

History of International Relations Thought

INTNLREL 136/POLISCI 238T (Winter 2014)
5 Units
Tuesday 2.15-5.05PM
101 Encina Hall West

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OH: Wed 1:30-3:00pm
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Course Description

This is a course about the intellectual origins of theories and approaches to international politics. We will examine historical treatments of sovereignty and the state system, international law, democratic peace, and imperialism. Throughout the course, we will also some of the enduring normative and empirical questions about international politics: (1) What is the basis of political power and authority? (2) What rights and obligations do individuals have? (3) What rights and obligations do states have? (4) What are the causes of conflict? (5) What are the prospects for enduring peace? Thinkers covered include: Thucydides, Augustine, Aquinas, Vitoria, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Grotius, Rousseau, Kant, Mill, and Marx.

Course Goals and Approach

The overarching goal of this course is for us to learn how to construct our own arguments about conceptually and morally challenging issues. We will pursue this goal in several ways. First, we will reconstruct the assigned thinkers' arguments through close textual reading and consideration of their political and intellectual contexts. In pursuing this goal, we will practice the virtue of *interpretive charity* by presenting each argument in what we take to be its strongest form. Second, we will apply these arguments to new cases and examples. Third, we will assess these arguments using a range of standards (e.g. internal consistency, normative implications, political ramifications). Finally, we will bring together the tasks of reconstruction, application, and assessment to formulate our own arguments.

Course Mechanics

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a short paper (3-4 pages) due on February 4 (15%), a brief final paper proposal due on February 25 (10%), a final paper (10-12 pages) due on March 18 (35%), five weekly (1-2 pages) reader responses (15%) due before the beginning of class from the second week onward, a brief in-class presentation (10%), and active participation in our class discussions and activities (15%).

Papers: The short paper will ask you to engage with and assess a specific argument from one of the thinkers covered in the first three weeks of the course. No additional research will be necessary for the first paper. The final paper will ask you to bring the ideas of one or two of the thinkers covered in the course to bear on an issue of international politics. You will submit a proposal before submitting the final paper. Some additional research will be necessary for the proposal and final paper. Both

papers will offer a choice of questions. Students will have the opportunity to revise their short paper and resubmit it no later than one week after the original version has been returned. For those who take advantage of this opportunity, the final grade on the short paper will be a weighted average of the original (1/3) and revised (2/3) grades. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be circulated with each assignment.

Reader responses: Reader responses should be no more than two double-spaced pages and should respond to one of the weekly reading questions (circulated via email at the end of the preceding week). Responses are graded on a check/check minus system. The aim of these responses is to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the weekly readings. They do not need to be in essay format (i.e. they do not need an introduction or conclusion). However, they should adhere to the other standards of academic writing—clear prose, grammatical correctness, and *use of parenthetical page citations* when referring to particular parts of the text. You must hand in at least five reader responses from the second week onward. If you submit more than five, you'll be evaluated on your strongest five (e.g. if you submit seven reader responses and receive five checks and two check minuses, the two check minuses will drop out). Five responses with a check will earn you an 'A' on the 15% of your final grade allotted to reader responses.

Presentations: You will be expected to make a brief (7-10 minute) oral presentation *once* during the quarter. Prior to the presentation, you will select a problem, issue, or event in international politics (i.e. issues that involve either the interactions between two or more states or between one or more states and one or more non-state actors, like multinational corporations or terrorist organizations). Your presentation must address the following questions: (1) What are the essential facts about the relevant problem, issue, or event? (2) How does the thinker we are discussing that week help us to understand this problem, issue, or event in a new light? (3) How does the problem, issue, or event shed new light on the thinker (e.g. pointing out problems or limitations to the thinker's argument(s))? You will be expected to submit a brief summary handout (1 single-sided page, max) that addresses these questions by **5:00pm on the day before your presentation**. The handout will then be circulated to all members of the class. Presentations will generally occur in the second half of the class session (i.e. after our break). PowerPoint is neither required nor encouraged.

Check out the "Presentations" folder in the "Materials" section of the Coursework site for resources on giving an effective presentation and overcoming presentation anxiety.

Class attendance and participation: Regular attendance is essential for success in this course. After one "free" (no questions asked) absence, you can expect your participation grade to drop by *one letter grade* for each absence that is not the result of illness or a family emergency. If possible, let me know about these absences in advance and make a time to meet with me (in office hours or by appointment) to discuss the missed material. In addition to attendance, effective participation requires that you contribute regularly to class discussions by making comments, asking

questions, and listening actively to other members of the group. Effective participation *does not* consist in persistently dominating the class discussion. Listening attentively to others is at least as important as speaking regularly. Attendance and participation is an easy way to earn 15% of your final course grade. However, it is also a necessary step for writing successful papers. Generally, students who have repeated absences and/or are disengaged during class sessions have found it difficult to earn grades higher than a 'C' on their papers. Don't let yourself be one of these students!

The Honor Code and Plagiarism

The Stanford University Honor Code is a part of this course. Re-read the Honor Code, understand it and abide by it. For the purposes of this course, pay particular attention to the provisions about plagiarism:

For purposes of the Stanford University Honor Code, plagiarism is defined as the use, without giving reasonable and appropriate credit to or acknowledging the author or source, of another person's original work, whether such work is made up of code, formulas, ideas, language, research, strategies, writing or other form(s).

It is important to stress that ignorance of the Stanford University Honor Code or the lack of intent to violate the Honor Code does not constitute a defense. Penalties for violation of the Honor Code (including plagiarism) can be serious (e.g., suspension, and even expulsion). To learn more about plagiarism and how plagiarism cases are adjudicated at Stanford, follow the links at the bottom of this page:

<http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/judicialaffairs/integrity>

Students With Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, phone (650) 723-1066.

Readings

The following book is available for purchase at the Stanford bookstore. It is also available new and used at substantial discounts at various online retailers. All other readings will be posted on Coursework [C].

Thucydides, *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War*. ISBN: 0684827905.

Schedule

01/07: Introduction

Reading: Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories" [C]; Kenneth Waltz, "Introduction" to *Man, the State and War*, pp. 1-15 [C].

01/14: Thucydides: War, Power and Justice

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Thucydides **due by 2:00pm on 01/14** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 01/13** (via email to AM).

Reading: Thucydides, *The Landmark Thucydides*, 1.1 (p. 3), 1.20-1.23 (pp. 14-16), 1.66-1.88 (pp. 37-49), 2.59-2.65 (pp. 123-128), 3.1-3.50 (pp. 159-184), 3.69-3.85 (pp. 194-201), 5.84-5.116 (pp. 350-357), 6.1-6.31 (pp. 361-378).

Reading notes: The reading assignment above is required reading in its entirety. However, you should focus particularly on the Mytilenian Debate (3.36-3.50), the Civil War in Corcyra (3.69-3.85), the Melian Dialogue (5.84-5.116), and the Debate on Sicily (6.1-6.31).

Recommended listening: *Thucydides: The First Journalist* (podcast). Available: <http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Ideas/ID/2396013955/>

01/21: Augustine, Aquinas, and Vitoria: Christian Just War Theory

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Augustine, Aquinas, and Vitoria **due by 2:00pm on 01/21** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 01/20** (via email to AM).
3. Paper 1 assignment distributed on 01/21.

Reading: Augustine, *City of God*, excerpts [C]; Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, excerpts [C]; Francisco de Vitoria, *On the Law of War*, excerpts [C]; Brian Orend, "War," *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, introduction and sections 1 and 2. Available: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war>

Recommended listening: *Philosophy in Our Times: Just War* (podcast). Available: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00545jx>

01/28: Machiavelli: Fortune, Virtù, and Necessity

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Machiavelli **due by 2:00pm on 01/28** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 01/27** (via email to AM).

Reading: Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*, excerpts [C]; Niccolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, excerpts [C].

Recommended listening: *Machiavelli: The Prince of Paradox* (podcast). Available: <http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/episodes/2013/11/06/machiavelli-the-prince-of-paradox/>

02/04: Hobbes: Anarchy, Sovereignty, and Law

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Hobbes **due by 2:00pm on 02/04** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 02/03** (via email to AM).*
3. Paper 1 **due by 10:00am on 02/06** (via Coursework Drop Box).*

*Note: Those who present this week can have one extra day to complete their paper. For presenters, Paper 1 is due by 10:00am on 02/07 (via Coursework Drop Box).

Reading: Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, excerpts [C]; John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" [C].

Recommended listening: *Philosophy in Our Times: Hobbes* (podcast). Available: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9l1>

02/11: Grotius and Pufendorf: Natural Law and International Law

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Grotius and Pufendorf due by **2:00pm on 02/11** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 02/10** (via email to AM).
3. Paper 2 assignment distributed on 02/11.

Reading: Grotius, *The Law of War and Peace*, excerpts [C]; Samuel Pufendorf, *On the Duties of Man and Citizen*, excerpts [C].

Recommended reading: Jon Miller, "Hugo Grotius," Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, introductions and sections 3, 4, and 5. Available: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/grotius/>

02/18: Rousseau: The State of War and Perpetual Peace

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Rousseau **due by 2:00pm on 02/18** (via Coursework Drop Box).

2. **Presenters:** Handouts **due by 5:00pm on 02/17** (via email to AM).

Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, “The State of War” [C], “Principles of the Right of War” [C], *Abstract and Judgement on Perpetual Peace* [C].

Recommended listening: *Rousseau and the State of War* (podcast). Available: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/newsAndMedia/videoAndAudio/channels/publicLecturesAndEvents/player.aspx?id=1691>

02/25: Kant: The Democratic Peace

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Kant **due by 2:00pm on 02/25** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handout **due by 5:00pm on 02/24** (via email to AM).*
3. Paper 2 proposal due on 02/27 by 10:00am (via Coursework Drop Box).*

*Note: Those who present this week can have one extra day to complete their paper. For presenters, Paper 1 is due by 10:00am on 02/07 (via Coursework Drop Box).

Reading: Immanuel Kant, “Theory and Practice” [C], *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch* [C].

Recommended viewing: Michael Doyle, *The Kantian Approach to International Affairs*. Available: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8tgDKq5HS4>

03/04: Mill: Nation, State, and Empire

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on Mill **due by 2:00pm on 03/04** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handout **due by 5:00pm on 03/03** (via email to AM).

Reading: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, excerpt [C]; *On Representative Government*, excerpt [C]; “A Few Words on Non-intervention” [C]; Michael Walzer, “Mill’s ‘A Few Words on Non-Intervention’: A Commentary” [C].

Recommended listening: Liberty Abroad: J.S. Mill on International Relations (podcast). Part 1 available:

<http://www.opendemocracy.net/tony-curzon-price-georgios-varouxakis/liberty-abroad-part-1-js-mill-on-international-relations>

Part 2 available: <http://www.opendemocracy.net/georgios-varouxakis-tony-curzon-price/liberty-abroad-part-2-js-mill-on-empire>

03/11: International Relations and Industrial Society

Assignments and deadlines:

1. Reader response on International Relations and Industrial Society **due by 2:00pm on 03/11** (via Coursework Drop Box).
2. **Presenters:** Handout due by 5:00pm on 03/03 (via email to AM).

Reading: Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, excerpt [C]; David Ricardo, "On the Principles of Political Economy and Taxation," excerpt [C]; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "The Communist Manifesto," excerpt [C]; Rudolf Hilferding, *Finance Capital*, excerpt [C]; Joseph Schumpeter, "The Sociology of Imperialisms," excerpt [C].

Recommended listening: Mike Munger, The Division of Labor (podcast). Available: http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2007/04/mike_munger_on.html; *Philosophy in our Times: Marx* (podcast). Available: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003k9jg>

Exam Period: Final Paper

Writing: Paper 2 **due by 5:00pm on 03/18** (via Coursework Drop Box).