

Conceptual Foundations (INAF U6800)

Introduction

Through a review of major academic writings, lectures, and class discussion, Conceptual Foundations of International Politics examines many of the central concepts, theories, and analytical tools used in contemporary social science to understand and explain international affairs. The theoretical literature is drawn from different fields in the social sciences, including comparative politics, international relations, political sociology and economics; the lecturers include members of the Columbia faculty who are authorities in these fields (as well as, in many cases, experienced practitioners in their own right). The course is designed to enhance students' abilities to think critically and analytically about current problems and challenges in international politics.

Conceptual Foundations is a semester-long course. The lecture/plenary session meets on Monday, and the seminar-style sections also meet every week. Attending lectures and sections is obligatory, and students are required to do the assigned readings before their (6804) section because the readings and lectures form the basis of the discussion sections. Students are expected to know when and where their sections meet.

Assignments:

- Two 6-8 page papers (60%)
- One in-section group debate (20%)
- Active class participation (20%)

The coursepack is available for purchase at the Copy Center. (4th floor IAB)

All course material will be placed on Reserve at Lehman Library.

Session 1:

Topic:

Do We Really Need Theories of International Relations?

Lecturer, Stephen Sestanovich:

Readings

Stephen Walt, "International Theories: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998) (available online)

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004) (available online)

Robert Jervis, "Theories of War in an Era of Great Power Peace: Presidential Address, American Political Science Association 2001," *American Political Science Review* Volume 96, Issue 1 (March 2002) (available online)

Eliot A. Cohen, "Thucydides, Really!" *The American Interest* Volume II, Issue 3 (January/February 2007); and Richard K. Betts, "Not With My Thucydides, You Don't," *The American Interest* Volume II, Issue 4 (March/April 2007)

Kishore Mahbubani, "[The Case Against the West.](#)" *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2008) (available online)

Session 2:

Topic:

Power Politics: Is There Any Other Kind?

Lecturer, Robert Jervis:**Readings**

Hobbes Leviathan, [*Leviathan*](#) p. 183-201, 223-239 (available online)

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) p.102-128

Robert Gilpin, "No One Loves a Political Realist," *Security Studies* Volume 5, Spring 1996 (available online)

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* Volume 30, January 1978 (available online)

Edward Hallett Carr, "Realism and Idealism;" Geoffrey Blainey, "Power, Culprits, and Arms," in Richard K. Betts, ed. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 3rd Edition (New York: Pearson-Longman 2008)

Benjamin Valentino, *Final Solutions: Mass Killing and Genocide in the 20th Century* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press 2004) p. 66-90

Session 3:**Topic:**

All Regimes Are Not the Same - And Why It Matters

Lecturer, Michael Doyle:**Readings**

Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace," in Hans Reiss ed., H. B. Nisbet (trans.), *Kant: Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991) p.93-109

Michael Doyle, *Ways of War and Peace* (New York: Norton 1997) p.205-212, 251-300, 474-84, 495-502

Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory," *International Security* Volume 20, Issue 1 (Summer 1995) p. 39-51

Andrew Mack, "Global Political Violence: Explaining the Post-Cold War Decline," *Coping With Crisis Working Paper Series* International Peace Academy, March 2007

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Volume 19, no. 3 (Winter 1994-5), p.5-49 (available online)

Session 4:**Topic:**

Constructivism: Is the Balance of Power All In Our Minds?

Lecturer, Jack Snyder:

Martha Finnemore, "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," in Peter J. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996) p.153-185

Alex Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization* Volume 46, No. 2, (Spring 1992) p.391-425 (available online)

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1998) p.39-79

Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International Politics: An Introduction," in Karen A. Mingst and Jack Snyder, ed., *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York: Norton 2008) p.279-29

Chaim Kaufmann and Robert Pape, "Explaining Costly International Moral Action: Britain's Sixty-Year Campaign against the Atlantic Slave Trade," *International Organization* (Fall 1999) p. 631-668 (available online)

Marc Lynch, "Al-Qaeda's Constructivist Turn," *Praeger Security International* (May 2006) (available online)

Lila Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Need Saving? Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others," *American Anthropologist* Volume 104, Issue 3 (2002) (available online)

Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *The National Interest* Volume 16 (Summer 1989) (available online)

Session 5:

Topic:

States, Markets, and the Global Economy

Lecturer, Jeff Sachs:

Paper Questions Distributed in Lecture

Readings

Jeffrey D Sachs, *Common Wealth: Economics for A Crowded Planet* (The Penguin Press 2008) p.17-53, 205-226, 227-253

Vincent Ferraro, "Dependency Theory: An Introduction," in Giorgio Secondi ed., *The Development Economics Reader* (London: Routledge 2008) p. 58-71

Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian, "The Primacy of Institutions (and What This Does and Does Not Mean ...)" in Giorgio Secondi ed., *The Development Economics Reader* (London: Routledge 2008) p.79-85

Jeff Sachs, "Institutions Matter, But Not For Everything" in Giorgio Secondi ed., *The Development Economics Reader* (London: Routledge 2008) p.86-91

William Easterly, *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good* (New York: Penguin Press 2006) p.37-59

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, [Communist Manifesto](#) p. 2-12 (available online)

Session 6:

Topic:

Security, Morality and Weaponry

Lecturer: Richard Betts:**Readings**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* 3rd Edition (New York: Basic Books 2000) p.197-206, 251-268, 304-327.

Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better;" Martha Crenshaw, "The Strategic Logic of Terrorism;" and Osama bin Laden, "Speech to the American People," in Richard Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War*, 3rd Edition (New York: Pearson-Longman 2008)

Scott D. Sagan, "The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," *International Security* Volume 18, Issue 4 (Spring 1994)

Paul Fussell, "Thank God for the Atom Bomb" and Michael Walzer and Paul Fussell, "An Exchange of Views," in Paul Fussell, ed., *Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays* (New York: Summit Books 1988)

Session 7:**Topic:**

Political Development and Democratization

Lecturer, Sheri Berman:**Paper Due in Lecture****Readings**

Fareed Zakaria, "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 1997) (available online); and Robert Kagan, "The Great Unwashed," *The New Republic* July 7, 2003 (both available online)

Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Prone to Violence: The Paradox of the Democratic Peace," *The National Interest* (Winter 2005/2006) (available online)

Sheri Berman, "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy*, 18, 1, (January 2007) (available online)

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press 1971) p. 1-16

Seymour Martin Lipset, *Political Man* (New York: Anchor Books, 1963) p.31-53

Evelyn Huber, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John Stephens, "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Volume 7, Issue 3 1993 (available online)

Session 8:**Topic:**

Academic Holiday

No Lecture:

No section on Monday or Tuesday. Section meets on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Session 9:

Topic:

Inequality, Institutions, and Economic Backwardness in Latin America

Lecturer: John Coatsworth:

John H. Coatsworth, "Institutions, Inequality, and Economic Growth in Latin America," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 40 (August 2008) p.545-69 (available online)

Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson, "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation," *American Economic Review*, Volume 91 (December 2001) (available online)

Jeffrey G. Williamson, "Five Centuries of Latin American Inequality," Manuscript, Harvard University (August 2009)

Kenneth M. Roberts, "Latin America's Populist Revival," *SAIS Review* Volume 27, Issue 1 (Winter-Spring 2007) p.3-15 (available online)

Peter H. Smith, *Democracy in Latin America: Political Change in Comparative Perspective* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2005) p.107-133, 213-243, 263-284

Session 10:

Topic:

Is Colonialism to Blame for Ethnic Conflict and Failed States?

Lecturer, Mahmood Mamdani:

Debate Questions Distributed in Section

Readings

Mahmood Mamdani, *Saviors and Survivors: Darfur, Politics, and the War on Terror* (New York: Random House 2009) p.19-71

Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Volume 43, Issue 4 (October 2001)

Mahmood Mamdani, "Lessons of Zimbabwe," *London Review of Books*, (December 2008) (available online)

Robert H. Jackson and Carl G. Rosberg, "Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood," *World Politics* Volume 35, Issue 1 (October 1982) (available online)

Ian Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political "Backwardness" in Historical Perspective," *International Organization*, Volume 51, Issue 4 1997 (available online)

Session 11:

Topic:

Can China's Rise Really Be Peaceful?

Lecturer: Andrew Nathan:

Readings

Richard K. Betts and Thomas J. Christensen, "China: Getting the Questions Right," *The National Interest* (Winter 2000-2001) (available online)

Aaron L. Friedberg, "The Future of U.S.-China Relations," *International Security* Volume 30 No. 2 (Fall 2005) (available online)

Alistair Iain Johnston, "Is China a Status Quo Power?" *International Security* Volume 27 No. 4 (Spring 2003) (available online)

Zheng Bijian, "[China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status.](#)" *Foreign Affairs* (September-October 2005) (available online)

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993) (available online)

Amartya Sen, "Why Democratization Is Not the Same as Westernization: Democracy and Its Global Roots," *The New Republic* (October 2003) (available online)

Session 12:

Topic:

Free Trade: Are the Critics Right?

Lecturer: Jagdish Bhagwati:

Debates Held in Section

Paper Questions Distributed

Readings

Jagdish Bhagwati, *The Critiques of Capitalism After the Crisis: Myths and Fallacies* (online)

Jagdish Bhagwati, *World Trade: Good News and Bad News* (online)

Arvind Panagariya, "Miracles & Debacles: In Defense of Trade Openness," Manuscript, Columbia University (December 2003) (available online)

Joseph Stiglitz "Social Justice and Global Trade," *Far Eastern Economic Review* (March 2006) p.18-22 (available online)

Joseph Stiglitz, "Globalism's Discontents," *The American Prospect* Volume 13, Issue 1 (January 2002) (available online)

Dani Rodrik "Cheerleaders threat to world trade" *The Financial Times* (March 27 2007) and Dani Rodrik, "Feasible Globalizations," Harvard University (July 2002) (available online)

Ha-Joon Chang, *Kicking Away the Ladder* (London: Anthem Press 2002) p.13-68

Session 13:

Topic:

Globalization and the State

Lecturer: Saskia Sassen:

Readings

Saskia Sassen, "Neither global nor national: novel assemblages of territory, authority and rights" *Politics and Ethics Journal* Volume 1, Issue 1 2008 p.61-79

Saskia Sassen, *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages* Princeton University Press (Princeton: Princeton 2008) Chapters 5 and 6

Kenneth Waltz, "Globalization and American Power," *The National Interest* (Spring 2000) (available online)

Amy Chua, "A World on the Edge," *The Wilson Quarterly* (Autumn 2002) (available online)

Lisa Anderson, "'Antiquated Before They Can Ossify:' States That Fail Before They Form," *Journal of International Affairs* Volume 58, Issue 1 (Fall 2004) (available online)

Tyler Cowen, "[Last Man Standing](#)," *The Wilson Quarterly* (Spring 2009)

Session 14:

Topic:

The Re-Making of American Foreign Policy

No Section This Week:

Readings

Barry Posen and Andrew Ross, "Competing Visions for US Grand Strategy," *International Security* Volume 21, Issue 3 (1997) (available online)

William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security*, Volume 24, Issue 1 (Summer 1999) (available on-line)

G. John Ikenberry, "Getting Hegemony Right," *The National Interest* Volume 64 (Spring 2001) (available on-line)

Michael Mandelbaum, "Foreign Policy as Social Work," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 1996) (available online)

Richard Haass, "[The Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance](#)," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2008)