The seminar will first go into the details of mainstream IR theories before deepening various topics dealt with in the two courses ‘History of IP’ and ‘War Studies’.

**Attendance is compulsory:**
only 1 absence per semester will be tolerated, whatever its reason.

The requirements are the following ones:
- every student has to make an oral presentation (some 20 minutes, 30% of the final grade) of both a theoretical debate and a book: **Word.doc(x) documents, 12 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12 point font, sent as attached e-mail files to the teacher and all the students of the class at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session**;
- every student has to write a research paper (40% of the final grade): **Word.doc(x) documents maximum 25 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, sent as an attached e-mail file to the teacher and all the students of the class at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session**;
- this research paper will be orally presented during some 30 minutes, and the presentation will be followed by a discussion based on the **critical comments made by an/other student/s (15 % of the final grade)**
- **every student is invited to actively participate** in the various discussions, by asking questions, putting forward criticisms, proposing alternative analyses (15% of the final grade).

N.B.:
The theoretical debates’ reading material is available on Moodle.
The books needed for the book reviews can be borrowed in the library. I will provide the missing one if necessary …

**Outline**

1 – 19th September 2016

Organization of the seminar
2 – 26th September 2016

Theoretical Debate: Anarchy, the Defining Criterion of IR?

Excerpts of K. Waltz, H. Milner, A. Wendt, J. Donnelly, M. Barnett & K. Sikkink

Theoretical Debate: IR, an American Social Science?

Excerpts of S. Hoffman, S. Smith, TRIP Project, O. Waever, A. Tickner

3 – 3rd October 2016

Theoretical Debate: Neorealism Versus Classical Realism


Waltz (Kenneth), Theory of International Politics, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1979, Chapter 4: Reductionist and Systemic Theories


Research Paper: Is Realism Still Relevant Since the End of the Cold War?

4 – 10th October 2016

Theoretical Debate: Neoclassical Realism


Book Review:


5 – 17th October 2016

Research Paper: Idealism to Transnationalism to Neoliberalism: Same Wine in Different Bottles?

Theoretical Debate: New Liberalism in IR: Theory, Doctrine or Ideology?


6 – 24th October 2016

Theoretical Debate: Critics of the Democratic Peace Theory


Book Review:

7 – 7\textsuperscript{th} November 2016

Research Paper: Comparing Hard and Soft Constructivism

Theoretical Debate: Criticizing Wendt’s \textit{Social Theory of International Politics}


8 – 14\textsuperscript{th} November 2016

Theoretical Debate: The End of Theory in IR?


Theoretical Debate: The Theory-Practice Gap in IR


9 – 21st November 2016

Research Paper: Explaining the Rise of the West

Book Review:


10 – 28th November 2016

Research Paper: From Louis XIV’s Wars to Napoleon’s Wars: Continuity or Change?

Book Review:


11 – 5th December 2016

Research Paper: European Perceptions of America from Hobbes to Tocqueville

Book Review:


12 – 12th December 2016

Research Paper: The Long Nineteenth Century: Peaceful, and If So, Why?

Comparative Book Review:

Kennedy (Paul), *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, New York, Vintage, 1989 (Chapters 2 to 5)
Kissinger (Henry) *Diplomacy*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1994 (Chapters 3 to 8)

13 – 9th January 2017

Common Discussion: “Galop”

14 – 16th January 2017

Book Review:


Research Paper: Contending Explanations of World War II’s Outbreak

15 – 23rd January 2017

Comparative Book Review:


Research Paper: Why Did Nobody Foresee the End of the Cold War?

16 – 30th January 2017

Theoretical Debate: Unipolarity = Stability?


Research Paper: America’s Future Peer Competitor: Beyond China, India?

17 – 6th February 2017

Theoretical Debate: Nine Eleven’s Impact


Book Review:


18 – 13th February 2017

Research Paper: China’s Relationship with Taiwan: War Risks versus Peace Prospects

Theoretical Debate: Causes of Nuclear (Non-)Proliferation


19 – 27\textsuperscript{th} February 2017

Research Paper: Operations “Enduring Freedom” and “Iraqi Freedom”: Victories or Defeats?

Book Review:


20 – 6\textsuperscript{th} March 2017

Research Paper: “In addition to losing its romantic appeal, war has been substantially discredited as an effective method” - J. Mueller, *The Obsolescence of Major War*, 1989. Given Mueller’s Optimism, How Can We Explain the Western Democracies’ Post-Cold War Wars?

Book Review:


21 – 13\textsuperscript{th} March 2017

Book Review:


Research Paper: Using Drones: Virtuous or Vicious Warfare?

22 – 20\textsuperscript{th} March 2017

Book Review:


Research Paper: Western NGO's and State-Building: Democracy Makers or Neo-Orientalists?
23 – 27th March 2017

Theoretical Debate: Media and/at War


Book Review:


24 – 3rd April 2017

Conclusion