POL 671, Proseminar in International Relations  
Fall 2008, Thursday 9-11:50 am, Harrison 110

Dr. Laura Neack  
Harrison 314, 529-6736, neack@muohio.edu  
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2-3, or by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a graduate survey of principal areas and approaches to the field of International Relations as a research discipline; development and scope of the field, major and contending theories, and modes of analysis; logic and methods of various forms of inquiry and research in the several major and contending areas of the field.

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REQUIRED BOOKS


Other readings can be found using JSTOR through the King Library website.

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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

33% Participation in Seminar Discussions. This is not a lecture course. The instructor’s role in a seminar is to guide, facilitate and contribute to the seminar discussion. A seminar is totally dependent on the full and informed participation of its members. All students must come to seminar meetings prepared to discuss the readings and participate in the discussion. Here are the threshold elements of a good seminar discussion:

- Evidence of careful preparation of assigned readings.
• Logical consistency in comments, appropriateness of comments to discussion, originality, and use of relevant evidence in the arguments made.
• Comments that are clear, concise and respectful of others.
• The extent to which comments contribute to the process of the discussion, such as building on the ideas of others, providing constructive criticism, asking constructive questions, or indicating a careful listening to others.

The reading load in this proseminar does not, in and of itself, constitute a reading list for a Ph.D. qualifying examination in International Relations. No single seminar or set of seminars will provide students with all the readings in a subject that should be mastered for qualifying exams.

33% Reading Summaries and Questions. Each seminar participant must write summaries and questions for every weekly’s assigned readings with the exception of the first seminar meeting on August 28.

Summaries. The summary is a one paragraph, concise yet detailed synopsis of each chapter or article assigned. The summary should contain page citations. The summary should be in 12 point font, single-spaced, and no more than 25 lines in length.

Questions. The questions should focus on the entire set of readings for each week. Each participant must write three questions that attempt to synthesize, compare, contrast and otherwise attempt to pull materials together. The questions SHOULD NOT be factual (such as what is the largest port in China?). The questions SHOULD NOT be quiz-like (such as how does Schelling define diplomacy?). The questions should not be answered in the readings, but answerable through an informed understanding of the readings. Finally, the questions should be suitable for seminar discussion.

The three questions together cannot exceed one single-spaced page (using 12 inch font).

The summaries and questions are due via email attachment to every seminar member (including the prof) by 6 pm on the Wednesday before each class meeting.

34% Final Exam. The final exam for this course will be held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 12:30-2:30 pm, in Harrison 110.

Attendance. The university requires that students attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, with the exception of University recognized excused absences for religious observances. Miami policy states that, “Students must give written notification to their instructor within the first two weeks of class of the religious event which prohibits class attendance, and the date that will be missed, if officially known. Instructors will, without prejudice, provide such students with reasonable accommodations for completing missed work. However, the students are ultimately responsible for material covered in class, regardless of whether the student is absent or present.”

• Beyond this, failure to attend one full seminar meeting will result in a 10% reduction of the final seminar grade, unless the absence is excused.
• The second unexcused absence will result in the dropping of the student from the class roll with a grade of F.
• Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late for a seminar meeting will be marked as absent without excuse for that entire meeting unless the tardiness is excused.
• Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be permitted to turn in any assignments due on that day.
• The instructor reserves the sole right to determine the type of documentation necessary for an excused absence.

DISABILITY RESOURCES

Students with disabilities for which accommodation should be made must register with the Office of Disability Resources (ODR) in the Campus Avenue Building. If you do not know how to begin the process of registering with ODR, please see the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

**August 28**  Introduction to course

Chapters in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader:
Steve Smith, “Introduction: Diversity and Disciplinarity in International Relations Theory”
Milja Kurki and Colin Wight, “International Relations and Social Science”
Chris Brown, “International Relations as Political Theory”

**September 4**  History


**September 11**  Major Theories: Realism

Chapters in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader:
Richard Ned Lebow, “Classical Realism”
John J. Mearsheimer, “Structural Realism”

*Waltz, Realism and International Politics*, Part I: Theory (all), Part 2: International Politics (all)

**September 18**  Major Theories: Realism

Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (entire)

**September 25**  Major Theories: Realism

Laura Neack, *Elusive Security: States First, People Last* (entire)
October 2  Major Theories: Liberalism

Diana Panke and Thomas Risse, “Liberalism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader


October 9  Major Theories: Liberalism

Lisa L. Martin, “Neoliberalism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader

Colin Hay, “International Relations Theory and Globalization,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader


October 16  No class, sleep in

October 23  Major Methodologies

Chapters in Harvey and Brecher reader:

Michael Brecher and Frank P. Harvey, “The Essence of Millennial Reflections on International Studies: Methodology”

Michael Nicholson, “Formal Methods in International Relations”

Harvey Starr, “Cumulation, Synthesis and Research Design for the ‘Post-Fourth Wave’”

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, “Accomplishments and Limitations of a Game-Theoretic Approach to International Relations”

Steve J. Brams, “Game Theory in Practice: Problems and Prospects in Applying it to International Relations”
October 30  Major Methodologies

Chapters in Harvey and Brecher reader:
Dina A. Zinnes, “Reflections on Quantitative International Politics”
James Lee Ray, “Reflections on Millennyms, Old and New…”
Russell Leng, “Quantitative International Politics and Its Critics: Then and Now”
Jack S. Levy, “Qualitative Methods in International Relations”
Zeev Maoz, “Case Study Methodology in International Studies…”

November 6  Alternative Perspectives and Theories: Feminism

J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg, “Feminism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics* (entire)

November 13  Alternative Perspectives and Theories: Postcolonialism

Siba N. Grovogui, “Postcolonialism,” in Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader

Chapters from Chowdhry and Nair reader:
Geeta Chowdhry and Sheila Nair, “Introduction: Power in a Postcolonial World”
Anna M. Agathangelou, “‘Sexing’ Globalization in International Relations: Migrant Sex and Domestic Workers in Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey”
Shampa Biswas, “The ‘New Cold War’: Secularism, Orientalism, and Postcoloniality”
Geeta Chowdhry, “Postcolonial Interrogations of Child Labor: Human Rights, Carpet Trade, and Rugmark in India”

November 20  Alternative Perspectives and Theories

Chapters from Dunne, Kurki and Smith reader:
Tim Dunne, “The English School”
Mark Rupert, “Marxism and Critical Theory”
K. M. Fierke, “Constructivism”
David Campbell, “Poststructuralism”
Robyn Eckersley, “Green Theory”
Ole Wæver, “Still a Discipline After All These Debates?”

November 27  NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
**December 4**  Mainstream Assessment

Chapters from Elman and Elman reader:
Kenneth Waltz, “Thoughts about Assaying Theories”
Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, “Introduction: Appraising Progress in International Relations Theory”
Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, “Lessons from Lakatos”
Robert O. Keohane and Lisa L. Martin, “Institutional Theory as a Research Program”
Andrew Moravcsik, “Liberal International Relations Theory: A Scientific Assessment”

**December 11**  Mainstream Assessment

Chapters from Elman and Elman reader:
Robert Jervis, “Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate”
Randall L. Schweller, “The Progressiveness of Neoclassical Realism”
Jack Snyder, “‘Is’ and ‘Ought’: Evaluating Empirical Aspects of Normative Research”
John A. Vasquez, “Kuhn vs. Lakatos? The Case for Multiple Frames in Appraising IR Theory”
Andrew Bennett, “A Lakatosian Reading of Lakatos: What Can We Salvage from the Hard Core?”

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 12:30-2:30 pm, FINAL EXAM**