International Relations: Theory and Policy
IGA-101

Class Time: Monday & Wednesday, 1:10pm – 2:30pm
Location: Starr Auditorium (Belfer Building, 4th floor)
The first day of class is Wednesday, September 1ST.

Stephen M. Walt                                           Matthew Baum
Littauer 367                                                  Taubman 244
Office Hours MW 2:30-4:00                          Office Hours: X:
Assistant: Katie Naeve, L209                        Assistant: Jamie Georgia  B418

Course Assistants:
Joshua Drake
Daniel Masterson

Objectives: This course provides an introduction to some of the major theoretical perspectives for studying how states and peoples behave and interact. No prior background in international relations is assumed or required. Students will acquire some basic analytical tools for understanding and explaining a wide array of international phenomena, including war, environmental degradation, alliance behavior, international norms, internal conflict, arms races, and others. Our goal is to help students better understand why we observe certain policy outcomes in the international arena, and to help you devise policy responses that are consistent with international realities and thus more likely to succeed.

Course Organization and Requirements: The course will be conducted through a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, and individual and group assignments. To facilitate more effective discussions, students in the class will be divided into two separate discussion sections. There will normally be a formal in-class lecture for the entire class on Monday, followed by a discussion of the central issues and their policy implications in the smaller sections on Wednesday. Students are expected to complete all of the required reading prior to each class and come to class prepared to participate fully in the discussions.

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

1. Policy memo and op-ed 30%
2. Group exercise 20%
3. Final examination 40%
4. Class participation 10%

Course Materials: Readings for the course will be available on the course webpage; materials that are not available online will be available for purchase from the Course Materials Office. The main textbook, The Globalization of World Politics, by Baylis, Smith & Owens is available for purchase at the Coop Bookstore.
Class Schedule and Assignments

September 1: Making Sense of a Complex International System [Walt]


Note: students with little background in the field should also read Baylis, Smith & Owens, *Globalization of World Politics*, pp. 1-89.

September 6: No Class - Labor Day

September 9: Explanatory Traditions in International Relations: Realism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism [Walt]


September 13, 15: Theories of Strategic Interaction [Baum]


Discussion topic: Are Economic Sanctions a Useful Policy Tool? For what purpose(s)?

September 20, 22: The Causes of War: Traditional & Rationalist Theories [Walt]


Discussion topic: Will the Rise of China Increase the Risk of War?

September 27, 29: Domestic Politics and International Conflict [Baum]


Discussion topic: Democracy Promotion

October 4, 6: Information, Misperception and Miscalculation [Walt]


Bipartisan Policy Center, *Meeting the Challenge* 2008 (Executive summary) [ONLINE]


Discussion topic: Dealing with Iran

**Note: 1st assignment will be handed out on 10/6 and is due in class on 10/13.**

October 11: No class (Columbus Day)

October 13, 18, 20: Public Goods and Equity Issues [Baum]


Discussion topic: Climate Change

October 25, 27: International Alliances and Security Cooperation [Walt]


Discussion Topic: What Future for NATO?

November 1, 3: International Solutions: the Role of Institutions [Baum]


Discussion topic: How Effective is U.N. Peacekeeping?

November 8, 10: Norms, Laws, and Identities [Walt]


Walzer, Michael, Just and Unjust Wars, preface to the 3rd edition. [PACKET]


November 15: Transnational and Non-State Actors [Walt]


Kiras, J. “Terrorism and Globalization,” in Baylis, Smith, and Owens, Globalization of World Politics, pp. 372-85

** Note: the group project assignment will be handed out on Nov. 15 **

November 17: No Class (time available for preparation of group project)

November 22, 24: Group Project Presentations

November 29 and December 1: The Future of World Politics [Walt & Baum]


*Discussion topic: The Global Agenda in 2025*

The final examination will be distributed on December 1 and is due on Dec. 16.