

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Political Science Department

Political Science 41501
Foundations of Realism
Winter 2019
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: The aim of this course is to explore some of the core concepts and theoretical ideas that underpin realist thinking. Given the richness of the realist tradition and the limits of the quarter system, many important issues cannot be addressed in any detail in this seminar.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend every session, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (33%), and two 7-page papers (33% each).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose two. Both papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – March 19. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13.

The papers must be no longer than 7 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font (12).

Readings and Books: The following books are all in paper and all available at the Seminary Coop.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Penguin Classics)
John Mearsheimer, *The Great Delusion* (Yale)
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton)
Nuno Monteiro, *Theory of Unipolar Politics* (Cambridge)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw Hill)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Canvas.
The Horelick, Johnson, and Steinbruner piece is available as hard copy in the Regenstein reserves.

Course Outline:

1. January 9 (Wednesday): Organizational Meeting

2. January 16 (Wednesday): The Father of Us All

-- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Parts I & II.

Below is an excellent translation of *Leviathan* into contemporary English by Jonathan Bennett, which makes it much easier to read.

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part1.pdf>

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part2.pdf>

3. January 23 (Wednesday): The Essence of Politics

-- Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics among Nations*, 5th ed. (NY: Knopf, 1973), chapters 1-3. **

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

4. January 30 (Wednesday): Structural Realism – I

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 1-2.

-- Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chapters 4-6.

5. February 6 (Wednesday): Structural Realism – II

-- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (January 1978), pp. 167-214. **

-- Andrew Kydd, "Sheep in Sheep's Clothing: Why Security Seekers Do Not Fight Each Other," *Security Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Fall 1997), pp. 114-55. **

-- Sebastian Rosato, "The Inscrutability of Great Power Intentions," *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Winter 2014/15), pp. 48-88. **

6. February 13 (Wednesday): Anarchy and Sovereignty

-- A. Claire Cutler, "Critical Reflections on the Westphalian Assumptions of International Law and Sovereignty: A Crisis of Legitimacy," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (April 2001), pp. 133-50. **

-- Luke Glanville, "The Myth of 'Traditional' Sovereignty," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (March 2013), pp. 79-90. **

-- F.H. Hinsley, "The Concept of Sovereignty and the Relations between States," *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (December 1967), pp. 242-52. **

-- Stephen D. Krasner, "Abiding Sovereignty," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (July 2001), pp. 229-51. **

-- Joseph M. Parent, *Uniting States: Voluntary Union in World Politics* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), chapters 2 and 9. **

-- Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy Is What States Make of It," *International Organization* 46, no. 2 (1992): 391-425. **

-- Alexander Wendt, "Why a World State is Inevitable," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (December 2003), pp. 491-542. **

7. February 20 (Wednesday): The Rational Actor Assumption

-- Stephen Kalberg, "Max Weber's Types of Rationality: Cornerstones for the Analysis of Rationalization Processes in History," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 85, No. 5 (March, 1980), pp. 1145-79. **

-- James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (1995), pp. 379-414. **

-- Arnold L. Horelick, A. Ross Johnson, and John D. Steinbruner, *The Study of Soviet Foreign Policy: A Review of Decision-Theory-Related Approaches*, RAND Study R-1334 (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, December 1973).

-- Jonathan Kirshner, "Rationalist Explanations for War?" *Security Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn 2000), pp. 143-50. **

-- John Mearsheimer, "Reckless States and Realism," *International Relations*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (June 2009), pp. 241-56. **

8. February 27 (Wednesday): Realism, Liberalism, and Nationalism

-- Mearsheimer, *Great Delusion*, entire book.

9. March 6 (Wednesday): Power and Polarity

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 3-4.

-- Monteiro, *Theory of Unipolar Politics*, entire book.

-- Waltz, *Theory*, chapter 8.

10. March 13 (Wednesday): State Strategies

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 5 and 8.

-- Joseph M. Parent and Sebastian Rosato, "Balancing in Neorealism," *International Security*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (Fall 2015), pp. 51-86. **

-- Thomas C. Schelling, *The Strategy of Conflict* (Oxford University Press, 1963), chapters 1 and 4. **

-- Stephen M. Walt, *The Origins of Alliances* (Cornell University Press, 1988), chapter 5. **