

POLI 240
International Relations Theory

Winter 2020
Fri 9:00–11:50a

<http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/ps240/>

SSB 104

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DESCRIPTION: This seminar is a broad survey of major works in the field of international relations. It is intended to provide students with a wide background in the development of key research approaches and fundamental concepts in the study of international conflict and cooperation. The course is a prerequisite for almost all advanced graduate seminars in IR, and is the basis for the comprehensive examination.

REQUIREMENTS: This course has a heavy reading load, and students are expected to complete all required reading and come to the seminar prepared to discuss it. Student participation in class is essential and is worth 50% of the course grade. For the other 50% of the course grade, students will write short weekly “études” answering one of the Five Questions, as detailed below.

ÉTUDES. All essays must be typeset and submitted in hardcopy in my mailbox on Tuesday by noon. A submission received after this deadline will not be accepted for credit. These essays are not meant as critiques of the readings. Instead, they are designed to teach you (through repetition and applications of similar techniques to different problems) to ask creative and productive questions for research. The Five Questions are drawn from Clark’s *Asking Interesting Questions* chapter available on the course website.

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 5 meetings without a sanctioned excuse will result in failing the course irrespective of other factors.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES. No electronic devices will be permitted in class unless there is a University-sanctioned exemption.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. You are expected to do your own work. Students suspected of cheating (this includes, but is not limited to, presenting other people’s ideas and words as their own, or working with colleagues and then submitting common essays) will be immediately turned over to the Academic Integrity Office. If it is determined that a violation of academic integrity standards has occurred, the student will fail the course, and AIO may impose additional administrative sanctions, including suspension and termination from the program.

GRADE APPEALS. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument explaining why the grade needs to be revised.

READINGS: The readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. All articles can be found online, usually through JSTOR. You will need the following books:

- Lake, David A, and Robert Powell. Eds. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Prince-

ton: Princeton University Press.

- Lake, David A. 2009. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Long Grove: Waveland Press.
- Milner, Helen V. 1997. *Interests, Institutions, and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

SCHEDULE: This is only the topic outline. The complete and frequently updated schedule of readings is on the course website.

WEEK 1: PARADIGMS AND PROGRESS IN IR

WEEK 2: THREE IMAGES AND STRATEGIC CHOICE

WEEK 3: THE ENVIRONMENT: SOVEREIGNTY, ANARCHY, AND HIERARCHY

WEEK 4: CONFLICT AND COOPERATION WITH STATES AS UNITARY ACTORS

WEEK 5: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, TRANSACTION COSTS, AND DELEGATION

WEEK 6: DOMESTIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR

WEEK 7: PREFERENCES, INTEREST AGGREGATION, AND FOREIGN POLICY

WEEK 8: LEADERS AS UNITS OF ANALYSIS

WEEK 9: TRANSNATIONAL ACTORS AND VIOLENCE

WEEK 10: INTERNATIONAL CHANGE