MAKING SENSE
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
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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 (**maximum 15 minutes**, 25% of the final grade) of both a theoretical debate and a book review: Word.doc(x) documents, 10 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12 point font, uploaded on Moodle at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session;
- every student has to write 2 research papers (50% of the final grade): Word.doc(x) documents, maximum 20 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font, uploaded on Moodle at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session;
- this research paper will be orally presented during **maximum 30 minutes**, and the presentation will be followed by a discussion based on the **critical comments made by another student** (10% 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.

Outline

1 – 18th September 2017

Organization of the seminar
2 – 25th September 2017

Theoretical Debate: Philosophical Roots of IR

Hobbes (Thomas), *Leviathan* (1651), Chapter 13

Locke (John), *Treatise on Civil Government* (1690), Book II - Chapters 2 & 3

Kant (Immanuel), *Perpetual Peace* (1795), Sections 1 & 2

Theoretical Debate: IR as an American Social Science


3 – 2nd October 2017

Theoretical Debate: From Classical Realism to Neorealism


Theoretical Debate: Neoclassical Realism


Research Paper:

Realism, Eternal Wisdom, or: Does the Post-Cold War World Refute Realism?

Book Review:


Theoretical Debate: The Evolution of Liberalism


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


Research Paper:

Explaining Liberalism’s Post-Cold War Success

Theoretical Debate: The Democratic Peace Theory and Its Critics

Layne (Christopher), “Kant or Can’t: The Myth of the Democratic Peace”,


7 – 6th November 2017

Theoretical Debate: Origins of Post-Positivism


Research Paper:

Wendt’s Constructivism, the Highest Stage of Idealism?

8 – 13th November 2017

Theoretical Debate: The End of Theory in IR?


Theoretical Debate: Theory in IR and Practice of IR


9 – 20th November 2017
Research Paper:

AD 1492

Book Review:


10 – 27th November 2017
Research Paper:

Comparing Major War Cycles: 1793-1815 vs. 1914-1945

Book Review:


11 – 4th December 2017
Research Paper:

The Long Nineteenth Century: Peaceful or Stable?

Book Review:

Kennedy (Paul), The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers, New York, Vintage, 1989

12 – 11th December 2017
Book Review:

Research Paper:

America’s Rise to World Power

13 – 8th January 2018

Common Discussion: “*Galop*”

14 – 15th January 2018

Book Review:


Research Paper:

Contending Explanations of the End of the Cold War

15 – 22nd January 2018

Research Paper:

Nine Eleven, An “Utter Conceptual Surprise”

Book Review:


16 – 29th January 2018

Research Paper:

America’s Post-Cold War Preeminence: Hegemonic or Imperial?

Theoretical Debate: Assessing China’s Threat


17 – 5th February 2018

Research Paper:

The Impact of Nuclear Weapons upon the India-Pakistan Conflict

Theoretical Debate: Nuclear Proliferation


18 – 12th February 2018

Research Paper:

Is the Peace between China and Taiwan Due to Economic Interdependence?

Book Review:

Allison (Graham), *Destined For War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides’ Trap?*, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017

19 – 26th February 2018

Research Paper:

Explaining America’s Policy Towards the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Research Paper:

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

The Pros and Cons of Corporate Warriors in Western Armies

Book Review:


Research Paper:

Using Drones: Virtuous or Vicious Warfare?

Book Review:


Research Paper:

State-Building: Democracy-Making or Neo-Orientalism?

Research Paper:

France’s Military Interventions in Africa Since Decolonization: Change or Continuity?

Research Paper:

From the Yellow Peril to Rogue States: the Continuing Story of A Stigmatization

Theoretical Debate: American Media and America’s Wars


24 – 9th April 2018

Research Paper:

Terrorism, An Essentially Contested Concept

Theoretical Debate: Reasons of Global Terrorism

