Eckersley
Mon	<b>April 2</b>	<b>Theories of Comparative Politics</b> Lim, Ch. 3
Wed	4	Lim, Ch. 4: Explaining Underdevelopment
Fri	6	Lim, Ch. 6: What Makes a Democracy?
Mon	9	Lim Cont'd; Putnam, What Makes Democracy Work
Wed	11	Lim, Ch. 7: Explaining Political Violence
Fri	13	Lim, Ch. 7: Social Movements; <b>PAPER DUE</b>
Mon	16	Kuru, Islamic Social Movements
Wed	18	Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games"
Fri	20	<b>Easter Recess</b>
Mon	23	Putnam, cont'd
Wed	25	Final Conclusions of the Course
Fri	27	Classes End