

**MAKING SENSE  
OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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The seminar will 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 assignments are the following ones:

- every student has to make an oral presentation of both a Theoretical Issue and a Book Review (**some 10 to 12 minutes**, 30% of the final grade): **Word.doc(x) documents, 10 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12 point font, sent to me and all the students at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session concerned;**
- 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, sent to me and all the students at the latest 48 hours before the seminar session concerned;**
- this research paper will be orally presented during **some 20 to 30 minutes (the shorter, the better)**, 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 (10% of the final grade).

N.B.:

The theoretical debates' reading material is available on Moodle.

**Outline**

1-

Organization of the seminar

2-

Theoretical Issue: IR's Three Traditions

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 Issue: Is IR an American Social Science?

Hoffmann (Stanley), "An American Social Science: International Relations", *Daedalus*, 106 (3), 1977, p. 41-60.

Waever (Ole), "The Sociology of a Not So International Discipline. American and European Developments in International Relations", *International Organization*, 52 (4), 1998, p. 687-727

Maliniak (Daniel) et al., *TRIP Around the World*, Williamsburg, William and Mary College, 2012.

### 3 –

### Theoretical Issue: From Classical Realism to Neorealism

Morgenthau (Hans), *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* (1948), New York, McGraw-Hill, 1993, brief edition, p. Chapter 1: A Realist Theory of International Politics.

Aron (Raymond), "What Is A Theory of International Relations?", *Journal of International Affairs*, 21 (2), 1967, p. 185-206.

Waltz (Kenneth), "Realist Thought and Neorealist Theory", *Journal of International Affairs*, 44 (1), 1990, p. 21-37.

### Theoretical Issue: Neoclassical Realism

Rose (Gideon), "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy", *World Politics*, 51 (1), 1998, p. 144-172.

Schweller (Randall), "The Progressiveness of Neoclassical Realism", in C. Elman & M. F. Elman (eds.), *Progress in International Relations Theory*, Cambridge, MIT Press, 2003, p. 311-347.

Narizny (Kevin), "On Systemic Paradigms and Domestic Politics: A Critique of the Newest Realism", *International Security*, 42 (2), 2017, p. 155-190.

### 4 –

#### Book Review:

Kissinger (Henry), *Diplomacy*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 1994.

#### Research Paper:

The Post-Cold War World: Realism Corroborated or Refuted?

5–

Research Paper:

Republican, Economic and Institutional Liberalisms: Common Threads, Divergent Strands

Research Paper:

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

6–

Research Paper:

Explaining Liberalism's Post-Cold War Success

Research Paper:

A New Liberal Analysis of Donald Trump's Foreign Policy

7–

Theoretical Issue: Post-Positivism's Major Claims

Cox (Robert), "Social Forces, States, and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory", *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 10 (2), 1981, p. 126-155.

Tickner (Ann), "Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism: A Feminist Reformulation", *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 17 (3), 1988, p. 429-440.

Spivak (Gayatri), "Can the Subaltern Speak?", in C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (eds.), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, London, MacMillan, 1988, p. 271-313.

Research Paper:

Wendt's Constructivism, the Highest Stage of Idealism?

8–

Theoretical Issue: Paradigmatic vs. Pragmatic Research in IR

Fearon (James) & Wendt (Alexander), "Rationalism vs. Constructivism. A Skeptical View", in W. Carlsnaes, T. Risse et B. Simmons (eds.), *Handbook of International Relations*, London, Sage, 2002, p. 52-72.

Katzenstein (Peter) et Sil (Rudra), "Eclectic Theorizing in the Study and Practice of International Relations", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 109-130.

Maliniak (Daniel), *et al.*, "International Relations in the US Academy", *International Studies Quarterly*, 55 (2), 2011, p. 437-464.

Lake (David), "Why 'Isms' Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress", *International Studies Quarterly*, 55 (2), 2011, p. 565-580.

Mearsheimer (John) & Walt (Stephen), "Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing Is Bad for IR", *European Journal of International Relations*, 19 (3), 2013, p. 427-457.

Guzzini (Stefano), "The Ends of IR Theory. Stages of Reflexivity and Modes of Theorizing", *European Journal of International Relations*, 19 (3), 2013, p. 521-541.

#### Theoretical Issue: The Theory-Practice-Gap in IR

Zelikow (Philip), "Foreign Policy Engineering. From Theory to Practice and Back Again", *International Security*, 18 (4), 1994, p. 143-171.

Wallace (William), "Truth and Power, Monks and Technocrats: Theory and Practice in International Relations", *Review of International Studies*, 22 (3), 1996, p. 301-321.

Booth (Ken), "Discussion: A Reply to Wallace", *Review of International Studies*, 23 (3), 1997, p. 371-377.

Walt (Stephen), "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 8, 2005, p. 23-48

Nye (Joseph), "International Relations: The Relevance of Theory to Practice", in C. Reus-Smit & D. Snidal (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2008, p. 648-660.

Tickner (J. Ann) & Tsygankov (Andrei) (eds.), "Risks and Opportunities of Crossing the Academic/Policy Divide", *International Studies Review*, 10 (1), 2008, p. 155-177.

9–

#### Research Paper:

From AD 1453 to AD 1492: Explaining the Rise of the West

#### Book Review:

Carl Schmitt, *The Nomos of the Earth in the International Law of the Ius Publicum Europaeum* (1950), New York, Telos, 2003.

10 –

Research Paper:

From Louis XIV's Wars to Napoleon's Wars: Continuity or Change?

Book Review:

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

11 –

Research Paper:

The Long Nineteenth Century: Unipolar or Multipolar?

Book Review:

Fareed Zakaria, *From Wealth to Power. The Unusual Origins of America's World Role*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1998

12 –

Research Paper:

WWI and WWII: Two Major Wars or One Major War Cycle?

Book Review:

Edward H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis: 1919-1939 (1939/1945)*, Basingstoke, Palgrave-McMillan, 2001.

13 –

Research Paper:

The Cold War, A Bipolar Society?

Research Paper:

Contending Explanations of the End of the Cold War

14 –

Research Paper:

Nine Eleven, An "Utter Conceptual Surprise"

Book Review:

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978), London, Penguin, 2012.

15 –

Research Paper:

America's Post-Cold War Preeminence: Moment or Era?

Research Paper:

Putin's Russia *versus* the US: A New Cold War?

16 –

Research Paper:

Negotiating with the Enemy: America's Position(s) towards Iran and North Korea

Book Review:

Sagan (Scott) & Waltz (Kenneth), *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate*, New York, Norton, 2012, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

17 –

Book Review:

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

Research Paper:

A Force for Peace? Economic Interdependence and the Future of US-China Relations

18 –

Theoretical Issue: Democratic Peace or Democratic Wars?

Doyle (Michael), "Liberalism and World Politics Revisited", *American Political Science Review*, 80 (4), 1986, p. 1151-1169.

Freedman (Lawrence), "The Age of Liberal Wars", *Review of International Studies*, 31 (Special Issue), 2005, p. 93-107.

Geis (Anna) & Wagner (Wolfgang), "How Far Is it from Königsberg to Kandahar? Democratic Peace and Democratic Violence in International Relations", *Review of International Studies*, 36 (1), 2010, p. 1-23.

Research Paper:

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

19 –

Research Paper:

The Indian-Pakistani Conflict: An Enduring Rivalry?

Book Review:

Mearsheimer (John) & Walt (Stephen): *The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy*, London, Penguin, 2006

20 –

Research Paper:

The Pros and Cons of Corporate Warriors in Western Armies

Book Review:

Hanson (Victor), *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power*, New York, Doubleday, 2001.

21 –

Research Paper:

Using Drones: Virtuous or Vicious Warfare?

Book Review:

Walzer (Michael), *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (1977), New York, Basic Books, 2015, 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

22 –

Research Paper:

Terrorism, An Essentially Contested Concept

Theoretical Issue: Reasons of Global Terrorism

Pape (Robert), "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism", *American Political Science Review*, 97 (3), 2003, p. 343-361.

Collard-Wexler (Simon), Pishedda (Constantino), & Smith (Michael), "Do Foreign Occupations Cause Suicide Attacks?", *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58 (4), 2014, p. 625-657.

Braithwaite (Alex), "Transnational Terrorism as an Unintended Consequence of a Military Footprint", *Security Studies*, 24 (2), 2015, p. 349-375.

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Conclusion