Syllabus

**Seminar Goals:**
- Survey the range of theoretical approaches and models in the study of international politics;
- Develop an ability to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of competing approaches and theories, and develop a methodology for choosing between competing explanations (or synthesizing them);
- Examine the range of recent contributions to the literature and evaluate the direction(s) the field is moving;
- Locate your own research interests within the range of theoretical, methodological, and subject matter choices contending in the field;
- Survey the nature of the work being conducted by our own faculty and how that work relates to your own interests;
- Provide a first step toward preparing for prelims;
- Assist you in thinking about teaching (at the graduate and undergraduate levels) this field.

**Requirements and Expectations** (Some of you have extensive experience with the graduate program; some of you have none. For the former, my apologies…I don’t mean to insult. For the latter, it is important that we set out these expectations so that you are not surprised at the end when “loaves and fishes” are distributed):

- Students are expected to attend every seminar, period. Only under extraordinary circumstances is this requirement waived (death in family; feeling like you are dying, etc.). Missing a class is a near-mortal sin.
- Students are expected to come to each session, well prepared: reading all the materials assigned, understanding clearly each of the readings (and if necessary rereading everything), and making connections across the readings to construct a larger picture from the week’s assignment.
  - Note: keep in mind that readings are cumulative; once we have gone through a set of readings, it is assumed that you will keep those readings in mind as we progress onto the next set, and you can relate the previous materials to the new ones.
  - There are typically two sets of readings listed for each week. You are expected to read all of the “required” readings; in addition, I’ve listed a number of others under “additional” that are important to know, although we will not specifically cover them in the seminar.
- This is a seminar, meaning that much of the learning process occurs through an intensive exchange of ideas, questions, and critical perspectives in the classroom, including peer-to-peer learning. Thus, much of the focus will be on class discussions and you are expected, based on your preparation coming into the seminar, to engage the material in the class. The responsibility
for such learning is as much with the student as it is with the faculty member. Participation is not about how many times you speak or ask questions during a seminar but the quality of the contribution you make (either by questioning or by helping to synthesize and/or critique the materials) each week to the effort.

- Pet peeves: I have some, but the one related specifically to the seminar is about tardiness. Please do not come late…ever! It is incredibly disruptive to the class and a bit insulting. I would rather not have you show than walk in late. I’ll be in class early for the same reason.
- When you are teaching in the classroom, you will be informing your undergraduates about policies regarding plagiarism (and explaining to them what it is). I’m assuming you understand thoroughly the concept and its consequences. If you don’t, feel free to contact me about it, or to consult the appropriate web page (ISA† has one for instance, plagiarized from Harvard).

Assignments, Grades, Etc.

- Each of you is expected to produce a final paper (requirements are noted in the appendix). It is due during finals week, and is designed as an exercise to have you synthesize and apply the work from the seminar. CAUTION: you will want to make progress on this as the seminar unfolds. Leaving it to the end of the semester can be hazardous to your mental health.
- There will be an optional final exam (it will be a half-hour oral exam, along the lines of the oral examination for PhD prelims, but covering only the contents of the course). It is optional, but designed for two objectives: one is to give you some working experience with oral exams before you have to take one; second, it allows you to compensate for a less than stellar performance during seminar discussions.
- In order to help organize seminar discussions, each of you will be asked to co-organize two sessions of the seminar. When it is your turn, your responsibility will be to lead the discussion on the topic at hand, and to fill in the gaps when the rest of us are unresponsive.

As you are reading the required materials for each week, you should think about (and be able to discuss in the seminar) at least the following points:

For each reading:
- What is the author’s argument?
- How are key concepts defined?
- In what theoretical tradition does this fit?
- (when appropriate) How are the propositions operationalized/tested? Do they meet standards for validity and reliability?
- Why did Volgy have us read this?

And for the section, taken as a whole:
- What is the main theoretical issue that all authors discuss? What key puzzle(s) are they interested in explaining?
- Do they define it similarly or different?
- Are their arguments complementary or competing?
- Do their methods of investigation differ?
- How do the selections fit together
- Is it theoretically and logically consistent as well as interesting?

† If you don’t know what ISA is, you should. You can find its webpage at www.isanet.org.
Seminar grades will be based on the following: seminar discussion/class participation = 50%; final paper = 50%. If you choose to take the final, oral exam, it will supplement your class participation.

Calendar and Reading Assignments

Week 1  
Introduction to Nature of the Seminar/Requirements  
(August 21)

READINGS:
Bueno de Mesquita, Principles Of International Politics (Third Edition), Chapter 1

Week 2  
What is IR? How to Study IR: Theoretical/Conceptual/ Level of Analysis and “Evidence” Issues  
(August 28)

READINGS:
Bueno de Mesquita, Principles, Chapter 2

Additional Readings:
Week 3  

**Realist and Neorealist (Structural) Approaches to IR**

(September 4)

**READINGS:**


Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles…*, Chapters 7, 8, 4

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**Additional Readings:**


Week 4  ALBERT BERGESEN  World Systems Theory  
(September 11)  
READINGS: THREE SCHOOLS OF WORLD-SYSTEM THINKING:  
1. WORLD POLITY OR WORLD SOCIETY SCHOOL OF JOHN MEYER AND HIS STANFORD STUDENTS (WEBER GOES GLOBAL):  
2. POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE WORLD-SYSTEM SCHOOL OF IMMANUEL WALLERSTEIN (MARX GOES GLOBAL): (ironically John and Immanuel shared an office as students at Columbia):  
3. THE GEOPOLITICAL WORLD-SYSTEM (THUCYDIDES, CLAUSEWITZ, MAHAN, MACKINDER, etc. GO GLOBAL) (emerging here, now, at Arizona):  

Week 5  SPIKE PETERSON  Critical, Feminist and Postmodernist/Poststructuralist Approaches in the Context of IR  
(September 18)  
READINGS:  
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Additional Readings:  
   Bueno de Mesquita, Principles, Chapter 10.  

Week 6  Structural Realism Continued as Cycles: Power Transition and Long Cycles  
(September 25)  
READINGS:  


Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles*, Chapter 16, 15

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**Additional Readings:**


Week 7 Liberal/Neoliberal Institutionalist Perspectives

(October 2)

**READINGS:**


Additional Readings:


**Week 8**  
**Shifting Levels: Foreign Policy Analysis I**  
(October 9)

**READINGS:**
Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles*, Chapter 9, 10

**Additional Readings:**  

**Week 9**  
**KATHY POWERS/PAT WILLERTON**  
**Norms, Treaties and International Politics**  
(October 16)
Week 10  **Foreign Policy Analysis II**  
(October 23)  
**READINGS:**  
Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles*, Chapter 5, 6, 12  
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**Additional Readings:**  

Week 11  **WILLIAM DIXON  Democracy and Its Effects on International Relations**  
(October 30)  
**READINGS:**
**Additional Readings:**


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**Week 12**

**THOMAS VOLGY**

**IOs, IGOs, FIGOs and Post Cold War Orders**

(October 6)

**READINGS:**


Bueno de Mesquita, *Principles*, Chapter 14

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**Additional Readings**


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**Week 13**

**CHRIS DEMCHEK**

**Approaches to International Security Issues**

(November 13)
READINGS:

**Week 14**  FATEN GOSHN  Conflict Management
(November 20)

**READINGS:**


**Week 15**  Actors: States, Non-States and International Politics
(November 27)

**READINGS:**


**Additional Readings:**


Week 16  **Is There an International Politics of (in and/or between) Regions?** (December 4)

**READINGS:**


Additional Readings:


**Some of what we haven’t covered that’s out there:**

- International Political Economy
  - International Trade and International Politics
  - International Finance and International Politics
- Psychological Approaches to International Politics
- International Political Sociology
- Comparative Foreign Policy Analysis
- The nature of nuclear power and deterrence
- Global Development
- The Study of Rivalry
- Environmental Studies
- International Inequality and Issues of Justice (see for example issue 2, volume 4 (2002) *International Studies Review*)

**Some of the Journals of Relevance for International Politics**

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*European Journal of International Relations*
*Foreign Policy Analysis*
*Global Governance*
*International Interactions*
*International Organization*
*International Security*
*International Studies Quarterly*
*International Studies Review*
*Journal of Conflict Resolution*
*Journal of Peace Research*
*Journal of Politics*
*World Politics*