

Great Power Relations
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By appointment MW 1:30-3

The primary purpose of this course is to explore the behaviors of great powers and the ways in which they compete with one another. The course will briefly explore the various theoretical paradigms that have been developed in the field but will ultimately utilize a range of Realist theories to conduct a more in depth examination. The course will move through what it means to be a “great power”, explore the hypotheses surrounding conflict and competition between them as well as analyze various cases of great power politics. Ultimately, concluding the course with a discussion of where these relationships may be headed in the future

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the importance of the Levels of Analysis in International Affairs
 - Gain a broad understanding of the primary theoretical approaches found in international affairs
 - Be able to apply Realism as it pertains to great power politics
 - Understand the basic explanations of conflict and competition
 - Be able to analyze and explain foundational periods of great power politics, including WWI, WWII, The Cold War, and the Post-Cold War era
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COURSE MATERIALS

Kagan, Donald. 1996. *On The Origins of War and The Preservation of Peace*. Anchor Books. (Kagan Text on the Syllabus). These Chapters provide a full and detailed historical record. They are long, so look ahead and don't wait until right before they are due to read them.

Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, Updated Edition*. WW Norton & Company, New York. Another longish book, however, this reads relatively quickly.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Other readings may be added during the course of the semester. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory.

TEACHING STYLE, BIAS, COURSE RULES AND GUIDELINES

My style is somewhat loose as you will quickly see. This will not be a typical lecture class, as I will try to make it both informative yet somewhat enjoyable. Thus, what you will find is a mix of lecture with the addition of various “human interest pieces” and hopefully some humor. So you can expect that after a short amount of time there will be a nice back and forth between myself and the class.

I will attempt to take all bias out. In other words, I will analyze but not give you my opinion nor feelings. Think of me as a sports broadcaster. I just call the game as I see it and don't cheer for either team. I just love the game, which in our case is merely politics. In addition, I want you to know that I encourage an open exchange of ideas and debate. I am not looking for you to simply agree with everything I am saying. I can assure you I take nothing personally, so feel free to question things, probe for more information, etc. I just may have to cut our discussions short because of time constraints. Of course I do have my own opinions. When appropriate, I will share them if asked. However, I will always first present things through the analytical lens.

Even though we will keep it loose in here, there still are some rules and guidelines for the class.

- 1) There are a total of three exams in the course. There are no make-up exams unless there is an institutional approved absence (see below). Conflicts with scheduling must be discussed with me ahead of time.
- 2) Reading pages and assignments are due the day they appear on the syllabus.
- 3) Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate or turned off and must remain out of sight (this means not on your desk, in your lap, etc.). If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know before class. In addition, there is no texting during class. Violations of the cell phone policy will impact your participation grade, and thus your course grade directly.
- 4) No laptops are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university or I have allowed them in class for that day.
- 5) No recording devices (audio or video) are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university. This is definitely for your protection more than mine.

UNIVERSITY COURSE POLICIES

Statement of Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Request for Modification- If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the

Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

Academic Integrity- By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

Attendance and Participation- First and foremost, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, attendance is mandatory and if you miss a class you are responsible for getting the material from another student. Please before you leave class on the first day find a “note taking buddy” so that if either of you miss you are covered. Lecture slides will not be regularly available online, however, before each exam they will be posted for a very limited time just in case you missed anything. But it should be noted that the slides are primarily outlines and only represent a portion of the material.

**Excused Absence policy*- *Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University’s policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Absences resulting from oversleeping, alarms not going off, computer crashes, drink or food specials, lost wallets, lost purses, or dogs eating papers, books, flash drives, etc. will not be considered approved absences.

Classroom Policies- Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: Use of cell phones, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. Students engaging in these behaviors may be asked to leave class. In addition, no audio or video recording is allowed in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter. Finally, there is to be no unauthorized distribution, recording, or posting of materials, including video, connected with this class. Any student found to post or distribute content from this course without prior authorization will be subject to dismissal from the class and will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

Correspondence- All course related concerns should be emailed so we can have a written record. M-F your email will be returned within 48 hours.

All policies subject to review by the professor and can be changed with written notice to the students ahead of time.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Exams (E1-25%, E2-25%, Final-25%)- The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, the texts, as well as any supplemental readings. The final exam does have a cumulative section, hence the great weight. Exam format will consist of a combination of term identification, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

Group Case Prep (10%)- Student groups will be assigned responsibility for a single case prep (either WWI, WWII, or Cuban Missile Crisis) and will be largely responsible for driving lecture, debate, and discussion during that section of the class. Further details to come as we get closer. The grade will be based on factors that measure group and individual performance as well as peer evaluation. ***After the Drop add period is over you will be assigned to your groups. These will be the groups that you will work with through the entire semester for cases, discussions, in class group projects etc. through the case presentations.

Reading quizzes (10%). Brief quizzes that will be conducted at points during the semester to ensure that readings are being done. They will be unannounced and taken at the beginning of class. You will be able to drop your lowest quiz grade. These will be multiple choice questions.

Participation (5% total)- This will be based partially on attendance, discussions, and in class assignments and group activities.

GRADING PROCEDURES

A= 100-90; B=89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as “S” =Satisfactory meaning 70 and above or “U” = Unsatisfactory indicating a grade below 70. If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same, mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of “S” = Satisfactory as well.

WEEKLY READINGS AND SCHEDULE

This is meant as a guide and students will be notified of any changes. The reality is this class will have ebbs and flows to it. What is presented below is my “ideal reading schedule”. Ultimately, however, the topics we cover will be in large part determined by your level of interest, engagement and enthusiasm. There will be topics we spend more time on than I anticipate and some we will spend less time on. So you should expect we will revise this reading schedule over time. But if we need to change an exam day that will be done through a class vote. Students should note that for each exam they are accountable for all of the readings and lectures up until that point. Readings may also be added or subtracted but students will be notified in advance.

Course Intro and Levels of Analysis

January 7- Syllabus and Course Introductions

January 9 and 11- Levels of Analysis

Readings:

Man, State, and War- Kenneth N. Waltz (1959) *excerpt*

Theoretical approaches for Understanding Great Power Relations

January 14- Liberalism

Readings:

Immanuel Kant, "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch"

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points"

January 16- Liberalism

Readings:

G. John Ikenberry, "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order," *International Security* 23, 3 (Winter 1998/99): 43-78.

Suggested Reading:

Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *APSR*, (December 1986): 1151-1169

January 18- Alternative approaches

Readings:

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization* (Spring 1992).

More Theory.... but moving towards Realism

No Class January 21- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23- Catch up day

January 25- The importance of Realism

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 1-54

January 28- The importance of Realism

Readings:

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Excerpt) "The anarchic Structure of World Politics"

January 30- The importance of Realism

Readings:

Gideon Rose, "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy," *World Politics*, vol. 51, October 1998, pp. 144-72.

Theories of Conflict and Competition

February 1- Theories of Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Robert Jervis, "Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?" *Security Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (2012): 153-172.

February 4- Theories on Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Jack S Levy, "Domestic Politics and War," *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 653-673.

February 6- Theories on Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 334-359

Kenneth Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 615-628

February 8- Finish Theories of Conflict and Competition

EXAM Week and Great Powers

February 11- EXAM 1 on Canvas

February 13- Out of class assignment with Assigned Group

February 15- Great Powers

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 138-67

February 18- Great Powers

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 55-67, 75-87, 110-137

February 20- Catch up Day

February 22- Case Finalization Day

World War I

February 25-March 4

Readings:

Kagan Text, Chapter 2, pages 81-144, 183-214.

Suggested Readings:

Stephen Van Evera," Offense Defense Theory and the Outbreak of World War I,"

in *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999): 193-239.

Scott D. Sagan, "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense and Instability," *International Security* 11, no.2 (1986): 151-175.

Shiping Tang, "The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis," *Security Studies* 18, no. 3 (2009): 587- 623.

World War II

March 6-13

Readings:

Kagan Text- Chapter 4 pgs. 281-417.

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 172-219, 305-322,

Suggested Reading:

Scott Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 893-922.

Randall Schweller, "Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2004): 159-201.

March 15- EXAM II

Spring Break March 18-22

Cold War Diplomacy

March 25-27

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 322-329.

Christopher Layne, "US Grand Strategy and the Soviet Union, 1945-1953," in *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006): 51-70.

John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System," *International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (1986): 99-142

Cuban Missile Crisis

March 29-April 5- Cuban Missile Crisis

Readings:

Kagan Text, pgs. 437-548.

Suggested Reading:

Graham T. Allison, "Conceptual Models and The Cuban Missile Crisis", *The American Political Science Review*, 63, no.3 (1969): 689-718.

Cuban Missile Archive, Web Link available via Canvas

End of the Cold War

April 8-10

Readings:

Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "Power, Globalization and the End of the Cold War: Reevaluating a Landmark Case for Ideas," *International Security* 25, no. 3 (2000-2001): 5-53.

Mark L. Haas, "The United States and the End of the Cold War: Reactions to Shifts in Soviet Power, or Domestic Politics?" *International Organization* 61, no. 1 (2007): 145-179.

The Unipolar Moment, Conflict, and Balancing?

April 12 and April 15

Readings:

Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 70 (1990/91): 23-33.

William C. Wohlforth, "Unipolarity, Status competition, and Great Power War," *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009): 28-57.

Robert Jervis, "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective," *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009): 188-213.

Week 14- What comes Next? China? America?

April 17 -April 22

China Specific-

Charles L. Glaser, "A US-China Grand Bargain?" *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 4 (2015): 49-90.

Huiyun Feng and Kai He, "China's Institutional Challenges to the International Order", *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (2017): 23-49.

America specific-

Readings:

Stephen Brooks, G. John Ikenberry and William C. Wohlforth, "Don't Come Home America: The Case Against Retrenchment," *International Security*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (2012/2013): 7-51.

General readings-
Reading:
Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 360-411.

Barry R. Posen, "From Unipolarity to Multipolarity: Transition in Sight?" Chapter 10 from Ikenberry, et. al. 2011. *International Relations Theory and the Consequences of Unipolarity*. Cambridge University Press: 317-341.

Additional Readings may be added

Final Exam Wednesday May 1, 2019 11:20-2:10

Additional Important Dates to keep in mind

January 11- Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop without a "W" grade for Spring Semester 2019

February 18- Midterm progress reports posted

March 13- Deadline to change grade mode from Letter/Grade to Pass/Fail (and vice versa) and last day to withdraw from individual courses with "W" grades