**International Relations Theory**

PLS-150

Nazarbayev University

Spring 2021

Tues/Thurs, 9:00-10:15

Professor Matt Millard

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Office hours: TBD (contact me and we will set up a time that is mutually conducive)

Office Location: 6137 (Block 6)

Course Description

This course is designed to provide a foundation for international relations theory. International relations theory is distinct from domestic political theory in that it addresses the structure, organization, actions, and interactions between various units in the international system. Students will thus learn about the fundamental principles of international relations theories from a variety of different perspectives. This course is designed to be a survey of the various approaches to IR theory. In fact, each module of this class could be it’s own course over the length of a semester. In this course, students will learn the approaches, history, perspectives, and often divergent views between scholars in international relations theory. Prerequisites include Introduction to International Relations and Methods in Political Science.

Requirements

*Class participation/attendance (10%):* Students are expected to attend class and are encouraged to participate in discussions. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and occasionally at the end of class. Students who show up to class more than ten minutes late will be marked as absent. Students who leave their Zoom microphones and are disruptive in class will be marked as absent. This will be deducted from the student’s final grade. Four points will be deducted per missed class. Legitimate excuses, such as family emergencies, sickness, or school-sanctioned events (such as participation in sports) do not constitute a missed class and will not be deducted from the student’s attendance.

*Tests 30% (3 at 10% each):* There are three tests that are scheduled for this course. These tests will be worth 14% of your course grade. However, to accommodate those students whose strong-suit is not test-taking, multiple choice questions will also be accompanied with short-answer questions.

*Pop Quizzes 15% (5 at 3% each):* there will be at least 5 pop quizzes throughout the semester. THESE CANNOT BE MADE UP! Students will be prompted with a topic randomly on Moodle during class and will have no more than ten minutes to complete the task online. These quizzes may be multiple choice, true/false, or short answer.

*Outline/Discussion Leader 20% (3 at 6.67 % each):* Students will create three “outlines” that must be at least four pages long each for one module’s readings. Students will thus outline three modules for the course. They are then expected to be discussion leaders in class. This is intended to assist your fellow students in understanding the difficult readings, thus students’ outlines WILL BE POSTED TO MOODLE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE. Grading criteria for this will be substantive (tying it in to larger discussions, theory, and *perspectives*) as well as content-based: how well the students address the content contained in the readings. Selection of these outlines will be made early on in the second class meeting.

Students should outline relevant authors, their arguments, and how it might connect to other readings. These outlines are intended to be just that: outlines. So do not write very long paragraphs. USE BULLET POINTS!

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD STILL READ EACH ACCOMPANYING TEXTS BY THE PRESENTATION DATE!

*Final Exam (10%):* Students will be given a “take home” exam and will have three days to complete the exam. While this is not ideal, the goal of this is to ensure those individuals with no internet access (or limited access) will have the opportunity to take the exam. Questions will be short-answer format and students will choose a select number of questions out of the total number of questions posed to them.

*Moodle Prompt 15% (2 @ 7.5% each):* Each student will be given time to respond to two prompts online through Blackboard. Students will have four days (until midnight of the due date) to complete a 1500-word response that directly answers the question in the prompt. Students should feel free to use any resource from class or from any out-of-class resource they feel is pertinent. Students should also contact the professor if they have any issues or concerns regarding the paper or any other concerns regarding the course.

NOTE ON CITATIONS: WHEN IN DOUBT, CITE! Taking someone else’s readings off the internet without giving them credit is inappropriate in formal writings. Be sure to use parenthetical citations (Maoz and Russett 1993) in text and at the end of each turned in assignment (aside from exams), put the citation at the end of the document in APA format.

NOTE ON INTERNET ACCESS: DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, ALL COURSES AT NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLINE. STUDENTS WHO DO NO HAVE INTERNET ACCES OR LIMITED INTERNET ACCESS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INFORM THE PROFESSOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THESE LIMITATIONS. I WILL STRIVE TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE COURSE SO THAT STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ACCESS ARE NOT OTHERWISE DISADVANTAGED. Note that all lectures and PowerPoints will be posted online to Moodle.

Note: I do not “bump up” grades, so do not ask! If you ask for extra points, I will not give them. I provide ample opportunity for you to succeed in this class and under no circumstances will I make exceptions to this rule.

Required Texts

McGlinchey, Stephen*. International Relations Theory*. E-International Relations.

All other texts will be made available online through Moodle.

Classroom Policies

Late work: if submitted the same day (before 5PM), work will be assessed an automatic 10% deduction. 10 points will be deducted every day thereafter. If you are going to miss an assigned article, you must let me know before it is due if you wish to receive credit for the assignment.

As college students, you are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner. Classroom policies are set for the benefit of not only yourself, but also the other students enrolled in this course. The following are some (though not all) of the things that are expected of you:

*Cell phones:* Students are prohibited from using their phones for texting, browsing the internet, or making phone calls once class has begun.

*Newspapers/magazines, etc.:* Students are prohibited from reading non-course related materials during class.

*Cheating:* As with all classroom policy, the university’s policy with regards to submitted work by students will be followed to the letter. All work that is submitted will be checked for plagiarism via online plagiarism detection software. ANY PLAGARIZED ITEMS WILL BE REPORTED TO UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS AND APPROPRIATE ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN.

*Emailing:* When emailing the professor, students must write a formal, grammatically correct email. This means having a subject line title, a greeting, and a salutation (your name), as well as correct punctuation, etc. This is designed to familiarize students with the correct way to communicate in the “real” world (i.e.-how you would send an email to your boss at work). **Students who send an email without a subject line, a greeting (Professor Millard, Mr. Millard, Professor, etc.), or a salutation (just your name is fine) will not receive a response from me and I will not read their email.**

**Note on modification of this syllabus: Given the unique nature of the global pandemic and its impact on this semester’s instruction, I reserve the right to change, alter, amend, or otherwise adjust the schedule and requirements of this course with adequate and timely relaying of the changes which will be made to you at least three class meetings prior to any changes.** **While I do not expect to make any changes, they will most likely be made the first week of class to better serve you.**

January 12-Introduction to class, syllabus review, What is International Relations Theory?

Read: “Getting Started with International Relations Theory” in International Relations Theory.

January 14-**Module 1: Realism**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Realism” Ch. 1, pg. 15-21

Wholforth-“Realism”

January 19-

Read: Carr-*The Twenty Years’ Crisis* outline

Waltz-*Theory of International Relations* outline

Gilpin- *War & Change in World Politics* outline

January 21-

Read: Van Evera*-Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War* outline

Donnely- “The Ethics of Realism”

Nye-“Neorealism and Neoliberalism”

January 26- **Module 2: Liberalism**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Liberalism” Ch. 2, pg. 22-27.

Moravcsik-“The New Liberalism”

January 28-

Read: Keohane: “After Hegemony” outline

Moravcsik- “Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics.”

February 2-

Read: Stein: “Neoliberal Institutionalism”

Jervis-“Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma” outline

February 4-**Module 3: English School**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “The English School” Ch. 3, pg. 28-35.

Hedley Bull-*The Anarchical Society: A Study of Order in World Politics* Outline

February 9-

Read: Dunn-“The English School”

February 11-Test 1

February 16-**Module 4: Marxism**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Marxism” Ch. 5, pg. 42-48.

Tesche-“Marxism”

February 18-

Read: Christofis “World Systems Theory”

Chirto and Hall-“World-Systems Theory”

February 23-**Module 5: Constructivism**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Constructivism” Ch. 4, pg. 22-27.

Wendt-“Anarchy is What States Make of It”

February 25-

Read: Hurd-“Constructivism”

Price: “The Ethics of Constructivism”

March 2- Flex Day

March 4-**Module 6: Critical Theory**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Critical Theory” Ch. 6, pg. 49-55.

Roach-“Critical Theory of International Relations”

March 9-Test 2

March 12-**Module 7: Poststructuralism/Feminism**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Poststructuralism” Ch. 7, pg. 56-61.

Burke-“Postmodernism”

March 16-

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Feminism” Ch. 8, pg. 62-68.

Whitworth-“Feminism”

March 18-**Module 8: Postcolonialism & Global South Perspectives**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Postcolonialism” Ch. 9, pg. 69-75.

*International Relations Theory*, “Global South Perspectives” Ch. 17, pg. 125-30.

March 23-Spring Break (No Class)

March 25-Spring Break (No Class)

March 31-**Module 9: Securitization Theory**

Read: *International Relations Theory*, “Securitization Theory” Ch. 1, pg. 104-109.

Eroukhmanoff-“Securitisation Theory: An Introduction”

April 1-

Read: Williams-“Words, Images, Enemies: Securitization and International Politics”

Watson-“‘Framing’ the Copenhagen School: Integrating the Literature on Threat Construction”

April 6-Travel to USA (Conference)Test 3

April 8-Travel to US A (Conference)

April 13-**Module 10: How do we “know” what we “know”? Behavioralism**

Read: Mansfield and Pevehouse-“Quantitative Approaches”

Hamati-Ataya-“Behavioralism”

April 15-Behavioralism and Bargaining Theory of War

Read: Kydd-“Methodological Individualism and Rational Choice”

April 20-

Read: Fearon-“Rationalist Explanations for War”

Gartzke-“War is in the Error Term”

April 22-Conclusion

**Final exam given out at 7:00 am April 23rd and due by 11:00 pm April 26rd.**