Introduction: The objectives of this course are:

1. To understand the scope and breadth of the theoretical literature that has defined the study of international relations.
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical paradigms represented in that literature.
3. To define specific research questions and issues that must be addressed by future research.
4. To prepare students for preliminary examinations in international relations.

It is, of course, impossible to provide a comprehensive review of the entire field of international relations in a single semester. The readings and discussions in this course seek to strike a balance between traditional works that define the evolution of the field and contemporary works that highlight the development of our knowledge and possible directions for future research. Some of the materials in this course rely on technical tools (such as econometrics or formal theory). Students are not expected to be familiar with these tools prior to enrolling in the course, but will become familiar with them during the semester.

Readings: The vast majority of readings from this course will come from journals in political science or international relations. The following books are required.


Grading: Your final grade in the course will be determined as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature/Book Review</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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1. Participation: Students will be expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in a robust, informed discussion of the readings and the problems for the field of international relations raised by the readings.

2. Response Papers: In order to encourage active thinking about the readings and discussion in class, students will write five brief commentaries (3-4 pages, single-spaced) on the readings for a particular week. Students should seek in these notes to engage one or more themes in the works, discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and suggest future research questions facing that area of the literature. Students will sign up for their weeks at the first class meeting of the seminar. The papers will be circulated electronically to the entire class, and will be due at 9:00 a.m. on the relevant class day. Please do so by emailing the class participants, including me.

3. Literature or Book Review: The readings on this syllabus can only serve as a starting point from which students will engage additional important literature. Students will therefore write a literature or book review on a topic of interest to them that relates to one of the subjects addressed by this course. A book review will generally focus intensively on one or two related books; a literature review will examine the development of a theme or problem through time and a larger number of readings. Either type of analysis should be 4,000-5,000 words. Students should consult with me before selecting a review topic.
4. **Final Exam:** Students will take a one-day examination that will be patterned on the preliminary examinations that graduate students must pass before they may advance to the dissertation stage of the PhD program.

It is important that students cite the material that they have relied upon in writing these papers. If you have questions about when you need to provide citation for a source, please see the UNC guide on avoiding plagiarism. If you have questions about how to provide citation on your sources, please see the UNC Libraries’ guide on citation formats. Use any citation format that you prefer, what is important is that you give credit to the sources you used.

**Course Schedule and Reading List**

**January 16. The Core Problem in IR—The Causes of War and the Conditions for Peace.**

1. Vasquez, Chapters 1-3.

**January 23. (Neo)Realist Perspective**


**January 30. Neo-Liberal Institutionalist Perspective**

1. Keohane, Chapters 1, 7, 9.

**February 6. Constructivist Perspectives**


**February 13. Feminist Perspectives.**


**February 20. Rationalist Perspectives.**


**February 27. Bargaining and War.**

1. Wagner, Chapters 2-5.


**March 6. Trust and Mistrust.**


**March 13. Spring Break!**

**March 20. Institutions.**


**March 27. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy I.**


**April 3. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy II.**


**April 10. Economic Interdependence.**


**April 17. Civil wars. Macro Analysis.**


**April 24. Terrorism and the Microfoundations of Rebellion.**


