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)
Carl Schmitt, The Concept of the Political (Chicago)
Machiavelli, The Prince (Chicago)
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


3. April 13 (Mon): Defensive Realism

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


5. April 27 (Mon): **Classical Realism**


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


7. May 11 (Mon): **The Neo-Conservative Theory of International Politics**


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


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


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