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DRAFT SYLLABUS:
INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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University of Pennsylvania
PSCI 0400-920; Summer 2022
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom
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Welcome to Introduction to International Relations! International Relations focuses on the ways power works in the international system, including the people, organizations, and states that make up the "international" sphere, and tries to answer why different events happened and continue to happen the way that they do. This course is designed to introduce you to the academic study of International Relations as a subfield of Political Science more broadly. It combines a theoretical approach to the study of politics with an emphasis on current events and issues emerging within the field. In other words, this course aims to provide students with the scholarly vernacular to contribute to broader discussions about global politics.

This course is divided into four parts. For the first three weeks, we will focus on the concepts and theories of international relations, including studies of: realism, liberalism, and constructivism, as well as sources critiquing these canonical traditions. Next, we will turn to a discussion of war and security, including discussions about the ways in which anarchy structures the global order, the persuasiveness of theories like "democratic peace," and the human costs of war. Next, we will consider the global economy, including discussions about globalization and materialist critiques of the global political economy. Finally, we will consider how the theories we have discussed in class speak to emerging issues in international relations, such as climate change, the role of international organizations in the wake of BREXIT, migration and diasporas, and cybersecurity.

This course does not assume any prior knowledge of international relations or political science; however, I am more than happy to provide additional readings as requested for people who are interested in exploring these topics in more depth.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

— Develop an understanding of the major theories underpinning international relations scholarship, such as: realism, liberalism, and constructivism, as well as understanding the ways in which these theories have been contested
— Understand, appreciate, and critique a range of different theoretical approaches to world politics with clarity, precision, and imagination
— Understand the ways in which International Relations functions as a subfield of political science
— Apply your understanding of theoretical problems to current events

ACCESSING READINGS:

There is no required textbook for this course. All required readings will be posted on Canvas or available online. Students seeking additional material on a particular subject are encouraged to look through bibliographies of the assigned readings, as well as ask Professor Swadley. Assigned readings are expected to be completed prior to the class session for which they are assigned, and points will be awarded based upon thoughtful participation and understanding of the readings.

ASSESSMENT:

Attendance and Participation (15%):

This class is collaborative and grounded on engaged discussion and participation by students. I understand participation to include both commenting and asking questions in class, as well as active listening to the views expressed by other students.

Reading Responses (10%):

Students are required to write two reading discussion posts on Canvas in response to either a prompt or another student per week. These will be graded for completeness and responsiveness to your peers' points, as well as the level of respect shown in the online forum. These posts are expected to range from 200-300 words each.

Midterm Paper (30%):

A 1500-word midterm paper on IR theory will be assigned after the first week. It will be due Week 3 of class.

Final Project/Paper (45%):

The final project for this class will consist of a simulated UN Security Council debate and a prepared brief, with points awarded for both participation and the final paper. More details will be provided after the mid-term paper. Points will be awarded for thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading and news sources.

OTHER POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Attendance: Complete attendance is highly encouraged, and because this is a short course, missing more than one course session will result in a reduction in your performance grade. Missing more than 3 classes will result in possible failure of the course. However, please reach out if you are struggling. We are all trying to navigate current conditions the best we can and experiencing a myriad of stressors. I am happy to work with you to find a solution.

Late Policy: While I generally do not grant extensions that are not the result of illness or emergency, please let me know if you have an extenuating circumstance, and I will work with

you regarding the deadline. If you do not communicate with me and get advance approval for an extension, 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted per day late.

Accessibility: If you require accommodations based on disability or other exigent circumstances, please let me know what I can do to make the class (and class materials) more accessible. You do not have to disclose your disability status to request accommodations from me. I do want to know about what kinds of accommodations will make our classroom a productive learning environment for you, but I also want you to know that disclosure is a choice. Disclosure isn't limited to disability status, either: it may come up with respect to past trauma, gender identity, sexuality, etc. Do be aware that as your professor, I have a legal obligation to disclose sexual misconduct and civil rights violations to the college.

Formal requests for accommodations may be made to Student Disability Services at the Weingarten Center. Staff are available by phone (215-573-9235) and by email, meeting with students via virtual platforms and (if necessary) in-person to answer questions and provide information about accessibility and accommodations for Penn students. Their website may be accessed here.

Academic Integrity: Students are bound to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity. The code prohibits activities that "have the effect of intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance." Students are responsible for fully adhering to the code, the details can be found online at http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/. Please note that ignorance of these guidelines is no excuse for failure to comply with them. Students who are found to have violated the code of academic integrity are in danger of failing that assignment or even the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Part I: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

June 30 (Th): Introduction to IR and Social Scientific Inquiry
— "One world, many theories" (Walt)
— Excerpt from *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (Kuhn)
— Excerpt from *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* (Popper)

July 5 (T): Introduction to Realism
— Thucydides' *Melian Dialogue*
    o "Why International Relations Theorists Should Stop Reading Thucydides" (Welch)
— Excerpt from *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Mearsheimer)
— "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma" (Jervis)

July 7 (T): Introduction to Liberalism
— Introduction to Liberalism
    o "The Promise of Institutionalist Theory" (Keohane and Martin)
    o "Liberalism and World Politics" (Doyle)
    o "The Liberal Order is More than a Myth" (Lissner and Rapp-Hooper)

<u>July 12 (Th): Constructivism/Critical Approaches to IR Theory</u>
— <u>Introduction to Constructivism</u>
  o "Anarchy is What States Make of It" (Wendt)
— <u>Race/Empire</u>
  o Excerpts from *Race & International Relations*

<u>July 14 (T): Empire, Gender, and Why Theory Matters</u>
— <u>Empire</u>
  o "Retrieving the Imperial: Empire and International Relations" (Barkawi and Laffey)
— <u>Gender</u>
  o Excerpts from *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* (Enloe)
— <u>Intersectionality and the Production of IR Scholarship</u>
  o "Soft Bodies, Hard Targets, and Chic Theories: US bombing Policy in Indochina" (Milliken and Sylvan)

<u>JULY 18 at 5pm – MIDTERM PAPER DUE</u>

PART II: WAR AND SECURITY

<u>July 19 (T): War and Peace: Approaches to Security Governance</u>
— "Rationalist Explanations for War (Fearon)
— "Kantian Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations" (Oneal and Russett)
— Excerpt from *Ballots and Bullets: The Elusive Democratic Peace* (Gowa)
— "Avatars of Eurocentrism in the Critique of the Liberal Peace" (Sabaratnam)

<u>July 21 (Th): Bringing the Human (Back Into) Security/Human Rights and Intervention</u>
— UN Development Programme Report (1994)
    o "New threats to human security in the Anthropocene" (2022)
— "The utility of human security: sovereignty and humanitarian intervention" (Thomas and Tow)
— "Bystanders to Genocide" (Power)
— Excerpts from *The End Times of Human Rights* (Hopgood)

PART III: THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

<u>July 26 (T): Globalization, Trade, and the Creation of a Global Political Economy</u>
— How Americans Think About Trade (Mutz)
— "Coronavirus ushers in the globalization we were afraid of" (Kaplan)
— "What Do Undergrads Need to Know About Trade?" (Krugman)
— "Coping with Antiglobalization: A Trilogy of Discontents" (Bhagwati)

<u>July 28 (Th): International Development, Class, and Materialist Approaches to the Global Economy</u>
— Excerpts from *World-Systems Analysis* (Wallerstein)
— "Re-Envisioning Global Development: Conceptual and Methodological issues" (Halperin)
— Excerpts from *The Great Transformation* (Polanyi)

PART IV: EMERGING ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

<u>August 2 (T): FINAL SIMULATION</u>

<u>August 4 (Th): Case study discussion – Topic & Readings TBD based on students' interests</u>
Could include (but not limited to):
— Climate change and international law
— BREXIT and international organizations
— Migration, diasporas, and refugees
— Cybersecurity and conflict

<u>FINAL SIMULATION REFLECTION PAPER DUE AUGUST 5 at 5pm</u>