PLIR 4990

Honors Tutorial in International Relations

Spring 2015 Mr. Owen

Wednesdays 1:00-3:30 pm Gibson S-465

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 jmo4n@

This seminar treats some of the great historical and influential contemporary books (and in some cases essays or fragments) about international relations. Many great and influential works do not appear on the syllabus, and from the twentieth century on the list is heavily Anglo-American; but we can only cover so much in a single semester. We shall take them in roughly chronological order.

You are required to attend all class sessions; read each book or assigned portion thereof prior to class; and submit an essay addressing the question of the week (see below). Much of our class discussion will revolve around your essays, particularly their points of agreement and disagreement with the authors and with one another. Essays must be uploaded to the course’s Collab site by 1 p.m. (via the ‘assignments’ link) on Tuesdays, one day before our class meetings. You may omit any two essays over the course of the semester. Essays must be no more than 1,250 words. No essay is due for the first class session.

I have asked the University Bookstore to order Thucydides, Kant, Machiavelli, and all the books from February 15 onward. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are available through the Collab site (under ‘materials’); those with a cross (†), through the University Library’s e-text link.

My office hours this semester are Wednesdays from 3:45 until 5:45, in Gibson S-465.

I. January 14 [NO ESSAY]

\*Hedley Bull, “International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach,” *World Politics* 18, no. 3 (April 1966), 361-77.

\*J. David Singer, “The Incompleat Theorist: Insight without Evidence,” in James Rosenau and Klaus Knorr, eds., *Contending Approaches to International Politics* (Princeton UP, 1969), 62-86.

II. January 21

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1972), ISBN 0140440399. Read I, entire; II, 1-65; III, 36-85; V, 84-115; VI, 62-88; VIII, 45-98.

QUESTION: What causal theory of war, if any, is implicit in Thucydides?

III. January 28

†Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Book IV, Chapter VIII, “Conclusion of the Mercantile System,” <http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smWN.html>.

†Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*, chapter 5, “Ways and Means of Improving the Condition of Europe etc.,” available via <http://www.ushistory.org/PAINE/rights/index.htm>.

Immanuel Kant, *Idea for a Universal History with Cosmopolitan Intent* (1784)and *Toward* *Perpetual Peace, a Philosophical Sketch* (1795)*,* ed. Ted Humphrey (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1983), ISBN 0915145472.

\*Edmund Burke, “First Letter on a Regicide Peace” (1796), in *Empire and Community: Edmund Burke’s Writings and Speeches on International Relations*, ed. David P. Fidler and Jennifer M. Welsh (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press), 287-320.

QUESTION: If countries have more enlightened institutions, will international relations more rational, cooperative, and peaceful?

IV. February 4

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998), $8. ISBN 0226500446. Also available via e-text.

†Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, part I, ch. 13; part II, chs. 17-19, <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html>.

\*Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “Abstract and Judgement of Saint-Pierre’s Project for Perpetual Peace,” in *Rousseau on International Relations*, ed. Stanley Hoffmann and David P. Fidler (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991), 53-100.

\*Leopold von Ranke, “The Great Powers,” in idem, *The Secret of World History*, ed. R. Wines (New York: Fordham University Press, 1981), 121-55.

QUESTION: If all of these writers are realists, then what is realism?

V. February 11

John A. Hobson, *Imperialism, a Study* (London, 1902; reprinted, Cosimo Classics, 2005), ISBN 1596052503.

QUESTION: According to Hobson, what causes imperialism? Does he convince you?

VI. February 18

E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis* (London, 1946; reprint, New York: Palgrave 2001), ISBN 0333963776.

QUESTION: Is Carr correct about liberals (“utopians”)? Is his argument coherent?

VII. February 25

Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society*, 3rd ed. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977/2002), ISBN 0231127634.

QUESTION: What difference does it make whether we assume an international *society* as opposed to an international *system*? Does Bull convince you that we ought to assume the former?

VIII. March 4

 Robert O. Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and Its Critics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1983), ISBN 0231063490.

QUESTION: Compare Waltz and one of his critics (Ruggie, Keohane, Ashley, Cox). Who has the better of the argument?

MARCH 11: SPRING BREAK

IX. March 18

Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984), ISBN 0691022283.

QUESTION: Is Keohane’s book an effective answer to realist pessimism? Why or why not?

X. March 25

Samuel P. Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996), ISBN 0684844419.

QUESTION: Is Huntington correct that his paradigm is superior to all alternatives in depicting the post-Cold War world?

XI. April 1

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1998), ISBN 080148456

QUESTION: Do Keck and Sikkink make a significant contribution to the study of international relations? Why or why not?

XII. April 8

Alexander L. Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999), ISBN 0521469600, chs. 1, 3-4, 6-7.

QUESTION: After reading Wendt, do you agree that international anarchy is what states make of it?

XIII. April 15

David A. Lake, *Hierarchy in International Relations* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2009), ISBN 0801477158.

QUESTION: Is it better to conceive of the international system as anarchical, or as hierarchical?

XIV. April 22

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (New York: Basic Books, 1977; reprint, 2006), ISBN 0465037070.

QUESTION: Write a dialogue between Walzer and E. H. Carr.