

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

Political Science 283
Seminar on Realism
Spring 2009
Instructor: John Mearsheimer
Teaching Assistant: Lindsey O'Rourke

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 10. 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:

Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, *World Out of Balance* (Princeton)
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Penguin Classics)
Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago)
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)
Stephen M. Walt, *Taming American Power* (Norton)
Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic Books)

All articles, and book chapters are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. March 30, 2009 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 6 (Mon): **Offensive Realism**

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

-- Robert Jervis, "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," *International Security*, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 42-63, skim this article.

3. April 13 (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.

-- Keir A. Lieber, "Grasping the Technological Peace: The Offense-Defense Balance and International Security," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1 (Summer 200), pp. 71-104.

-- Randall L. Schweller, "Neorealism's Status-Quo Bias: What Security Dilemma?" *Security Studies*, Vol. 5 No. 3 (Spring 1996), pp. 90-121.

-- Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," in Robert I. Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb, eds., *The Origins and Prevention of Major Wars* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 39-52.

4. April 20 (Mon): **Thomas Hobbes**

- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, books 1-2.
- Michael C. Williams, *The Realist Tradition and the Limits of International Relations* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), chapter 1.

5. April 27 (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.
- Bradley A. Thayer, "Bringing in Darwin: Evolutionary Theory, Realism, and International Politics," *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (Fall 2000), pp. 124-151.

6. May 4 (Mon): **Machiavelli**

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

7. May 11 (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*, No. 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.

8. May 18 (Mon): **Goliath Unchecked**

- Brooks and Wohlforth, *World out of Balance*, read entire book.

9. May 25 (Mon): **Balancing against Goliath**

- Walt, *Taming American Power*, read entire book.
- Robert A. Pape, "Empire Falls," *National Interest*, No. 99 (January/February 2009), pp. 21-34.

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

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, read entire book.
- Jerome Slater, "A Perfect Moral Failure: Just War Philosophy and the Israeli Attack on Gaza," *Tikkun*, March/April, 2009.
- Doug Lieb, "Gaza: A Just War – A Response to Jerome Slater," *Tikkun*, March/April, 2009.