PS 674 – IR Proseminar

PS 674
PROSEMINAR IN THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
Fall 2010
Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:30pm
Location 1643 POT (Conference Room)

Professor: Geoffrey Wallace
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Office Hours: TR 11:00am – 12:00pm OBA

Course Description
This seminar provides an overview of the field of international relations. The primary focus is to introduce fundamental theoretical debates in the field through a combination of classic works and contemporary scholarship. It is designed primarily for graduate students in Political Science preparing for their comprehensive field exams and further study in more specialized course offerings in international relations. It should be emphasized that the instructor makes no pretense to exhaustively cover the field, but rather provide a foundation for further reading on the part of each student.

Course Requirements

Participation (25%): A successful seminar for each student and the class as a whole requires attending every meeting, completing all readings beforehand, and active participation during class. All students are also required to submit 3-4 discussion questions for each week’s readings by 4pm the day before class meets.

Author’s Defendant (10%): All students will be assigned once during the semester to serve as “Author’s Defendant” for one course meeting. You will be called on to defend the merits of the week’s readings by speaking for the relevant authors. As part of this task you will also serve as “resident expert” and will be called on to explain or clarify questions the professor or other students may have about the readings.

Two Critical Short Essays (15%): These essays, to be assigned in advance, will critically comment on 1-2 readings from a week. Each essay should be 3-5 double-spaced pages in length. You are required to email your essay to the professor and the entire class by 6pm on the Sunday preceding the class. The essay should not simply summarize the assigned texts, since all students are already expected to have done the readings. Rather, you should develop an original argument based on some aspect of the readings (theoretical, empirical, methodological), which improves our understanding of the underlying issues. Students are expected to defend this paper and lead discussion of their assigned articles during class.

Review Essay (25%): 10-page paper taking the form of a mini version of a World Politics style review essay drawing on some of the literature assigned for a particular week. Each student can write on any week they desire (in consultation with me), but regardless of the week chosen the essay is due by
Thursday, October 21. A review essay is an analysis of the main themes in a body of scholarship. It provides an overview of a school of thought by summarizing the contributions, as well as shortcomings, of several sources that share a common approach or topic. An effective review essay involves three main components: (a) briefly describes the main approach, themes, concepts, and arguments in the sources (b) analyses the strengths and weaknesses of the approach, paying particular attention to theoretical rigor and empirical evidence, and (c) distills the best features of the source materials, noting caveats where necessary, along with offering possible avenues for future research. The review essay should not simply summarize the readings or class material. Rather, students are expected to demonstrate evidence of original and critical thinking based on individualized reading. The essay must review at least two books on your chosen topic, or you may substitute three articles for one book. You are encouraged to meet with me to identify additional readings that may prove useful for the purpose of the review essay.

Research Proposal (25%): 10-page paper taking the form of a hypothetical “research prospectus” that sets out a question and a research agenda building on unresolved issues, puzzles, or debates suggested by some of the literature in a way that prepares for future empirical work. You are not expected to conduct the research paper. Rather, the paper should include a statement of the theoretical puzzle, brief literature review, theoretical analysis, and develop at least one empirical hypothesis. However, discussion should not center on methodological issues (e.g. measurement, case selection, research design) except if briefly to respond to the existing literature, or if unavoidable when discussing theoretical matters. Even though the paper is primarily theoretical, you are encouraged to use empirical examples to illustrate or clarify points. You should discuss your proposed topic with the instructor by the end of October; the paper is due no later than Thursday, December 2. Please note: the proposal should be significantly different from the earlier review essay assignment.

Since none of the written assignments is a research paper, and in the interest of encouraging you to complete your work on time, late assignments will be penalized substantially. Late critical short essays will not be accepted, since other students should have ample time to read these essays before class meets. Review essays and research proposals will be graded down one letter grade (i.e. 10%) for each day the paper is late. Of course, there may be circumstances, such as illness, family, or personal emergencies that could merit adjustments to this grading policy. However, such situations are generally quite rare.

All e-mail related to the course should begin with the Subject Heading “PS674: …”. Assignments should be submitted by e-mail attachment with the subject heading “PS 674: <Your Name> - <Assignment Name>”. Papers submitted in any other way may be missed and not graded.

Grading Policy and Appeals
Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, E = 0-59.

A student wishing to appeal any grade given must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructor. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals must be made within two weeks of when the exam or assignment was originally returned to the class. Appeals simply asking for more points will not be
considered. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment once an appeal is made, which may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**
Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and are treated as such by both the university and the instructor. Be aware that the instructor is apt to impose the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes but is not limited to issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the course. If students have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, the following link may be helpful http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf.

**Special Needs**
If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

**Classroom Expectations**
Some of the material covered in this course may be controversial. While debate is expected and in fact encouraged, students are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times during the course. Students are expected to arrive on time and ready to start class. We have a very short period of time for each class, and it is disrespectful to the instructor and your fellow classmates to show up late. If you miss a class you are still responsible for the information covered, and the instructor will not provide you with notes. All disruptive behavior is not permitted during class, including but by no means limited to sleeping, talking outside of regular discussion, using cell phones, and insulting classmates and/or the instructor.

**Readings**
There are three required books to purchase:


*Recommended texts for further reading:*


In addition, you are encouraged to consult any of the MIT Press International Security Readers, which contain collections of key readings on particular themes in international relations. The Annual Review of Political Science, published annually, provides articles that succinctly review the literature on particular topics across Political Science. The International Studies Association (ISA) is putting together a compendium project with similar types of review essays across topics in international relations (see http://www.isacomppss.com/).

Many of the readings assigned in this course come from the following selection of journals, though this list is by no means exhaustive. You are encouraged to consult some of these journals on a regular basis to keep abreast of the latest developments in the field.

**General Political Science**
- American Political Science Review
- American Journal of Political Science
- Journal of Politics

**Field-specific**
- International Security
- Journal of Conflict Resolution
- Security Studies
- Journal of Peace Research
- International Interactions
- International Theory
- Review of International Organizations
- Review of International Political Economy

European Journal of International Relations

All other readings will be posted electronically on the course website.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST**

**Week 1 (August 31): Introduction and Overview**

Week 2 (September 7): Foundations – Sovereignty and Levels of Analysis

**Sovereignty**

**Levels of Analysis**

Week 3 (September 14): Materialist Approaches and the Realist Worldview

**Classical Beginnings**

**Structural Approaches**

Week 4 (September 21): The Cooperative Response and the Rationalist Turn

**Anarchy and Cooperation**
Some Critics

Synthesis

General Rationalist Approaches

Week 5 (September 28): Challenges to Rationalism: Ideational Approaches

Foundations

Interests

Ideas, Communication, and Identities
Week 6 (October 5): Challenges to Rationalism: Organizational and Psychological Approaches

Bureaucracy

Psychology

Week 7 (October 12): Preferences and Domestic Politics

Domestic Origins of Preferences

Second Image in Reverse

Two-Level Games
Week 8 (October 19): War and Conflict


Week 9 (October 26): Peace, Conflict, and Domestic Institutions

*The Democratic Peace*
Review Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics.”

*Regime Type and Foreign Policy*

Week 10 (November 2): Peace, Conflict, and International Institutions

*Cooperation*

*Coercion*

**Week 11 (November 9): Compliance and Institutional Design**

*Compliance*

*Institutional Design*
Week 12 (November 16): Regions and Globalization

**Regions**

**Globalization**

Week 13 (November 23): Transnational Relations and Non-State Actors

**Transnationalism and Networks**

**None-State Actors**
Week 14 (November 30): Race and Gender Approaches

Race and Culture

Feminist Approaches

Week 15 (December 7): Synthesis and Looking Ahead

The Perils and Possibilities of Synthesis

From Theory to Policy

Normative Concerns

New Issues for IR Theory