

Introduction to International Relations
University of Northern Colorado
Fall 2017

Theory is always for someone and for some purpose.
-Robert W. Cox (1981)

Dr. Gregory P. Williams
gregory.williams@unco.edu

Hours: Mckee 305, MWF 1:30-2:30, and by appointment
Registration: PSCI 220, sec 001, CRN 14341
Meeting: MWF, 2:30-3:20, McKee 333

Course Description

International Relations (IR) is the study of politics on a world-scale. Scholars of world politics rely on theories to make sense of global events. Theories are like colored magnifying lenses: they bring objects into focus, but with a distorting tint that slightly obscures as they magnify. Still, there is something natural about IR theory. Some intellectuals believe that we each rely on theories even if we are unaware of their names. This class will first explore the theoretical tools of IR, and then apply those tools to timely issues like climate change, globalization, and international law.

Readings

Please buy paper copies of the books. You will need to reference specific page numbers in your papers. I will also post articles to Canvas.

- (1) Daniel Drezner, *Theories of International Politics and Zombies*, 1st or 2nd “Revived” ed. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011 or 2015). (In schedule as Zombies.) *Note→ You may buy either the first or second edition of this text.
- (2) Tim Dunn, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, eds., *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* 3rd or 4th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press: 2013, 2016). (In schedule as IRT.) *Note→ You may buy either the third or the fourth edition of this text.
- (3) David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). (In schedule as DH.)
- (4) Haley Sweetland Edwards, *Shadow Courts: The Tribunals that Rule Global Trade* (New York: Columbia Global Reports, 2016). (In schedule as HSE.)

Expectations and Grades

Paper 1: Understanding IR Theories (100pts)
Paper 2: Film Review (100pts)
Paper 3: Applying Theories to World Politics (150pts)
Participation (50pts)

Schedule

Part I: International Relations Theories

Monday, 21 August: Welcome!

Wednesday, 23 August: Vocabulary of World Politics
Reading on Canvas: TBD

Friday, 25 August: Why Theory?
Zombies, “Introduction...to the Undead,” “The Zombie Literature,” “Defining a
Zombie,” and “Distracting Debates about Flesh-eating Ghouls.”

Monday, 28 August: Classical Realism
IRT, “Classical Realism” (Lebow)

Wednesday, 30 August: Classical to Structural (Neo) Realism
IRT, “Structural Realism” (Mearsheimer)

Friday, 1 September: Neo-Classical Realism, or, Realism Returns to Its Roots
Reading on Canvas: TBD
Note: Drop Deadline on URSA is 09/01/2017

Monday, 4 September—NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

Wednesday, 6 September: Classical Liberalism (aka Idealism)
IRT, “Liberalism” (Russett)
Zombies, “Regulating the Undead in a Liberal World Order”

Friday, 8 September: Classical Liberalism to Neoliberalism
IRT, “Neoliberalism” (Sterling-Folker)

Monday, 11 September: Catch up on course material

Wednesday, 13 September: Marxism
IRT, “Marxism” (Rupert)

Friday, 15 September: World-Systems Analysis

Reading on Canvas: Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Modern World-System as a Capitalist World-Economy," in *World-Systems Analysis: An Introduction* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2004, 23-41).

Monday, 18 September: World-Systems Analysis II

Paper 1 topic handed out

Wednesday, 20 September: Constructivism

IRT, "Constructivism" (Fierke)

Zombies, "The Social Construction of Zombies"

Friday, 22 September: Question Time

Bring three questions to class about IR theory.

Monday, 25 September: **Paper 1 Due**

Part II: Theories in Context

Wednesday, 27 September: Women and Politics

IRT, "Feminism" (Tickner and Sjoberg)

Friday, 29 September: Neo-Conservatism

Zombies, "Neoconservatism and the Axis of Evil Dead"

Monday, 2 October: Global Environmental Politics

IRT, "Green Theory" (Eckersley)

Part III: Diplomacy and Ecology

Wednesday, 4 October: Environment and Capitalism

Reading on Canvas: Benjamin Kunkel, "The Capitalocene," *London Review of Books* 39, no. 5 (2017): 22-28.

Friday, 6 October: Climate Change Slide Show

Monday, 9 October: Climate Policy in the Age of Trump

Reading on Canvas: Riley E. Dunlap and Aaron M. McCright, "Organized Climate Change Denial," *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society*, John S. Dryzek, et al., eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, 145-160).

Wednesday, 11 October: Bureaucratic Politics and Two-Level Climate Games

Reading on Canvas: J. Garry Clifford, "Bureaucratic Politics," in *The Journal of American History* 77, no. 1 (1990): 161-168.

Begin Film: "The Island President (First Run Features, 2011)

Note: Course Withdrawal Deadline is 10/12/2017

Friday, 13 October: Climate Futures
Finish Film

Monday, 16 October: Catch up on course material
Paper 2 topic handed out

Part IV: Global Capitalism

Wednesday, 18 October: Earth, and the World of Capitalism
IRT, "IR Theory and Globalization (Hay)

Friday, 20 October: Economic Neoliberalism, Defined
DH, pp. 1-38

Monday, 23 October: **Paper 2 due**

Wednesday, 25 October: Thatcher and Reagan in Action
DH, pp. 64-86

Friday, 27 October: Adam Smith in Beijing (does anyone know this reference?)
DH, pp. 120-151

Monday, 30 October: I Put the System on Trial!
DH, pp. 152-182

Wednesday, 1 November: Question Time
Bring three questions to class

Part V: Global Laws? No, Global Arbitration!

Friday, 3 November: Trade Agreements and the Capitalist Magna Carta
HSE, pp. 1-45

Monday, 6 November: How's Business? Business is Good!
HSE, pp. 46-84

Wednesday, 8 November: Justice in trade?
HSE, pp. 85-121

Friday, 10 November: Catch up on course material

Part VI: War is the Answer

Monday, 13 November: The Logic of War
Reading on Canvas: Carl Von Clausewitz on diplomacy

Wednesday, 15 November: War in the Twentieth Century
Reading on Canvas: TBD

Friday, 17 November: North Korea
Reading on Canvas: Bruce Cumings, "A Murderous History of Korea," *London Review of Books* 39, no. 10 (2017): 17-19.

Part VII: IR in the Twenty-First Century

Monday, 20 November: The future of the international system
DH, pp. 183-206
Reading on Canvas: Wolfgang Streeck, "How Will Capitalism End?" *New Left Review* 87 (2014): 35-64.

Wednesday, 22 November: NO CLASS—Thanksgiving

Friday, 24 November: NO CLASS—Thanksgiving

Monday, 27 November: World Federalism, the Solution to All Our Problems!
Reading on Canvas: Christopher Chase-Dunn, "Globalization From Below: Toward a Collectively Rational and Democratic Global Commonwealth," *Social Evolution & History* 2, no. 1 (2003): 195-237.

Wednesday, 29 November: IR-iography, Or, The Science and Life of IR
IRT, "Still a Discipline After All These Debates?"

Friday, 1 December: Conclusions?

Thursday, December 7th at 1:30pm: Paper 3 Due

Other Notes

(i) Student Conduct

Students are expected to treat one another with respect and hold themselves to high academic standards. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will likely fail the course and may face disciplinary action. For more information, please see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://www.unco.edu/dos/pdf/StudentCodeofConduct.pdf>.

(ii) Attendance Policy

Students may have three unexcused absences; students who miss more than three classes will have a third of a letter grade deducted from their final grade for each class missed.

(iii) Students with Disabilities

Students who believe they might benefit from Disability Support Services should contact the center at the start of the semester (970-351-2289). Please feel free, of course, to contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.