

**POLS 43002-03
Realism and Its Critics**

**Department of Political Science
University of Notre Dame
Spring 2011**

Professor Sebastian Rosato

Course Information

Classes: MW 11:45-1:00
O'Shaughnessy 209

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Course Description

This course provides an examination of the realist paradigm of international relations. The first part of the course is devoted to an analysis of several variants of realism with an emphasis on identifying and criticizing their central assumptions and causal logics. The second part of the course focuses on a number of critiques of realism as well as realist counterarguments to them. The final part of the course applies realism's insights to the contemporary international system.

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend all classes, complete all the assigned readings **before** coming to class and participate actively in discussion. They are also required to write two 5-page response papers on an assigned question. These are due by 5 p.m. on March 1 and April 10. The major assignment for the course is a 15-page research paper. Students may choose from a list of questions that will be distributed in class on April 11.

A. Required Books

The following **required books** are available for purchase at the Hammes Bookstore, though you may want to purchase them online:

George F. Kennan, *American Diplomacy* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951).

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001).

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979).

B. Grading

Course grades are based on class participation (30%), the two five-page response papers (15% each) and the final paper (40%). Please read and abide by the Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor (<http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/>).

Course Calendar

January 19 (W)	Class 1	Introduction
Part I: The Realist Canon		
January 24 (M)	Class 2	Origins
January 26 (W)	Class 3	Classical
January 31 (M)	Class 4	Structural I
February 2 (W)	Class 5	Structural II
February 7 (M)	Class 6	Structural III
February 9 (W)	Class 7	Defensive I
February 14 (M)	Class 8	Defensive II
February 16 (W)	Class 9	Defensive III
February 21 (M)	Class 10	Offensive I
February 23 (W)	Class 11	Offensive II
February 28 (M)	Class 12	Offensive III
March 2 (W)	Class 13	Discussion
March 7 (M)	Class 14	Movie: <i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Part II: Critics		
March 9 (W)	Class 15	Institutions I
March 14 (M)	<i>No class</i>	<i>Mid-semester break</i>
March 16 (W)	<i>No class</i>	<i>Mid-semester break</i>
March 21 (M)	Class 16	Institutions II
March 23 (W)	Class 17	Movie: <i>Remains of the Day</i>
March 28 (M)	Class 18	Democracy I
March 30 (W)	Class 19	Democracy II
April 4 (M)	Class 20	Constructivism I
April 6 (W)	Class 21	Constructivism II
April 11 (M)	Class 22	Movie: <i>Wag the Dog</i>
Part III: Applications		
April 13 (W)	Class 23	Europe I
April 18 (M)	Class 24	Europe II
April 20 (W)	Class 25	Europe III
April 25 (M)	<i>No class</i>	<i>Easter Monday</i>
April 27 (W)	Class 26	Asia I
May 2 (M)	Class 27	Asia II
May 4 (W)	Class 28	Discussion

Course Readings

January 19 (W) Class 1: Introduction

January 24 (M) Class 2: Origins

Kennan, *American Diplomacy*, 3-103.

January 26 (W) Class 3: Classical

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Scientific Man vs. Power Politics*, chapter 7 (handout).

January 31 (M) Class 4: Structural I

Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chapters 1-3.

February 2 (W) Class 5: Structural II

Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chapters 4-6.

February 7 (M) Class 6: Structural III

Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chapters 7-9.

February 9 (W) Class 7: Defensive I

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* 30, no. 2 (1978): 167-214.

February 14 (M) Class 8: Defensive II

Stephen Van Evera, "Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War," *International Security* 22, no. 4 (1998): 5-43.

February 16 (W) Class 9: Defensive III

Keir A. Lieber, "Grasping the Technological Peace: The Offense-Defense Balance and International Security," *International Security* 25, no. 1 (2000): 71-104.

February 21 (M) Class 10: Offensive I

Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapters 1-2, skim 3-4.

February 23 (W) Class 11: Offensive II

Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapters 5-7.

February 28 (M) Class 12: Offensive III

Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapters 8-9.

March 2 (W) Class 13: Discussion

March 7 (M) Class 14: Movie—Lord of the Flies

March 9 (W) Class 15: Institutions I

Robert O. Keohane, “The Demand for International Regimes,” *International Organization* 36, no. 2 (1982): 325-355.

March 14 (M) No class: Mid-semester break

March 16 (W) No class: Mid-semester break

March 21 (M) Class 16: Institutions II

John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” *International Security* 19, no. 3 (1994/95): 5-49.

March 23 (W) Class 17: Movie—Remains of the Day

March 28 (M) Class 18: Democracy I

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, chapter 2 (handout).

Michael W. Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics,” *American Political Science Review* 80, no. 4 (1986): 1151-1169.

March 30 (W) Class 19: Democracy II

Sebastian Rosato, “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory,” *American Political Science Review* 97, no. 4 (2003): 585-602.

April 4 (M) Class 20: Constructivism I

Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy Is What States Make of It,” *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (1992): 391-425.

April 6 (W) Class 21: Constructivism II

Dale C. Copeland, “The Constructivist Challenge to Structural Realism,” *International Security* 25, no. 2 (2000): 187-212.

April 11 (M) Class 22: Movie—Wag the Dog

April 13 (W) Class 23: Europe I

Stephen Van Evera, “Primed for Peace: Europe After the Cold War,” *International Security* 15, no. 3 (1990/91): 7-57.

Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapter 10.

April 18 (M) Class 24: Europe II

Andrew Moravcsik, “Preferences and Power in the European Community,” *Journal of Common Market Studies* 31, no. 4 (1993): 473-524.

April 20 (W) Class 25: Europe III

Sebastian Rosato, “Europe’s Troubles” (handout).

April 25 (M) No class: Easter Monday

April 27 (W) Class 26: Asia I

Aaron L. Friedberg, “Ripe for Rivalry: Prospects for Peace in a Multipolar Asia,” *International Security* 18, no. 3 (1993/94): 5-33.

Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapter 10.

May 2 (M) Class 27: Asia II

David C. Kang, “Getting Asia Wrong: The Need for New Analytical Frameworks,” *International Security* 27, no. 4 (2003): 57-85.

May 4 (W) Class 28: Discussion