Graduate Seminar on International Relations
Political Science (PSCI) 5013/7013
Spring 2007

Instructor:
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Course Description:
  Day/Time: Mondays 1:00PM – 3:30PM
  Location: Ketchum 116
  Website: http://CULearn.colorado.edu

This is a PhD-level course on approaches to the systematic study of international relations. The course surveys the field by reviewing major methodological and epistemological approaches as well as main theoretical approaches. The course has three main objectives:

1. introduce students to the major epistemological, methodological and theoretical debates in international relations;

2. stimulate students to carry out critical analysis of various theoretical and empirical IR literature; and

3. encourage students to begin devising their own research projects.

Course Requirements:

1. Class participation (30% of your grade): This is a seminar class and your participation through offering insightful comments and asking probing questions is essential for your and other students learning. You are expected to attend and actively participate in each class.

2. Response papers (35% of your grade): Between week 2 and week 14 (except week 12), each student is required to write 5 brief essays that analyze the readings for the week. Writing these papers will help you think critically about the readings and prepare for active discussion in class. What you may not do is write descriptive summaries of readings. The papers are to be three-page long, double-spaced, 12-point font, with one-inch margin on all sides. The papers are due in my e-mail by 8AM on the day of the class. Please attach the papers as a word processor document, named with your last name and the number of your response paper, e.g. Kim1.doc, Kim2.doc, etc. Also paste the text of your paper into the body of your e-mail message.

3. Research proposal (35% of your grade): Throughout the semester, you will work on drafting a proposal for a potential research project of your interest. The proposal will identify a research question, review the relevant literature, offer a potential answer/argument and propose a
research design to carry out. You will briefly present your proposal in class on April 16 and receive feedback from your classmates. The written proposal (about 15-20 pages) is due on the last day of the class (April 30).

Readings:

- All other readings are available online at CULearn.colorado.edu.
- Although the readings will be available online, you might choose to purchase some of the books through online vendors.

Schedule and Assignments:

Part I: Introduction and Preliminaries

Week 1: Introductory Class (January 22)


Week 2: Philosophy of Science (January 29)


Week 3: Epistemological Debates (February 5)

Week 4: Methodological Debates (February 12)


Part II: Theoretical Approaches

Week 5: Structure, Power and Anarchy (February 19)

[Classical realism/neorealism/neoclassical realism]


Week 6: Regimes and Institutions (February 26)

[Neoliberalism/neoliberal institutionalism]


**Week 7: Identities and Norms** (March 5)

**[Constructivism]**

– Wendt, Chapters 4 and 6.

**Week 8: Cultures and Ideas** (March 12)

**[Sociological institutionalism]**


**Week 9: Perception and Decision-Making** (March 19)

**[Cognitive and psychological approaches]**


**Week 10: Society and Domestic Politics** (April 2)

[Domestic political approaches: liberalism and preferences]


**Week 11: Domestic Politics and Institutions** (April 9)

[Domestic political approaches: institutions and regime types]


**Part III: State of the Field and Conclusion**

**Week 12: Student Research Proposal Discussion** (April 16)

**Week 13: Sovereignty and Changes in International Relations** (April 23)


– Wendt, Chapter 7.


**Week 14: State of the Field (April 30)**


