**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)


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)


Session 3:

Topic: All Regimes Are Not the Same - And Why It Matters

Lecturer, Michael Doyle:

Readings


Session 4:

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

Lecturer, Jack Snyder:


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**


Dani Rodrik and Arvind Subramanian, "The Primacy of Institutions (and What This Does and Does Not Mean ...)


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

Session 6:
Topic:
Security, Morality and Weaponry

Lecturer: Richard Betts:

Readings


Session 7:

Topic:
Political Development and Democratization

Lecturer, Sheri Berman:

Paper Due in Lecture

Readings


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:


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


Session 10:

Topic:
Is Colonialism to Blame for Ethnic Conflict and Failed States?

Lecturer, Mahmood Mamdani:

Debate Questions Distributed in Section

Readings


Session 11:

Topic:
Can China's Rise Really Be Peaceful?
Lecturer: Andrew Nathan:

Readings


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)


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)


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

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


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**


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)