This is a graduate level survey course focusing on International Relations theory. The title is important, as it is not a survey of current events or "hot topics." Rather, our focus is on the intellectual history of international relations scholarship. We will repeatedly address six questions. What questions have scholars posed about international politics? What answers did they unearth? Are these answers logically sound? Are these answers empirically supported? Are these questions the right ones? Of what relevance are these answers to policymakers?

This class is intended to prepare students for advanced course work in the field. As such, there will be a lot of reading, writing, and thinking required.

Expectations:

1. Our goal is to ensure that everyone begins to understand and integrate the scholarship. In order to do this, we will rely on a great deal of discussion. As a result, classes like this will succeed or fail based on your efforts much more than mine.

2. I expect every student to come to class having completed the reading and being prepared to discuss it. I reserve the right to call on anyone at any time for any reason.

3. Some of the readings may cause confusion. Feel free to come by my office and we’ll try to iron out any concerns.

4. I assume that all of you are professionals. As a result, I do not expect any problems either with late assignments, attendance, or plagiarism. Late assignments will not be accepted. Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled according to procedures outlined in the Whitehead School Academic Integrity Policy. Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the course and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible.

5. As a rule, I do not restrict your discussions with me to office hours. You may feel free to drop by at your convenience to discuss anything. Email is also a very workable mode of communication.

6. Students with disabilities should contact Disabilities Support Services for special accommodations.
Books:
These are available for purchase at the bookstore. Feel free to use alternative vendors if you wish.


Note that this last book is only recommended for those without a strong political science background. In other words, if you have not had an undergraduate class in International Relations Theory, you will find this a very helpful reference. We will not have any assigned readings from the Mingst text.

The remainder of the reading assignments will be available on the Blackboard page for the course.

Evaluation:
Your grade for the class will be comprised of the following:
- Take Home Midterm: 40%
- Take Home Final: 50%
- Participation 10%

More detailed information on each of these can be found on the last page of the syllabus.

Assessment:
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Describe the evolution of Liberal and Realist thought in International Relations theory.
2. Describe the evolution of theoretical debates in various IR subfields.
3. Describe the emerging debate between Rationalist and Constructivist International Relations theory.
4. Describe the social science research process.
5. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of qualitative, quantitative, and formal research designs.

Schedule of Classes:
- September 8: Week One
  - Introduction
- September 15: Week Two
  - Approaches to Inquiry

September 22 Week Three Classical Realism
X Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*

September 29 Week Four Modern Refinements of Realism
X Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*

October 6 Week Five Classical Liberalism
X Kant, *Perpetual Peace*.

October 13 Week Six Modern Refinements of Liberalism

October 20 Week Seven Constructivism

October 27 Week Eight Hegemony

November 3 Week Nine Theory and Practice

November 10 Week Ten War and Peace

November 17 Week Eleven International Political Economy

November 24 Week Twelve International Organization
X James Traub. 2007. Running the UN. Foreign Policy. 158:74-78.

December 1 Week Thirteen Foreign Policy
X Graham Allison, Essence of Decision
Particulars on Assignments:

1. Participation
I will employ the following rubric to determine your participation grade:
X An A grade will be given to students who exhibit frequent, high quality participation.
X An A- grade will be given to students who exhibit frequent participation, though their contributions are of lesser quality.
X A B+ grade will be given to students who participate infrequently.
X A B grade will be given to those students who merely respond when called upon.

2. Take Home Exams
Each student will prepare (on his or her own) a 10 page take home midterm and final. These exams will consist of essay type questions. Questions will be handed out on October 13 and December 8, and are due to me (both electronic and hard copy, or merely electronic) by the following Wednesday by 4pm EST.