INAF U6800.001 : CONCEPTUAL FOUND OF INTL POLI (3 2011) SYLLABUS

Session 1
Wednesday - August 25, 2010: 02:42 PM

There are no readings or assignments posted for this day.

Syllabus
Wednesday - August 25, 2010: 02:42 PM

Topic: Syllabus

Class Plan:
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.

September 13: "Do We Really Need Theories of International Relations?"
Stephen Sestanovich

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)
September 20: "Power Politics: Is There Any Other Kind?"
Richard Betts

Hobbes Leviathan, Leviathan p. 183-201, 223-239
Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) p.102-128


September 27: "All Regimes Are Not the Same - And Why It Matters"
Michael Doyle


Barack Obama, Nobel Speech, December 10 2009 (available online)

October 4: "Is the Balance of Power All In Our Minds?"
Jack Snyder

Alex Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," International Organization Volume 46, Issue 2 (Spring 1992) (available online)


Saba Mahmood and Charles Hirschkind, "Feminism, the Taliban and the Politics of Counterinsurgency," *Anthropological Quarterly*, Volume 75 Issue 2 Spring 2002 (available online)

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

**October 11: "States, Markets and the Global Economy"**

**Jeff Sachs**

**Paper Questions Distributed in Lecture**


**October 18: "American Primacy: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly"**

**Robert Jervis**


Walter Russell Mead, "The Jacksonian Tradition and American Foreign Policy," *The National Interest* (Winter
October 25: "Political Development and Democratization"
Sheri Berman
Paper Due in Lecture


November 1: Academic Holiday
No Lecture
(No Section on Monday or Tuesday; Section Meets on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

November 8: "Great Powers, Domestic Politics and Cold Wars"
John Coatsworth


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


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**November 15:** "Is Colonialism to Blame for Ethnic Conflict and Failed States?"

Mahmood Mamdani

**Debate Questions Distributed in Section**


Richard Just, "'We Can't Just Do Nothing:' Can a liberal be both opposed to imperialism and devoted to human rights?" *The New Republic* August 27 2009 (available online)

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**November 22:** "Can China's Rise Really Be Peaceful?"

Andrew Nathan


John Mearsheimer and Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Clash of the Titans" *Foreign Policy* Issue 146 Jan/Feb 2005 p.46-50


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)

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**November 29: "What Are International Organizations Good For?"
Elisabeth Lindenmayer
Debates Held in Section**


President Obama's Address to the United Nations General Assembly, September 2009 (available online)


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**December 6: "Free Trade: Are the Critics Right?"
Paper Questions Distributed (Posted Online on December 3)**


Jagdish Bhagwati, "The Critiques of Capitalism After the Crisis: Myths and Fallacies," Manuscript, Columbia University (September 2009)


Dani Rodrik "The Cheerleaders' Threat to World Trade" *The Financial Times* (March 27 2007) and Dani Rodrik, "Feasible Globalizations," Harvard University (July 2002) (available online)
December 13: "How to Save the World: Global Public Goods and the Theory of International Cooperation"
Scott Barrett
No Section This Week


Richard Haass, "The Age of Nonpolarity," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2008) (available online)


David Victor et al., “The Geoengineering Option: A Last Resort Against Global Warming?” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2009) (available online)


December 17: Paper Due

Academic Integrity Statement:

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures. Click here to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online.

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

Session 3
Friday - December 03, 2010
Essay #2:

Choose one of the three questions below and write an essay of 6-8 pages (1500-2000 words) in length. Please make sure that your essay has a focused argument, cites readings for support, refers to empirical examples, considers alternative explanations and counterarguments, and answers every part of the question. Your essay must be handed in on Friday, December 17 at noon. All late papers will be penalized — there will be no exceptions. Your essay must
- comply with standard formatting rules (1-inch margins, 12 point font, double-spaced text)
- cite readings appropriately (See Writing Guide)
- state the day and time of your 6804 section
- state the name of your discussion section leader

1/ "Nothing will be more important in defining the potential for future global cooperation than the changing distribution of power among major states. The decline of American primacy will be disruptive in many ways, but it will facilitate cooperation on almost all major problems."

Do you agree with this statement? Will a new distribution of power produce a world that is more peaceful, prosperous and politically open, marked by more effective regulation of conflict - or a less liberal and stable world, marked by less cooperation?

2/ While some scholars maintain that Western states and international organizations have aided state formation in the developing world by introducing bureaucratic institutions and norms of economic and political liberalism, or simply by recognizing the sovereignty of post-colonial states, others argue that such external influences distort institutional development, undermine democratic practice and can even lead to "failed states." Explain which side of this debate you find more persuasive. How has the external environment shaped state formation in the developing world?

3/ "Economic and political liberalism can lead to democracy, but not the other way around."

Do you agree with this statement? Discuss the relationship between liberalism and democracy. Must one precede the other? Your answer should explore - and explain - the connection between economic and political development. Be sure to make use of the most important assigned readings that address this issue.

Required Readings:
- Essay #2 - CF Final Paper: {Fil: Essay #2 - CF Final Paper|4351036}