Course Description: The aim of this course is to introduce students to the body of international relations theory known as realism. There is a tendency to think that there is a simple realist template which all realists accept, mainly because all realists think alike. In fact, realists have all sorts of disagreements about how international politics works. Those differences, as well as the similarities among realist thinkers, will be paid much attention in this course. In particular, much attention will be paid to examining the divide between human nature realists (aka classical realists) and structural realists (aka neo-realists). Much attention will also be focused on examining the divide within structural realism between defensive realism and offensive realism. Some of the key questions that will inform the readings and lectures include: 1) what is power? 2) why do states pursue power? 3) how much power do states want? 4) what causes war? 5) what strategies do states pursue to gain power and to preserve it? 6) is realism ethically bankrupt? 7) what is the security dilemma? And 8) how do Hobbes and Machiavelli fit into the realist canon?

Course Requirements: This course is oriented around the readings and the lectures. Every student is expected to do all the reading and attend every lecture. Moreover, each student is expected to attend a discussion section that meets once a week. The grade will be based on a comprehensive final examination (75%) and classroom participation in the discussion section (25%).

Readings and Books: The following books (all paperbacks) are available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Chicago)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw Hill)
Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic Books)
Michael C. Williams, *The Realist Tradition and the Limits of International Relations* (Cambridge)

All articles or book chapters with ** next to them are on E-reserve at Regenstein Library.
All articles or book chapters with *** next to them are available on Chalk.

Course Outline

1. January 4, 2006 (Wednesday): Overview
   
   

   **STRUCTURAL REALISM**

2. January 9 (Monday): The International System
   
   -- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chapters. 4-6.

4. January 16 (Monday): No Class (Martin Luther King Day)

5. January 18 (Wednesday): The Security Dilemma


7. January 25 (Wednesday): Intentions
   -- Stephen Walt, The Origins of Alliances, chapter. 2. **

8. January 30 (Monday): Offensive Realism – I
   -- Mearsheimer, Tragedy of Great Power Politics, chapters. 2, 3, 5, 8 (skim 4)

9. February 1 (Wednesday): Offensive Realism – II
   -- Mearsheimer, Tragedy of Great Power Politics, chapters. 6, 7, 9.

   HUMAN NATURE REALISM

10. February 6 (Monday): Machiavelli

11. February 8 (Wednesday): The Cold War Realists

12. February 13 (Monday): Evolutionary Theory and Realism

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

**Is Realism Evil?**

14. February 20 (Monday): Benign Realism


15. February 22 (Wednesday): Hobbes the Anti-Realist


16. February 27 (Monday): A Social Constructivist Take on Realism

-- Williams, *Realist Tradition*, read chapters 4-5, skim chapters 2-3.

17. March 1 (Wednesday): Just War Theory – I


18. March 6 (Monday): Just War Theory – II

-- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, parts 3-5.

19. March 8 (Wednesday): Realism and Just War Theory

-- Clausewitz, *On War*, Book 1, chapter 1; and Book 8, chapter 6.**

-- Alexander Downes, forthcoming article in *International Security*. It will be provided to students on Chalk when available.