

International Relations: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Instructor: G. John Ikenberry
gji3@princeton.edu
Kyung Hee University
June 27-July 17, 2023 (All in-person class)

This course is a broad introduction to the politics of international relations. It seeks to acquaint students with the major theories, concepts, and debates about world politics. It will begin by looking at the great theoretical debates in the field – particularly between the realist and liberal schools of thought. The topics will include: the nature of the international system and states; the rise and transformation of the international order over the centuries; the origins and consequences of war; international institutions and the problems of cooperation; the interaction of domestic politics and international politics; the role of ideas and norms about sovereignty; the rise of transnational challenges; the changing character of American hegemony; the rise of China; and the future of international politics.

At the heart of this course is a grand debate over the “problem of order” in world politics. This is a debate over rival visions of world politics. How is order created and maintained in a world of sovereign states? Who commands and who benefits? Do we live in an international of laws that govern the behavior of states and peoples, or are we at least on the road to such an order? Or is all this a sham, and the reality is that we live in a state of international anarchy, where the rules are set by those with the power to make them, and states abide by them only when it is in their interest to do so? Is it a world of Machiavelli, Hobbes, and Morgenthau, or a world of Kant and Wilson? Or is it something in between? This course will explore these grand questions through a focus on theory, history, and current global policy problems.

Each session will be divided into two parts. The first part will be a lecture, presented by the instructor. In the second half of the session, we will have break-out groups and student presentations. The course requirements are: First, students are expected to do the reading and attend class. Second, each student will write a paper for the class – 10 pages, double spaced. Finally, beginning in the second week, we will divide the class into “working groups” who will meet periodically during week two and week three. These groups will be assigned a “global issue” that they will explore and, on the last day of class, will give a short report to the full class.

We will have one book ordered:

G. John Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of World Order (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020).

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (*Full In-Person Class)

Session One: June 27: Can the World be Governed?

Stewart Patrick, “World Order: What, Exactly, are the Rules?” The Washington Quarterly, Spring 2016.

https://twq.elliott.gwu.edu/sites/twq.elliott.gwu.edu/files/downloads/TWQ_Spring2016_Patrick.pdf

Robin Niblett, “Managing a Divided World.” Chatham House Farewell Lecture, 13 July 2022. <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2022-07/2022-07-13-robin-niblett-farewell-lecture.pdf>

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Session Two. June 28: Realism

William C. Wohlforth, “Realism,” in the Oxford Handbook of International Relations (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199219322.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199219322-e-7>

John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,”

http://www.ucs.mun.ca/~russellw/Teaching_files/Mearsheimer%20-%20Realism.pdf

Optional: Want to Learn More?

Listen to Stephen Walt (Harvard) explain realist theory of international relations and its relevance to understanding today’s world.

<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/commentary-and-analysis/podcasts/stephen-walts-guide-realism>

Session Three. June 29: Liberalism

G. John Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy, Chapter Two, “Liberal Democracy and International Relations,” pp. 26-55.

Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs.”
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2265298>

John Owen, “How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace,” International Security (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125.
<http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2539197?uid=3739808&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21104584861167>

Debate: Is the World Getting More Peaceful?

Interview with Steven Pinker. <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-09-29/world-actually-becoming-more-peaceful-believe-it-or-not>

Debate: China’s Challenge to Western Liberalism

Chris Buckley, “‘Clean Up This Mess’: The Chinese Thinkers Behind Xi’s Hard Line,” The New York Times, 2 August 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/02/world/asia/china-hong-kong-national-security-law.html>

Session Four: June 30: Institutions and International Order

Robert Keohane, “International Institutions: Two Approaches,” International Studies Quarterly, Vol. 32, 1988, pp. 379-96. http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-663-00202-4_20

John Ruggie, “Multilateralism: The Anatomy of an Institution,” in Ruggie, ed., Multilateralism Matters: The Theory and Praxis of an International Form (Columbia, 1993).
<https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/john-ruggie/files/multilateralism.pdf>

Ikenberry, “Liberalism, Institutions, and Peaceful Change,” unpublished paper.

Student Assignment

Select an international organization (for example: IMF, World Bank, IEA, WHO, etc.) and write a one paragraph description of its origins and goals. Why was it established, by whom, and what does it do?

Session Five: July 3: Global Civil Society and Human Rights

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks in International and Regional Politics.” <https://courses.washington.edu/pbaf531/KeckSikkink.pdf>

Jan Aart Scholte, “Global Civil Society: Changing the World?” CSGR Working Paper No. 31/99 (May 1999)
https://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Global_Civil_Society_Changing_the_World.pdf

Session Six: July 4: Politics of the World Economy

Dani Roderick, “How Far Will International Economic Integration Go?” Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 14, No. 1 (Winter 2000), pp. 177-86.

Jeffrey Frieden, “The Backlash against Globalization and the Future of the International Economic Order,” in Patrick Diamond, ed., The Crisis of Globalization (London: I.B. Tauris, 2019 edition).

Student groups will be selected. We will reserve time at the end of the class for their first break-out meeting.

Session Seven: July 5: China, Rising States, and International Order

Yan Xueton, “Chinese Values vs Liberalism: What Ideology Will Shape the International Normative Order?” The Chinese Journal of International Politics (2018) pp. 1-22.
<https://academic.oup.com/cjip/article/11/1/1/4844055>

Liu Ming, “Xi Jinping’s Vision of a Community with a Shared Future for Humankind: A Revised International Order,” The National Bureau of Asian Research, NBR Special Report No. 85 (June 2020). <https://www.nbr.org/publication/xi-jinpings-vision-of-a-community-with-a-shared-future-for-humankind-a-revised-international-order/>

Wang Dong, “The Case for a New Engagement Consensus: A Chinese View of World Order,” Foreign Affairs, April 15, 2021.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-04-15/case-new-engagement-consensus>

Optional: What to Learn More?

Shiping Tang, "China and the Future International Order(s), Ethics and International Affairs, Vol. 31, No. 1 (2018), pp. 31-43.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/ethics-and-international-affairs/article/abs/china-and-the-future-international-orders/3E7B4539238F30E8A243164C830E7162>

Readings on the "China Dream." [Maps - Reading the China Dream](#)

Chris Buckley, "'Clean Up This Mess': The Chinese Thinkers Behind Xi's Hard Line," The New York Times, 2 August 2020.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/02/world/asia/china-hong-kong-national-security-law.html>

HISTORICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Session Eight: July 6: The 19th Century: Great Britain, Empire, and the Balance of Power

Henry Kissinger, World Order, Chapter Two, "The European Balance of Power System."

Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy, Chapter Three, "The 19th Century Origins of Internationalism."

Session Nine: July 7: America: Two Tries at Building World Order

G. John Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy, Chapters Four and Five.

Woodrow Wilson, "Fourteen Points," delivered to Joint Session of Congress, January 8, 1918. https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points

FDR and Churchill, "The Atlantic Charter," August 14, 1941.
https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_16912.htm?

Session Ten: July 10: The Rise and Fall of the Cold War

G. John Ikenberry, A World Safe for Democracy, Chapter Five

“X” [George F. Kennan], “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” Foreign Affairs, July, 1947.
https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/coldwar/documents/pdf/6-6.pdf

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History,” The National Interest (Summer 1989).
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/24027184>

The breakout groups will meet in the last part of the class period.

CONTEMPORARY DEBATES:

Session Eleven: July 11: Climate Change and International Cooperation

Jessica Green, Thomas Hale, and Jeff D. Colgan, “The Existential Politics of Climate Change,” Global Policy Journal (February 2019).
<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/21/02/2019/existential-politics-climate-change>

Robert Keohane and David G. Victor, “The Regime Complex for Climate Change,” Perspectives on Politics, Vol. 9, No. 1 (2011), pp. 7-23.
http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/Keohane_Victor_Final_2.pdf

The Long View: Global Environmental Crisis

Michael Oppenheimer, “As the World Burns: Climate Change’s Dangerous Next Phase,” Foreign Affairs (November/December 2020).
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2020-10-13/world-burns>

Session Twelve: July 12: The Rise of China and International Order

Aaron Friedberg, “Getting the China Challenge Right,” The American Interest, January 10, 2019. <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2019/01/10/getting-the-china-challenge-right/>

Elizabeth Economy, “Xi Jinping’s New World Order: Can China Remake the International System?” Foreign Affairs (January/February 2022).
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-12-09/xi-jinpings-new-world-order>

Cao Desheng, “Xi: Chinese dream is the people’s dream,” China Daily, 11-10-2021.
<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202111/10/WS618afb05a310cdd39bc74540.html>

Debate: Is Conflict between China and the U.S. Inevitable”

John Mearsheimer, “The Inevitable Rivalry: America, China, and the Tragedy of Great-Power Politics,” Foreign Affairs (November/December 2021).
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2021-10-19/inevitable-rivalry-cold-war>

Responses to Mearsheimer:

“A Rivalry of America’s Making?” Foreign Affairs (March/April 2022), Responses from G. John Ikenberry, Andrew J. Nathan, Susan Thornton, Sun Zhe, and John J. Mearsheimer.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2022-02-11/china-strategy-rival-america-making>

Session Thirteen: July 13: The North Korea Crisis

40 Maps to explain the crisis

Session Fourteen: July 14: The 21st Century Struggle for the World

Stewart Patrick, “The Unruly World: The Case for Good Enough Governance,” Foreign Affairs (January/February 2014).
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015_national_security_strategy.pdf

Debate: The Impact of COVID-19 on World Politics

Joshua Busby, “What International Relations Tells Us about COVID-19,” E-International Relations, April 26, 2020: <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/26/what-international-relations-tells-us-about-covid-19/>

“How the World Will Look after the Coronavirus Pandemic,” Foreign Policy, 20 March 2020. Contributors: Allen, Burns, Garrett, Haass, Ikenberry, Mahbubani, Menon, Niblett, Nye, O’Neal, Schake, and Walt.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/20/world-order-after-coronavirus-pandemic/>

Debate: The Impact of Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine on World Politics

Barry Posen: [Hypotheses on the implications of the Ukraine-Russia war — Defense Priorities](#)

Lucan Way, “The Rebirth of the Liberal World Order?” Journal of Democracy (21 March 2022). <https://www.journalofdemocracy.org/the-rebirth-of-the-liberal-world-order/>

Session Fifteen: July 17: Final Thoughts from the Professor and Group Reports!