

PSC 566: International Relations Field Seminar I

Prof. Bethany Lacina

Friday, 9:30–12:00

Harkness 329

Goals of the field seminars

This is the first of two international relations field seminars for graduate students. This pair of courses has three goals:

1. To introduce the large academic literature on international politics, preparing for the synthesis and analysis required for a dissertation prospectus.
2. To introduce students to research problems that animate current work in the field, so they can see and evaluate examples of ongoing research in addition to commenting on classic works.
3. To gain practical experience in digesting a theoretical argument, drawing out empirical implications, analyzing relevant evidence, and identifying directions for future research.

Goals of this course

This is the first of two graduate seminars on international relations. This course covers the history of the field and introduces the nature of the contemporary discipline. The second field seminar covers substantive debates in the study of specific IR topics.

The first half of this course concerns international relations as a discipline in parallel with the global context of that intellectual history. Post-WWII IR tried to study *international political systems* as a topic distinct from the study of related outcomes—e.g., state formation, warfare, or trade. By the mid-1990s this enterprise was faltering under critiques from rational choice modelers, computer-enabled quantitative analyses, and an interpretivist backlash. By the 2010s, IR scholars were writing about the death of the “systems approach” to IR.

In the present, “international relations” is shorthand for the study of any outcomes that are important in global affairs. The second half of this course is a sampling of contemporary IR.

The material in the second half of the course will highlight the eclecticism of present-day IR. In order to study international outcomes, IR scholars use literature on those outcomes written by researchers in other fields. There is no principled separation between the IR literature on, for example, military capacity and the non-IR literature on that topic. Thus, a scholar interested in, for example, the role of public opinion in international environmental treaties has to be conversant in many literatures that are not IR (e.g., political behavior, theories of public goods, nationalism). On the other hand, they will need, at most, a vague awareness of many canonical IR topics, e.g., balancing versus bandwagoning. The commonalities uniting the “IR approach” to various questions are superficial or borrowed from other fields.

Contemporary IR research is unambiguously better than the more focused, unified IR canon written between the 1950s and 1990s. On the other hand, scholars struggle to study an international

system as a whole. This gap exists even as the actual international system is in flux and there are pressing, fascinating questions about its future.

Instructor

Bethany Lacina

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 1-3, or email me to set up a time

Course Requirements

1. Students must attend every class. A student who misses class must get in touch with me within 24 hours of the start of the missed class period and then complete a make-up assignment.
2. Reading for the week must be completed by all students before class. I will get in touch with you outside of class if I have concerns about your preparation for class or participation.
3. Students are expected to write short (no more than 2-page) papers critiquing the assigned readings for each week following week 1. Each week's papers will be due by email to me by 9:00am on the Thursday before class meets. The papers should address some aspect of the week's readings, such as by:
 - critically examining a set of arguments,
 - appraising a controversy in the literature, and/or
 - discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the research tools employed.

I do not want a blow-by-blow summary of each reading for a week.

Students have the option of skipping two papers; alternatively, the lowest two grades will be dropped.

4. A take-home final exam of about 10 pages. This will be scheduled for a 48 hour period during the reading or exam periods at the end of the semester. The dates will be chosen by the class.

Grading and deadlines

Grading will be as follows: 1/3 class participation, 1/3 the average of the short papers, and 1/3 final.

Short papers received after the deadline but before the start of class will receive half credit. Papers not handed in by the start of class will receive a zero.

The final exam will be marked down one letter grade per 24 hours after the deadline. It will receive a zero if it is not handed in within one week of the due date.

Readings

- Most of the journal articles and book chapters in the syllabus are available through links below.
- Readings marked with a dagger (†) are available as electronic books from the Rochester library.
- You should purchase the following books:
 1. Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press.
 2. Benjamin Cohen. 2008. *International Political Economy: An Intellectual History*. Princeton University Press.
 3. Robert Powell. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power: States and Strategies in International Politics*. Princeton University Press.
 4. Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. This book has had multiple printings. They are all the same text as the first edition.

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Class schedule

1. Sept 1 – Introduction to the course

Part I: Disciplinary History and the Changing International System

2. Sept 8 – What is an international system and what traits does it have?

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Addison-Wesley. Chapters 3, 4.

Stephen D. Krasner. 2001. “Organized hypocrisy in nineteenth-century East Asia,” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/irap/1.2.173>

Kyle Beardsley, Howard Liu, Peter J. Mucha, David A. Siegel, and Juan F. Tellez. 2020. "Hierarchy and the Provision of Order in International Politics." *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/707096>

Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni. 2020. "Death of international organizations: The organizational ecology of intergovernmental organizations, 1815–2015." *Review of International Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-018-9340-5>

Brandon J. Kinne. 2018. "Defense Cooperation Agreements and the Emergence of a Global Security Network." *International Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818318000218>

Bentley B. Allan, Srdjan Vucetic, and Ted Hopf. 2018. "The Distribution of Identity and the Future of International Order: China's Hegemonic Prospects." *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818318000267>

3. Sept 15 – Imperialism and the origins of IR

Robert Vitalis. 2005. "Birth of a discipline." In *Imperialism and Internationalism in the Discipline of International Relations*. David Long and Brian C. Schmidt, eds. SUNY Press. https://www.dropbox.com/s/ilj3pfuv8xtmy6c/Vitalis_Birth_Discipline.pdf?dl=0

Peter Wilson. 2012. "The myth of the first 'great debate'." In *International Relations and the First Great Debate*. Brian Schmidt, ed. Routledge. †

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1–4.

4. Sept 22 – Liberal internationalism and the post-WW2 global system

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. "The nature and sources of liberal international order." *Review of International Studies*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210599001795>

John R. Oneal, Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum. 2003 "Causes of Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885–1992." *International Studies Quarterly*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2478.4703004>

Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization*. www.jstor.org/stable/2601307

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. 2020. *Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of American Global Order*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 2. †

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 5–6.

5. Sept 29 – Realist dissent

Hans Morgenthau. 1948. *Politics among Nations*. 1st ed. Knopf. Selections. https://www.dropbox.com/s/96zpdf1vlofw4pt/Morgenthau_Politics_Among_Nations_3to72and267to308.pdf?dl=0

John J. Herz. 1950. "Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma." *World Politics*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i308594>

John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. W. W. Norton and Company. Selections. https://www.dropbox.com/s/c0ih6v66n5b7nb9/Mearsheimer_Tragedy_Great_Power_Politics.pdf?dl=0

Jennifer Welsh. 2003. “I’ is for Ideology: Conservatism in International Affairs”, *Global Society* 17(2): 165–185. <http://doi.org/10.1080/1360082032000069073>

Michael C. Williams. 2013. “In the beginning: The International Relations enlightenment and the ends of International Relations theory.” *European Journal of International Relations*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066113495477>

6. Oct 6 – Rationalizing realism

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Addison-Wesley. Chapters 5, 6, 8.

Stephen D. Krasner. 1976. “State Power and the Structure of International Trade.” *World Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2009974>

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita and David Lalman. 1986. “Reason and war.” *American Political Science Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055400185028>

7. Oct 13 – The rationalist critique of realism

James D. Fearon. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2706903>

Robert Powell. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power: States and Strategies in International Politics*. Princeton University Press.

8. Oct 20 – The rise and fall of the “isms”

Alexander Wendt. 1992. “Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization*. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2706858>

Michael Doyle. 1986. “Liberalism and World Politics.” *American Political Science Review*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1960861>

Robert Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 4–6. (Provided by instructor). https://www.dropbox.com/s/skwgaaq9c7lyr69/Keohane_AfterHegemony_Chp4to6.pdf?dl=0

David A. Lake. 2013. “Theory is dead, long live theory: The end of the Great Debates and the rise of eclecticism in International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(3): 567—587. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066113494330>

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 8 and 10.

9. Oct 27 – The creation of international political economy

Benjamin Cohen. 2008. *International Political Economy: An Intellectual History*. Princeton University Press.

David A. Lake. 2009. "Open Economy Politics: A Critical Review." *The Review of International Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-009-9060-y>

W. Kindred Winecoff. 2017. "How Did American International Political Economy Become Reductionist? A Historiography of a Discipline." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. <https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-34>

10. Nov 3 – Is liberal internationalism over?

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. Forthcoming. *Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of American Global Order*. Oxford University Press. Chapters 4–6. †

Stefanie Walter. 2021. "The Backlash Against Globalization." *Annual Review of Political Science*. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-041719-102405>

Pablo De Orellana and Nicholas Michelsen. "Reactionary Internationalism: the Philosophy of the New Right." *Review of International Studies*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210519000159>

Kari Roberts. 2017. "Understanding Putin: The politics of identity and geopolitics in Russian foreign policy discourse." *International Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020702017692609>

Jessica Weiss and Jeremy Wallace. 2021. "Domestic Politics, China's Rise, and the Future of the Liberal International Order." *International Organization*. <https://doi:10.1017/S002081832000048X>

Christian von Soest. 2015. "Democracy prevention: The international collaboration of authoritarian regimes." *European Journal of Political Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-6765.12100>

Part II: Outcomes in the International System

11. Nov 10 – State formation

Scott F. Abramson. "The economic origins of the territorial state." *International Organization* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818316000308>

Lars-Erik Cederman, Paola Galano Toro, Luc Girardin, and Guy Schvitz. 2023. "War Did Make States: Revisiting the Bellicist Paradigm in Early Modern Europe." *International Organization*. <https://doi:10.1017/S0020818322000352>

Eric Grynawski and Sverrir Steinsson. 2023. "Wisdom Is Welcome Wherever It Comes From: War, Diffusion, and State Formation in Scandinavia." *International Organization*. <https://doi:10.1017/S0020818323000061>

Anna Grzymala-Busse. 2020. "Beyond War and Contracts: The Medieval and Religious Roots of the European State." *Annual Review of Political Science*. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-polisci-050718-032628>

Avidit Acharya and Alex Lee. 2018. "Economic Foundations of the Territorial State System." *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12379>

Thilo R. Huning and Fabian Wahl. 2023. “You reap what you know: Appropriability and the origin of European states.” *European Journal of Political Economy*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpoleco.2023.102432>

12. Nov 17 – International markets and state survival

Lisa Blaydes and Christopher Paik. 2021. “Trade and Political Fragmentation on the Silk Roads: The Economic Effects of Historical Exchange between China and the Muslim East.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12541>

J.C. Sharman and Ayşe Zarakol. 2023. “Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders.” *American Political Science Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000424>

Didac Queralt. 2022. *Pawned States: State Building in the Era of International Finance*. Princeton University Press. †

Alberto Alesina, Enrico Spolaore, and Romain Wacziarg. 2000. “Economic Integration and Political Disintegration.” *American Economic Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1257/aer.90.5.1276>

Nov 24 – No class

13. Dec 1 – International cooperation and international organizations

Randall W. Stone. 2011. *Controlling Institutions: International Organizations and the Global Economy*. Cambridge University Press. †

Richard Clark and Lindsay R. Dolan. 2021. “Pleasing the Principal: U.S. Influence in World Bank Policymaking.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12531>

Mirko Heinzl, Ben Cormier, and Bernhard Reinsberg. 2023. “Earmarked Funding and the Control–Performance Trade-Off in International Development Organizations.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818323000085>

Amanda Kennard. 2023. “Who Controls the Past: Far-Sighted Bargaining in International Regimes.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12747>

Coe, Andrew J. and Jane Vaynman. 2020. “Why Arms Control Is So Rare.” *American Political Science Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S000305541900073X>

14. Dec 8 – Domestic politics and international outcomes I: Leaders and political regimes

Giacomo Chiozza and Hein Goemans. 2011. *Leaders and International Conflict*. Cambridge University Press. †

Crisman-Cox, Casey and Michael Gibilisco. 2018. “Audience Costs and the Dynamics of War and Peace.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <http://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12347>

Michaela Mattes, Brett Ashley Leeds, and Royce Carroll. 2015. “Leadership Turnover and Foreign Policy Change: Societal Interests, Domestic Institutions, and Voting in the United Nations.” *International Studies Quarterly* <https://doi.org/10.1111/isqu.12175>

David H. Bearce and Andrew F. Hart. 2017. “International Labor Mobility and the Variety of Democratic Political Institutions.” *International Organization*. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44651931>

15. Dec 15 – Domestic politics and international outcomes II: Public opinion and non-state actors

Dani Rodrik. 2021. “Why Does Globalization Fuel Populism? Economics, Culture, and the Rise of Right-Wing Populism.” *Annual Review of Economics*. <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-economics-070220-032416>

Thiemo Fetzer. 2019. “Did Austerity Cause Brexit?” *American Economic Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20181164>

Kai Gehring. 2021. “Overcoming History Through Exit or Integration: Deep-Rooted Sources of Support for the European Union.” *American Political Science Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055420000842>

Sung Eun Kim, Jong Hee Park, Inbok Rhee, and Joonseok Yang. 2023. “Target, Information, and Trade Preferences: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in East Asia.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12783>

J. Bradford Jensen, Dennis P. Quinn, and Stephen Weymouth. 2015. “The influence of firm global supply chains and foreign currency undervaluations on US trade disputes.” *International Organization*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24758261>

In Song Kim. 2017. “Political Cleavages within Industry: Firm-Level Lobbying for Trade Liberalization.” *American Political Science Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055416000654>