

Course Code	IR6001
Course Title	The Study of International Relations
Academic Year/ Trimester	AY 2019-20
Lecturer's Name	Dr. Evan Resnick Assistant Professor, RSIS
Email	iseresnick@ntu.edu.sg
Class Day / Time / Venue	Tuesday, 6:30-9:30 PM (In Week #1, I will announce a second section of the class, which students can alternatively attend if they prefer, beginning in Week #2)
Office Hours	Tuesday, 3:00-5:00 PM (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Will there be a World War III between the United States and a rising China? How worried should you be about being killed in a terrorist attack? If climate change poses an existential threat to humanity, why haven't the world's major powers acted cooperatively to stop it? These are just a few of the questions addressed in this course, which broadly surveys the major concepts, theories, and debates within the political science subfield of International Relations (IR). The course is ostensibly divided into three parts. The first part is an introduction to the processes by which IR scholars build and organize theories (Week 1). The second part consists of a guided tour of the "Big Three" theoretical paradigms in IR—Realism Liberalism, and Constructivism—as well as several influential theoretical approaches that do not fall under the aegis of the Big Three (Weeks 2-7). The third part addresses a number of salient issues and debates in the contemporary study of IR (Weeks 8-11).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the completion of this subject, students should possess a rudimentary familiarity with the major theories, concepts, and debates in IR theory that will help them navigate more advanced seminars at RSIS.

COURSE EVALUATION

Opened Book Take Home Mid-Term Exam	45%
Closed Book Final Exam	45%
Class Participation	10%

The opened book take-home exam will require students to answer one question (from a list of three questions) in standard essay format, ***relying exclusively on the readings assigned in the course syllabus***. The paper can be no longer than 2,500 words. I will email all students the exam questions at 9 AM on the day of class in Week #6. The exam must be submitted in hard copy to the GPO office by the following Monday afternoon (Week #7) at 5:30 pm. Unexcused late papers will be penalized at a rate of 5 points per day.

The closed book final examination, which will be held on the final meeting of the trimester (Week #13), will test students' knowledge of the course materials. It will consist of two parts. The first part will require students to briefly define and explain the significance of two (out of five) key terms and concepts (2 x 2.5 points= 5 total points). The second part requires students to answer two (out of four) broader questions in standard essay format (2 x 20 points = 40 total points). Each of the four questions will address one or more of the key theories and debates found within a given week's readings. In other words, the questions will not require students to integrate readings and arguments spanning multiple weeks/topics of the course. During the Review Session for the Final Examination (Week #12), I will distribute a study sheet which will include a list of key terms and essay questions from which I will construct the final exam.

Class Participation:

All students are expected to attend lecture every week and sign an attendance sheet. Each lecture will be 2 hours separated by a 20 minute break in the middle. After lecture, there will be a 30 minute discussion, during which students can ask questions about the readings and lectures, and I will pose questions to the students about the implications of the readings for contemporary events. Students are expected to attend all sessions of the class and participate actively in the discussions.

Course Text

Most but not all of the required readings for this class can be found in the course reader, several copies of which have been placed on reserve at the RSIS Library:

*Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 12th ed. (Pearson, 2015)

Those readings that are not to be found in Art/Jervis can be located at the following places: (1) academic journal articles that may be accessed via the NTU Libraries EJOURNALS link <<http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Library/Pages/collection/e-journals.aspx>>; (2) chapters from books which can be found in the IR reserves area of the RSIS Library; (3) chapters from books which are available as ebooks via the NTU library catalogue <https://eps.ntu.edu.sg/client/en_GB/OPAC>; (4) publicly available documents that can be downloaded directly from the internet. For each non-Art/Jervis reading, at the end of the citation I show how that reading can be accessed (i.e., **EJOURNALS**, **RESERVES**, **EBOOK**, or the **precise internet link to the document**).

I have been extremely careful to set the amount of weekly reading for this course at an extremely humane 50-60 pages per week, which is considerably less than many other RSIS classes, and far less than previous iterations of this class. In return, I URGE all students to proceed methodically through all of the readings for each class—some of which are quite dense—and make a determined effort to understand them. I highly recommend that students make summary notes for each reading to help them prepare for the exams.

Course Schedule

Week #1: Thinking Theoretically About International Relations (IR)

Week #2: Realism, Part I

Week #3: Realism, Part II

Week #4: Liberalism, Part I

Week #5: Liberalism, Part II

Week #6: Constructivism

Week #7: Theories of Organizational Behavior, Bureaucratic Politics, and Individual Decision-making

Week #8: Economic Globalization

Week #9: The Utility of Military Power

Week #10: Non-State Security Threats: Terrorism, Organized Crime, Environmental Degradation, and Civil Wars

Week #11: The Future of IR

Week #12: Review Session for Final Examination

Week #13: Final Examination

Week One: Thinking Theoretically About International Relations (IR)

Required Readings:

What is a Theory? What is IR Theory?

- ❖ Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (Waveland Press, 1979), Ch. 1 (pp. 1-17).
RESERVES
- ❖ Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, “Diplomatic History and International Relations Theory: Respecting Difference and Crossing Boundaries,” International Security, 22, No. 1 (Summer 1997), pp. 5-21. **EJOURNALS**

Organizing IR Theories: Levels of Analysis

- ❖ Arnold Wolfers, Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1962), Ch. 1: The Actors in International Politics (pp. 3-24).
RESERVES
- ❖ Robert Jervis, “President Trump and IR Theory,” H-Diplo/ISSF Policy Series: America and the World-2017 and Beyond, Jan. 2, 2017, pp. 1-4.
<<http://issforum.org/ISSF/PDF/Policy-Roundtable-1-5B.pdf>>.

Week Two: Realism, Part I

Required Readings:

"Classical" Realism

- ❖ Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," in Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds., International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, pp. 21-26.
- ❖ Hans Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Political Realism," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 29-35.

Waltz's Neorealism: The Mother of All IR Theories

- ❖ Kenneth Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of World Politics," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 47-65.
- ❖ Kenneth Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18, No. 4 (Spring 1988), pp. 615-628. **EJOURNALS**

Neorealism After the Cold War

- ❖ Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," Foreign Affairs, 81, No. 4 (July/Aug. 2002), pp. 20-33. **EJOURNALS**
- ❖ Barry Posen, "Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?" in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 465-473.

Week Three: Realism, Part II

Required Readings:

Defensive vs. Offensive Neorealism

- ❖ Robert Jervis, "Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 93-112.
- ❖ Stephen Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 124-131.
- ❖ John Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," in Robert Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 9th Edition (Pearson Longman, 2008), pp. 50-60. (All subsequent references to Art/Jervis in the syllabus are to the 12th Edition, 2015). **RESERVES**

Hegemonic War Theory

- ❖ Robert Gilpin, "The Theory of Hegemonic War," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18, No. 4 (Spring 1988), pp. 591-613. **EJOURNALS**
- ❖ David Kang, "Hierarchy and Hegemony in International Politics," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 131-134.

Week Four: Liberalism, Part I

Required Readings:

The United States and the Liberal Tradition in IR

- ❖ G. John Ikenberry, "Liberalism in a Realist World: International Relations as an American Scholarly Tradition," International Studies, 46, No. 1 & 2 (2009), pp. 203-219.

EJOURNALS

Neoliberal Institutionalism

- ❖ Robert Keohane, After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy (Princeton University Press, 1984), Ch's 5 & 6 (pp. 65-109). **RESERVES**
- ❖ Robert Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 148-154.

Week Five: Liberalism, Part II

Required Readings:

Commercial Liberalism

- ❖ Richard Rosecrance, The Rise of the Trading State: Commerce and Conquest in the Modern World (Basic Books, 1986), Ch. 2 (pp. 22-43). **RESERVES**

The Democratic Peace Thesis (Theory?)

- ❖ Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 112-124.
- ❖ Bruce Russett, "The Fact of the Democratic Peace" and "Why Democratic Peace?" in Michael Brown, Sean Lynn-Jones, and Steven Miller, eds., Debating the Democratic Peace (MIT Press, 1996), pp. 78 (last paragraph)-81, and 82-115. **RESERVES**

Democratizing States and War

- ❖ Edward D. Mansfield and Jack L. Snyder, "Democratization and War," Foreign Affairs, 74, No. 3 (May/June 1995), pp. 79-97. **EJOURNALS**

Week Six: Constructivism

[TAKE HOME EXAMINATION QUESTIONS WILL BE EMAILED TO STUDENTS AT 9 AM ON TUESDAY]

Required Readings:

Wendt's Path-Breaking Article

- ❖ Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 73-80.

Causal Mechanisms: Legitimization, Legalization, Transnational Activist Networks

- ❖ Ian Hurd, "Legitimacy in International Politics," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 26-28.
- ❖ Steven Ratner, "International Law: The Trials of Global Norms," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 387-391.
- ❖ Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Activist Networks," in Art/Jervis, pp. 392-397.

Feminist Constructivism

- ❖ J. Ann Tickner, "A Critique of Hans Morgenthau's Principles of Political Realism," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 35-46.

The Salience of International Norms: The Case of Humanitarian Intervention

- ❖ Rhoda Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 376-387.
- ❖ Kofi Annan, "Reflections on Intervention," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 342-346.
- ❖ Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 347-353.
- ❖ Benjamin A. Valentino, "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 353-360.

Week Seven: Theories of Organizational Behavior, Bureaucratic Politics, and Individual Decisionmaking

[TAKE HOME EXAM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO GPO BY MONDAY AT 5 PM]

Required Readings:

How Leaders Are Foiled By Their Own Agencies and Advisors: The Classic Article on Organizational Processes, Bureaucratic Politics, and U.S. Foreign Policy

- ❖ Graham Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," American Political Science Review, 63, No. 3 (Sept. 1969), pp. 689-718. **EJOURNALS**

A Contemporary Application: President Trump Confronts the "Foreign Policy Establishment"

- ❖ Stephen Walt, "The Donald Versus the Blob," H-Diplo/ISSF Policy Series: America and the World-2017 and Beyond, Feb. 14, 2017, pp. 1-4.
<<https://issforum.org/ISSF/PDF/Policy-Roundtable-1-5N.pdf>>.

The "Great (Wo)Man of History" Perspective

- ❖ John Mueller, "A Determined Man: World War I, Hitler, and the Unlikely March to World War II," *CATO Institution Commentary*, Nov. 11, 2018, pp. 1-6.
<<https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/determined-man-world-war-i-hitler-unlikely-march-world-war-ii>>.

Clinical Psychology

- ❖ Rose McDermott, "The Nature of Narcissism," H-Diplo/ISSF Policy Series: America and the World-2017 and Beyond, June 15, 2018, pp. 1-6.
<<https://issforum.org/ISSF/PDF/Policy-Roundtable-1-5BE.pdf>>.

Cognitive Psychology: Perception and Misperception in International Politics

- ❖ Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," World Politics, 20, No. 3 (April 1968), pp. 454-479. **EJOURNALS**
- ❖ Daniel Kahneman and Jonathan Renshon, "Why Hawks Win," Foreign Policy (January/February 2007) pp. 34-38. **EJOURNALS**

Week Eight: Economic Globalization

Required Readings:

Three Paradigms for the Study of International Political Economy

- ❖ Robert Gilpin, "The Nature of Political Economy," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 226-240.

U.S. Hegemony and the Post-1945 International Economic Order

- ❖ Michael Mastanduno, "System Maker and Privilege Taker: U.S. Power and the International Political Economy," World Politics, 61, No. 1 (Jan. 2009), pp. 121-154.
EJOURNALS

Theorizing Foreign Trade Policy

- ❖ Michael Hiscox, "The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policy," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 241-249.

Contending Perspectives on Economic Globalization

- ❖ Jeffrey Frankel, "Globalization of the Economy," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 256-270.
- ❖ Pankaj Ghemawat, "Why the World Isn't Flat," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 270-275.
- ❖ Kenneth Waltz, "Globalization and Governance," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 440-450.
- ❖ Dani Rodrik, "Why Doesn't Everyone Get the Case for Free Trade?" in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 249-255.
- ❖ Moises Naim, "What Globalization Is and Is Not," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 275-279.

Week Nine: The Utility of Military Power

Required Readings:

If States Are Rational Actors, Why Do They Fight Costly Wars?

- ❖ James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 66-73.

Military Force as a Means to What Ends?

- ❖ Robert Art, "The Four Functions of Force," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 159-165.
- ❖ Thomas Schelling, "The Diplomacy of Violence," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 166-178.
- ❖ Alexander Downes, "To the Shores of Tripoli? Regime Change and Its Consequences," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 360-366.

Is Military Power Fungible?

- ❖ Robert Art, "The Fungibility of Force," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 188-202.

Nuclear Weapons and Proliferation

- ❖ Henry Sokolski, "Getting Ready for a Nuclear-Ready Iran," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 217-220.
- ❖ Kenneth Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 214-217.
- ❖ Thomas Schelling, "A World Without Nuclear Weapons?" in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 506-509.

Alternatives to Force

- ❖ Hans Morgenthau, "The Future of Diplomacy," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 134-143.
- ❖ Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan, "Why Civil Resistance Works," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 203-208.
- ❖ Herbert Lin, "Cyberconflict and National Security," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 409-421.

Week Ten: Non-State Security Threats—Terrorism, Environmental Degradation, Civil Wars

Required Readings:

Terrorism

- ❖ Bruce Hoffman, "What is Terrorism," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 178-187.
- ❖ Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Ending Terrorism," in Art/Jervis, eds, pp. 327-333.
- ❖ Barack Obama, "Dealing With the Current Terrorist Threat," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 333-341.
- ❖ Stephen Pinker, Enlightenment Now: The Case For Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress (Viking, 2016), Ch. 13 (pp. 191-198). **RESERVES**

Environmental Degradation

- ❖ Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 422-427.
- ❖ Alan Dupont, "The Strategic Implications of Climate Change," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 473-481.

Civil Wars

- ❖ Barbara Walter, "Bargaining Failures and Civil War," Annual Review of Political Science, 12 (2009), pp. 243-261. **EJOURNALS**

Week Eleven: The Future of International Relations

Required Readings:

Is War Becoming Obsolete?

- ❖ Steven Pinker, Enlightenment Now, Ch. 11 (pp.156-166). **RESERVES**
- ❖ Robert Jervis, "The Era of Leading Power Peace," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 306-320.

China Rising

- ❖ Arvind Subramanian, "The Inevitable Superpower: Why's China's Dominance Is a Sure Thing," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 481-488.
- ❖ Jonathan Kirshner, "Dollar Diminution and U.S. Power," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 488-497.
- ❖ Robert Art, "The United States and the Rise of China," in Art/Jervis, eds., pp. 320-327.

The Implosion of the Liberal International Order?

- ❖ Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry, "Liberal World: The Resilient Order," Foreign Affairs, 97, No. 4 (July/August 2018), pp. 16-24. **EJOURNALS**

Week Twelve: Review Session for Examination

[FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE DISTRIBUTED TO CLASS]

Week Thirteen : Final Examination

***IN CLASS CLOSED-BOOK FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16,
9:30-11:30 AM (VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED)***