Course Description: The aim of this course is to explore some of the core concepts and theoretical ideas that underpin realist thinking. Given the richness of the realist tradition and the limits of the quarter system, many important issues cannot be addressed in any detail in this seminar.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend every session, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (33%), and two 7-page papers (33% each).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose two. Both papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – March 19. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 13.

The papers must be no longer than 7 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font (12).

Readings and Books: The following books are all in paper and all available at the Seminary Coop.

John Mearsheimer, *The Great Delusion* (Yale)
Nuno Monteiro, *Theory of Unipolar Politics* (Cambridge)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw Hill)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Canvas. The Horelick, Johnson, and Steinbruner piece is available as hard copy in the Regenstein reserves.

Course Outline:

1. January 9 (Wednesday): Organizational Meeting

2. January 16 (Wednesday): The Father of Us All

   -- Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Parts I & II.

   Below is an excellent translation of *Leviathan* into contemporary English by Jonathan Bennett, which makes it much easier to read.


   [http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part2.pdf](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/assets/pdfs/hobbes1651part2.pdf)

3. January 23 (Wednesday): The Essence of Politics

4. January 30 (Wednesday): Structural Realism – I


5. February 6 (Wednesday): Structural Realism – II


6. February 13 (Wednesday): Anarchy and Sovereignty


7. February 20 (Wednesday): The Rational Actor Assumption


8. *February 27 (Wednesday): Realism, Liberalism, and Nationalism*


9. *March 6 (Wednesday): Power and Polarity*


10. *March 13 (Wednesday): State Strategies*

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 5 and 8.

