

**POLS 60217  
Theories of International Relations**

**Department of Political Science  
University of Notre Dame  
Fall 2010**

**Professor Sebastian Rosato**

**Course Information**

Seminar: M 6:00-8:30 PM  
DeBartolo 113

**Contact Information**

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**Course Description**

This course provides an overview of some of the major theories of international relations. The first half is devoted to exploring three major approaches to the study of international politics (realism, liberalism, and constructivism) with a particular emphasis on identifying and criticizing their central assumptions and causal logics. The focus in the second half of the course is on using these theories to understand the contemporary international system.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all the seminars, do all the readings **prior** to coming to class, and participate actively in discussion. In addition, they are expected to write a 20-page paper on a pre-assigned question.

**A. Required Reading**

The following **required books** are available for purchase at the Hammes Bookstore, though you may want to purchase them online. They can also be borrowed from Hesburgh Library.

David Campbell, *Writing Security: United States Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity*, Revised Edition (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998).

Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984).

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

Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998).

Andrew Nathan and Robert S. Ross, *Great Wall and the Empty Fortress: China's Search for Security* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1998).

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Long Grove, Ill.: Waveland, 2010).

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

You will also be required to read a number of **journal articles** during the course of the semester. All of these are available electronically through the Hesburgh Library website.

## **B. Grading**

Course grades are based on participation in discussion section (40%) and a 20-page paper (60%). The final paper is due by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15. Specific guidance regarding each stage of the paper-writing process will follow.

## **Course Calendar**

August 30 (M)	Class 1	Course Introduction
September 6 (M)	Class 2	Structural Realism
September 13 (M)	Class 3	Defensive Realism
September 20 (M)	Class 4	Offensive Realism
September 27 (M)	Class 5	Institutions I
October 4 (M)	Class 6	Institutions II
October 11 (M)	Class 7	Democratic Peace Theory
October 18 (M)	<i>No class</i>	<i>Mid-semester break</i>
October 25 (M)	Class 8	Constructivism I
November 1 (M)	Class 9	Constructivism II
November 8 (M)	Class 10	Europe I
November 15 (M)	Class 11	Europe II
November 22 (M)	Class 12	Asia I
November 29 (M)	Class 13	Asia II
December 6 (M)	Class 14	Discussion
December 15 (W)	5:00 PM	FINAL PAPERS DUE

## **Course Schedule**

### **August 30 (M) Class 1: Course Introduction**

### **September 6 (M) Class 2: Structural Realism**

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, entire book.

### **September 13 (M) Class 3: Defensive Realism**

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

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

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

### **September 20 (M) Class 4: Offensive Realism**

John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, entire book.

### **September 27 (M) Class 5: Institutions I**

Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony*, entire book.

### **October 4 (M) Class 6: Institutions II**

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

Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): 39-51.

John J. Mearsheimer, "A Realist Reply," *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): 82-93.

James Fearon, "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation," *International Organization* 52, no. 2 (1998): 269-305.

### **October 11 (M) Class 7: Democratic Peace Theory**

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post Cold War World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993), chapter 2.

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

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita et al., "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace," *American Political Science Review* 93, no. 4 (1999): 791-812.

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

David Kinsella, "No Rest for the Democratic Peace," Branislav L. Slantchev, Anna Alexandrova, and Erik Gartzke, "Probabilistic Causality, Selection Bias, and the Logic of the Democratic Peace," Michael Doyle, "Three Pillars of the Liberal Peace," and Sebastian Rosato, "Explaining the Democratic Peace," *American Political Science Review* 99, no. 3 (2005): 453-472.

Sebastian Rosato, "On the Democratic Peace," in Christopher J. Coyne, ed., *The Handbook on the Political Economy of War* (New York: Edward Elgar, 2011).

#### **October 25 (M) Class 8: Constructivism I**

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics*, entire book.

#### **November 1 (M) Class 9: Constructivism II**

David Campbell, *Writing Security*, entire book.

#### **November 8 (M) Class 10: Europe I**

Andrew Moravcsik, *The Choice for Europe*, entire book.

#### **November 15 (M) Class 11: Europe II**

Sebastian Rosato, *Europe United: Power Politics and the Making of the European Community* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011), entire book.

#### **November 22 (M) Class 12: Asia I**

Andrew Nathan and Robert S. Ross, *Great Wall and the Empty Fortress*, entire book.

#### **November 29 (M) Class 13: Asia II**

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

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

Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?"  
*International Security* 30, no. 2 (2005): 7-45.

Thomas J. Christensen, "Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China  
and U.S. Policy toward East Asia," *International Security* 31, no. 1 (2006): 81-126.

**December 6 (M) Class 14: Discussion**