

PIA 3019: Field Seminar in International Affairs

Spring 2024

Thursdays, 9am – 12pm; 3800 Posvar Hall

Professor: Ryan Grauer
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Course Description:

This course will introduce GSPIA PhD students to the various approaches to the study of international affairs as well as a few broad areas of inquiry in the field. It covers “great books” in the study of international affairs, concentrating each week on a classic or important new work. This approach will provide a stable platform from which International Affairs students may delve deeper into the literature while simultaneously apprising non-International Affairs students of the general structure and large debates in the field. Given the vastness of the field, there are many topics that we will not be able to cover. However, familiarity with the arguments covered is essential for navigating and making sense of the sprawling literature. By the end of the semester, students will possess the theoretical frameworks and analytical toolkit necessary to identify, read, and assess the quality of divergent positions on the topics we do and do not cover.

Assignments and Grading:

This course will be run as a true seminar; I will not spend class time lecturing on the material we cover. Our meetings will consist of an extended conversation about the content, structure, and presentation of the argument advanced in the book assigned for the week.

The reading load in this course is generally one book per week. Due to variance in book length, the reading for some weeks will be heavier than others. Despite the occasionally heavy load, all students are expected to have read the assigned book prior to each meeting. Without adequate preparation by all members, it is impossible to have an engaging and effective seminar.

Grades are based on three elements:

1. **Class participation**, which consists of students’ regular participation in seminar discussions. (30% of the total)
2. **Three reaction papers** (4-5 double-spaced pages) in which students respond to ideas, debates, conflicts, and contradictions in the material read. The first paper must be written in response to a prompt distributed on 25 January and turned in the following week. The second must be written on a book read during weeks 4-8, inclusive; the last must be written on a book read during weeks 10-13, inclusive. All papers are to be turned in the week *after* we discuss the topic in class. (10% each; 30% of the total)

3. A **mock comprehensive exam**, which will be administered during a 24-hour bloc of time at the end of the semester, to be mutually agreed upon by the professor and the students. (40% of the total)

Final grades are calculated according to the following scale:

A	=	93-100	B+	=	87-89	C+	=	77-79	D+	=	67-69
A-	=	90-92	B	=	83-86	C	=	73-76	D	=	65-66
			B-	=	80-82	C-	=	70-72	F	=	Below 65

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to adhere to all aspects of the University of Pittsburgh guidelines on academic integrity. Failure to cite external sources of ideas, concepts, and facts in written work will be penalized. Plagiarism will result in automatic failure of the course. For Pitt's written guidelines on academic integrity, visit: https://www.provost.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/academic_integrity_guidelines.pdf. For GSPIA's policies on academic integrity, visit: https://gspia.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/2019-07/HandbookAcademicPoliciesProceduresMaster_Revised_2019.pdf.

Required Books:

The following books are required for the course. They are each available via hard copy format from Hillman Library and/or EZBorrow; all books marked with an asterisk (*) are also available in e-book format. If you are like me, however, and prefer to write in your books, they can also be purchased on an online site (I have *not* placed an order for them with The Book Center). If you are interested in supporting a local bookstore, I would recommend White Whale Bookstore in Bloomfield: <https://bookshop.org/shop/whitewhale>. Alternatively, you could use The Tiny Bookstore, a Black-owned bookstore in Ross Township: <https://bookshop.org/shop/tinybookspgh>.

- *Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018 [1959])
- *E.H. Carr, *Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939* (New York: Perennial, 2016 [1945])
- *Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Long Grove: Waveland Press, 2010 [1979])
- Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005 [1984])
- Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002 [1977])
- *Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999)
- *James Rosenau, *Turbulence in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990)
- J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992)
- *Robert Jervis, *System Effects: Complexity in Political and Social Life* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998)

- *Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014)
- *Tana Johnson, *Organizational Progeny: Why Governments are Losing Control over the Proliferating Structures of Global Governance* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)
- *Susan Strange, *The Retreat of the State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
- *Cynthia Enloe, *Twelve Feminist Lessons of War* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023)
- *Alex Mintz and Karl DeRouen, *Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Disability Services:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both the professor and Disability Resources and Services (140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu) as early as possible in the term. Upon confirmation of the need for accommodation, we will collectively work to plan an appropriate course of action.

Classroom Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

COVID Considerations:

Happily, we seem to be on the other side of the global coronavirus pandemic that began in late-2019/early-2020. However, the virus is still in circulation and infection will prevent class attendance for at least a week. To that end, if you are not feeling well, please stay home. Contact me via email before class to alert me to the situation and get class notes from a colleague. It is better to be safe than sorry.

On AI and Plagiarism:

Artificial intelligence tools are rapidly improving and becoming more ubiquitous throughout society. The rate of change is such that any specific prohibitions on use laid out here would likely be out of date before the end of the semester. The assignments for this course have been designed to minimize the utility of such software, but ultimately the choice to rely on artificial intelligence rests with the student. One factor students should consider when contemplating whether and how to use artificial intelligence software when composing essays is that, in this course, turning in AI-generated material as original work product will be treated as plagiarism; it is not work that is original to the student. From a broader perspective, the use of such software in this classroom is antithetical to the educational objectives. The ultimate goal of this course is to help students learn a) the broad outlines of the subfield of International Relations, and b) how to craft and articulate a book-length argument. Reliance on AI software, by providing algorithm-driven predictive language on topics, undermines both goals and, in that regard, performs a disservice for students. It is disrespectful to both others in the course and the professor, who invest their time and energy into their work as part of the collaborative learning effort. Also, in many instances, the software simply [makes things up](#).

Course Schedule

Week 1 (January 11): Introduction and Levels of Analysis

Stephen Walt, "The Relationship between Theory and Policy in International Relations,"
Annual Review of Political Science 8 (2005): 23-48
Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001
[1959])

Foundational Theories

Week 2 (January 18): Classical Realism

E.H. Carr, *Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939* (New York: Perennial, 2016 [1945])

Week 3 (January 25): Neorealism

Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Long Grove: Waveland Press, 2010 [1979])

Week 4 (February 1): Neo-Liberal Institutionalism

Robert O. Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*
(Princeton: Princeton University Press 2005 [1984])

Week 5 (February 8): The English School

Hedley Bull, *The Anarchical Society* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002 [1977])

Week 6 (February 15): Constructivism

Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (New York: Cambridge University Press,
1999)

Week 7 (February 22): Post-Internationalism

James Rosenau, *Turbulence in World Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990)

Week 8 (February 29): Feminism

J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*
(New York: Columbia University Press, 1992)

Week 9 (March 7): Complexity in International Relations

Robert Jervis, *System Effects: Complexity in Political and Social Life* (Princeton: Princeton
University Press, 1998)

No Meeting March 14: Spring Break

Adding Actors and Complicating Dynamics

Week 10 (March 21): Subnational (and Transnational) Actors

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2014)

Week 11 (March 28): International Organizations

Tana Johnson, *Organizational Progeny: Why Governments are Losing Control over the Proliferating Structures of Global Governance* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

Week 12 (April 4): In the Global Economy

* Professor Grauer at ISA Annual Convention; **no meeting this week**. Read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it on April 11.

Susan Strange, *The Retreat of the State* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

Week 13 (April 11): In War

Cynthia Enloe, *Twelve Feminist Lessons of War* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023)

Foreign Policy Decision Making

Week 14 (April 18): Foreign Policy Decision Making

Alex Mintz and Karl DeRouen, *Understanding Foreign Policy Decision Making* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)

Week 15 Date To Be Determined: Final

Mock Comprehensive Exam (24 hours, to be arranged)