

School of Political Science and Law  
Shandong Normal University  
Jinan, Shandong, PR China  
December 20, 2004 – January 7, 2005  
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 – 5:00 PM  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-5:00 PM  
Dr. Weixing Chen

## THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Books: Marc A. Genest, *Conflict and Cooperation: Evolving Theories of International Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, (Wadsworth, 2004)  
Richard K Betts, (ed.), *Conflicts after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Longman, 2002)

### Course Description and Purpose

To unravel the arcane secrets of international relations has driven the quest for a theory of international relations. Much has indeed changed since the end of the Cold War. Islamic fanaticism was stirring conflict, and the U.S. experienced war in the heart of Manhattan. States are crumbling in Africa and weakened everywhere. Dramatic changes in technology provided people with front-row seats to major events everywhere, degraded the significance of distance and territory. Globalization, a new buzzword that few could define, are appearing on everyone's lips as an effort to explain myriad other changes. Changes such as these necessarily intensify the quest for new theory and new "thinking spaces." In many respects, the world is "postinternational." Yet, the fact remains that international relations is a highly charged subject. There is very little that is "objective" about it. Writings about international relations differ fundamentally in their assumptions about global politics and the prospect for ending the pervasiveness of war and conflict in human affairs. In this course we will examine a variety of works about international relations in order to identify the underlying assumptions of their authors with regard to these matters. In doing so, we should be able to develop critical perspectives useful for clarifying our own values and for evaluating contemporary international events.

### Program

It focuses on: System Level of International Relations Theories (classical realism/neo-realism, institutional/economic liberalism, and postmodernism), State Level of International Relations Theories (political culture theory and decision-making process theory), Individual Level of International Relations Theory (cognitive theory), and the Future between Contending Forces.

### Methods

The instructional format will be primarily lecture with class discussion.

### Grading

There is one exam at the end of the course. The format of the exam is short answer questions and essay questions.

### Outline of Readings

- December 21 International Relations Theory and Realism, Genest, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp.1-122)**  
Chapter 1: Introduction, Kenneth N. Waltz, and Stephen M. Walt.  
Chapter 2: Introduction, Thucydides, Machiavelli, Hans Morgenthau, George Kennan, Robert Gilpin, Kenneth Waltz, and Henry Kissinger.
- December 23 Liberal Theory, Genest, Chapter 3 (pp.123-190) and Betts, Part III (pp. 103-109 and 128-140)**  
Chapter 3 (Genest): Introduction, Hugo, Grotius, Woodrow Wilson, Hedley Bull, Joseph Nye, and Robert Keohane.  
Part III (Betts): Immanuel Kant and John Mueller.
- December 28 Postmodernism, Genest, Chapter 5 (pp.257-372)**  
Chapter 5: Introduction, Yosef Lapid, Alexander Wendt, J. Ann Tickner, Robert Keohane, Birgit Locher/Elisabeth Prugl, and Saba Gul Khattak.
- December 30 Political Culture Theory, Genest, Chapter 6 (pp. 373-381)**  
Chapter 6: Introduction, Bruce Russett, Francis Fukuyama, Samuel Huntington, Stephen Walt, and Benjamin Barber.
- January 4 Decision-Making Process Theory, Genest, Chapter 7 (pp. 444-488)**  
Chapter 7: Introduction, Richard Snyder, and Graham Allison.
- January 6 The Future Between Contending Forces, Betts, Part IX (pp. 509-557)**  
Part IX: Eliot Cohen, Richard Harknett, Richard Betts, and Robert Keohane/Joseph Nye.