INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (REVISED 6/2019)

Required Core Seminars: PS 624 International Relations and PS 626 International Political Economy

All students taking either a major or a minor comprehensive exam in international relations must have read and show a mastery of the literature under the Core Theme on the International Relations Reading List as well as of the literature on TWO additional themes for MAJOR exams or ONE additional theme for MINOR exams.

The Reading List identifies required readings as well as strongly recommended readings. It should be noted that the Reading List is intended as a starting point to prepare students for each theme. As part of writing a contract with their committee, the student should also develop a list of readings for each theme that reflects the committee’s and student’s assessment of important new works not yet on the Reading List. The committee expects students’ exams to reflect all relevant work in the field, whether or not those works are on the Reading List. Students are reminded that good comprehensive exams demonstrate the student’s knowledge of important cases and the student’s ability to apply theory to particular empirical contexts.

The International Relations field includes the following themes in addition to the Core theme: International Political Economy, International Security, and International Environmental Politics.

Students may also take an exam on the theme of “Foreign Policy and Decision Making.” To develop an appropriate reading list for that theme, the student is required to contact the field committee chair no later than week 1 of the prior Spring term for a Fall term exam or week 1 of the prior Fall term for either a Winter term or Spring term exam.

Additional Information:
The goal of the comp exam process in International Relations is to foster your knowledge of the field. Successful preparation should leave you “knowing the field” well enough to identify interesting questions for a dissertation, have an understanding of available theories and cases for answering that question, and have a sense of the “look and feel” of compelling and convincing arguments in the field. Preparation for the exam should also position you so that you are 60-80% of the way to being prepared to teach an introductory undergraduate course in International Relations.

The IR field committee has produced a document entitled “Strategy for taking comprehensive exams in International Relations”. All students interested in taking a comprehensive exam in International Relations should read this document at the earliest opportunity.

Comprehensive Exams:
The exam takes place in a one-day, eight-hour time period, plus one hour for lunch. Non-native English speakers are allowed nine hours, plus one hour for lunch. The exam is closed book; students leave their belongings in the department office and write the exam on a department
computer in a room or office provided by the department. Students will be given their questions at 9:00 AM and must perform a final save of their answers to the exam laptop no later than 6:00 PM (7:00 PM for non-native English speakers).

Students are reminded that all exams must meet all University of Oregon requirements related to academic integrity. While taking the exam, students are not allowed to discuss it with other people. The exam is open-book, but students must give credits or have proper citations for the work and ideas of others. The exam will be put through plagiarism software, and plagiarism, if found, will result in a failure and likely disqualification from the program.

**Major Exam:**
This exam will have three sections
i. Core Theme: answer 1 (of 2 or more) questions provided by the committee, which will cover the full breadth of the Core Theme on the Reading List.
ii. Additional Theme #1: answer 1 of 2 (or more) questions provided by the committee that will cover the full breadth of the student’s chosen additional field.
iii. Additional Theme #2: answer 1 of 2 (or more) questions provided by the committee that will cover the full breadth of the student’s chosen additional field.

**Minor Exam:**
The minor exam is comprised of the first two sections of the major exam. Minor exam takers have six hours, plus an hour for lunch, and take the exam under the same conditions as the major. The exam begins at 9:00 AM and must be completed by 4:00 PM (5:00 PM for non-native English speakers).

Exam committees will consist of three members decided upon by the field chair in consultation with the subfield committee members.
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS READING LIST

Core Theme


**International Political Economy Theme**
*(Lead Faculty Members: Skalnes, Tan)*

The list is meant to offer examples of some the variety of arguments in IPE. The recommended readings are meant to provide some guidance for those who would like to delve more deeply into a topic.

**Overviews and Meta-Theory**


**Recommended:**

Useful on the evolution of the trade regime since World War II is John H. Barton, Judith L. Goldstein, Timothy E. Josling, and Richard H. Steinberg. 2006. *The Evolution of the Trade Regime: Politics, Law, and Economics of the GATT and the WTO.*

An excellent collections of IPE articles is Mark Bluth, ed. *Routledge Handbook of International Political Economy (IPE): IPE as a Global Conversation.* This collection is especially valuable in offering perspectives on IPE from scholars outside the American school of IPE.


“Not So Quiet on the Western Front: The American School of IPE.” Special issue of *Review of International Political Economy* 16 (February 2009).


**Individual Preferences**


**Domestic-Level Theories**
1. **Classes, Interest Groups, and Firms**


2. Political Regime and Domestic Institutions


**Recommended:**


**Systemic-Level Theories**

1. **Power**


2. International Institutions


The Second Image Reversed


Keohane, Robert O. and Helen V. Milner, eds., 1996. *Internationalization and Domestic Politics*.

Recommended:


**Ideas**


**Strategic Interaction and Two-Level Games**


**Recommended:**


Milner, Helen V. 1997. *Interests, Institutions, and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations*. 
Important Overviews
Levy, Jack S., and William R. Thompson. *Causes of War*. 1st ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. [Most important overview—notice Jack S. Levy writes literature reviews for security often; read his literature reviews to see updates in the field, such as in the Carlsnaes *Handbook of IR*.]


Classics of Security Studies — recommended to know **


Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*.**

Edward Hallett Carr, *The Twenty Years’ Crisis 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations* (1939)***


Bernard Brodie, *Strategy in the Missile Age* (1965) and *War and Politics* (1973)***


Robert Gilpin, *War and Change in World Politics* (1981)***

Causes of War
Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War* (1973)*** [Classic work, leading to many research programs.]


Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, *ELECTING TO FIGHT: WHY EMERGING DEMOCRACIES GO TO WAR* (2005)


**Recommended for reference:**


Manus I. Midlarsky, Handbook of War Studies (1989).***


Grand Strategy, explaining Grand Strategy, and debating the rise of China


     Shorter version: “Pull Back: The Case for a Less Activist Foreign Policy” Foreign Affairs Jan/Feb 2013


**Interventions and Peacekeeping**


**Civil-Military Relation, Militarism and Organization Theory**


**Alliances**


**Threat Perception and Misperception**


Daniel Kahneman and Jonathan Renshon, “Why Hawks Win” *Foreign Policy* (Jan/Feb 2007)


Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, (1976)***


**Deterrence and the New Era of Counterforce**


Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities,” The American Political Science Review. Vol. 84, No. 3 (Sep, 1990), pp. 731–745. [Excerpted in “Use of Force” reader]


Robert Jervis, “Deterrence Theory Revisited.” World Politics 31 (January 1979) [Recommended.]

Robert Jervis, “Realism, Game Theory, and Cooperation.” World Politics 40 (April 1988) [Recommended.]


Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict
Michael Brown et al., eds., Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict (1997).


Terrorism


Graham Allison, Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe (2005 [2004]).


Recommended:
Robert A. Pape, Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism (2005).

Mia Bloom, Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror (2007).

Proliferation
Kenneth Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability” Foreign Affairs (July/August 2012)


International Environmental Politics Theme
(Lead Faculty Member: Mitchell)

Overviews


Forces shaping international environmental problems


**International institutions—formation**


**International institutions—effectiveness**


**Methodology pieces**


**Climate change**


Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2014. Climate Change 2013: the physical science basis (WG1 Summary for Policymakers). Geneva: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.


Ozone loss


Other issues


**Journals to read**

*Global Environmental Politics*
*International Environmental Agreements*
*Journal of Environment and Development*
*Global Governance* (selected environmental articles)
*International Organization* (selected environmental articles)
*World Politics* (selected environmental articles)