Political Science 53000
Seminar on Great Power Politics
Winter 2008
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: The aim of this course is to explore some of the key questions concerning relations among the great powers.

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

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose one. The paper will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week – March 19. 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 of which are in paper – have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

David B. Abernethy, The Dynamics of Global Dominance (Yale)
Robert Jervis, The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution (Cornell)
Robert Keohane, After Hegemony (Princeton)
Jennifer Pitts, A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France (Princeton)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Chalk.

All books used in this course are on 24-hour reserve at Regenstein Library.

Course Outline:

1. January 9 (Wed): Organizational Meeting

2. January 16 (Wed): Realism 101


4. January 30 (Wed): International Institutions


5. February 6 (Wed): Bargaining Theory and International Politics


6. February 13 (Wed): Lying in International Politics


7. February 20 (Wed): Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation


8. **February 27 (Wed): Neoconservatism and the Bush Doctrine**


9. **March 5 (Wed): Liberalism and Empire**

-- Pitts, *A Turn to Empire*, read entire book.

10. **March 12 (Wed): The European Empires, 1415-1980**