

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

Political Science 283

Seminar on Realism

Spring 2010

Instructor: John Mearsheimer (j-mearsheimer@uchicago.edu)

Teaching Assistant: Gene Gerzhoy (gerzhoy@uchicago.edu)

Course Description: The aim of this course is to introduce students to the realist paradigm of international relations.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend all the seminars, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%) and one 15-page paper (75%).

We will provide a list of paper topics, from which students will choose one. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week -- June 9. For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 2.

Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. The paper must be: no longer than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font.

Readings and Books: The following books -- all in paperback -- have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Penguin Classics)

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago)

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton)

Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (Chicago)

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic Books)

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Waveland)

All articles, and book chapters are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. March 29, 2010 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 5 (Mon): **Thomas Hobbes**

-- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, books 1-2.

3. April 12 (Mon): **Structural Realism**

-- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, read entire book

4. April 19 (Mon): **Offensive Realism**

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, read entire book.

5. April 26 (Mon): **Defensive Realism**

-- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (January 1978), pp. 167-214.

-- Andrew Kydd, "Sheep in Sheep's Clothing: Why Security Seekers Do Not Fight Each Other," *Security Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Fall 1997), pp. 114-155.

-- Sean M. Lynn-Jones, "Offense-Defense Theory and Its Critics," *Security Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Summer 1995), pp. 660-691.

6. May 3 (Mon): **Classical Realism**

-- Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations*, 5th ed. (New York: Knopf, 1973), chapters 1-3.

-- Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, read entire book.

7. May 10 (Mon): **Machiavelli**

-- Machiavelli, *The Prince*, read entire book.

8. May 17 (Mon): **The Neo-Conservative Theory of International Politics**

-- Jonathan Monten, "The Roots of the Bush Doctrine: Power, Nationalism, and Democracy Promotion in U.S. Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Spring 2005), pp. 112-156.

-- Frances Fukuyama, "The Neoconservative Moment," *National Interest*, No. 76 (Summer 2004), pp. 57-68.

-- John Ikenberry, "The End of the Neo-Conservative Moment," *Survival*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (Spring 2004), pp. 7-22.

-- Charles Krauthammer, "In Defense of Democratic Realism," *National Interest*, No. 77 (Fall 2004), pp. 15-25.

-- Charles Krauthammer, "Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World," 2004, Irving Kristol Lecture at AEI.

9. May 24 (Mon): **The Realist Critique of Liberal Imperialism**

-- Niebuhr, *Irony of American History*, read entire book.

10. June 1 (Tues): **Morality in the State System**

-- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, read entire book.