SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

This course is designed to examine in depth general theories that have been developed by scholars of diverse backgrounds and disciplines which can be utilized for the study and interpretation of political phenomena classified as **international**. Being a graduate course the instructor assumed general familiarity with the basic terminology and concepts of international relations. Students from disciplines other than political science/international affairs must make a special effort to make up any deficiencies in their preparation for graduate work in **international relations/this course**.

FORMAT OF THE COURSE

This is essentially a seminar course, and students are expected to actively engage in the discussions during the class period throughout the semester. **Meaningful participation presupposes timely reading of assignments.** All students are expected to read the assigned materials before coming to class, and to keep up to date with the **trends in theoretical literature in the field of international relations**. Towards this end, students must: (a) Read basic journals in international relations, and (b) Follow the trends in monograph/book publications in the same field. The following journals on International Relations are highly recommended (all are available in the periodical Reading Room of the Founders Library, in the Library of Congress, and University Libraries in the Metropolitan Washington Area): *World Politics; International Studies Quarterly; International Studies; Foreign Policy; Foreign Affairs; International Affairs; Orbis; International Organization; Global Affairs; International Security; American Political Science Review.*
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Final grades for this course will be based on successful completion of the following requirements:

1. Class participation (every student must participate in class discussion) 10%
2. A written mid-term examination based on required and recommended readings, class discussions and readings beyond specific assignments 30%
3. A comprehensive, well-researched and properly documented paper of no more than 20 pages 40%
4. Oral presentation of the term-paper in the class 20%

All research topics must be approved by the instructor and must deal with a theoretical concept/issues in International Relations.

VERY IMPORTANT NOTE

No case studies are accepted as research papers. All papers are due on or before the last day of classes.

INCOMPLETE GRADES:

Except in verifiable hardship cases, the instructor will not submit incomplete grades for students. Student who, for whatever reason, do not submit their work on time should not expect an A grade for that assignment. Timely completion of assignments is one of the elements considered in evaluating the quality of written work.

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

The University has no mandatory class attendance policy. However, the instructor strongly advised regular class attendance, since class participation is part of the calculation of student’s final grade.

TEXTBOOKS/READINGS

This course being a graduate class in a broad and constantly changing political science sub-field, no single text can be assumed to capture the essence of the field. Nevertheless, several books have been ordered for this class. In addition, a reading list of major works in the subject is offered below covering a wide range of theoretical approaches and representing an equally wide range of disciplines. The expectation is that students will carefully read most, if not all the suggested titles in the course of the semester.
REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

2. Joseph S. Nye, Jr., *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*

RECOMMENDED READINGS


COURSE OUTLINE

1. Overview of Theories of International Relations
2. Levels of Analysis of International Conflict: Man, the State and the System
3. Morality/Idealism VS Realism: An Examination of Two Sets of Theories
4. National Interest: Can It Explain International Behavior?
5. Power and Its Uses in International Relations
6. Balance of Power Theories: Constrains in the Behavior of Nation-States
7. Deterrence Theories: Applicability of an Approach to Current International Problems
8. Theories of Conflicts Resolution: Re-Education Man or Remaking the International System
9. Decision-Making Approaches to International Relations
10. Theories of Integration: Nature and Value
11. Systemic Theories in International Relations and Their Uses
12. From Conflict to Peace: The Uses of International Law
13. Post-Behavioralism in International Relations
14. Summary and Conclusions

A Summary and comparison of basic theories discussed in the course of the semester. Students are expected to make use of their readings in a concrete way to render a critique of the various theories and the structure of the course as a whole.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Evan Luard (Editor), *Basic Texts in International Relations* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1992)