

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
**Political Science Department**

Political Science 53000  
Seminar on Great Power Politics  
Winter 2013  
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

**Course Description:** The aim of this course is to explore some of the key questions concerning relations among the great powers.

**Course Requirements:** Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend every seminar, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%), and one 15-page paper (75%).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose one. The paper 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. The paper must be no longer than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font.

**Readings and Books:** The following books – all of which are in paper – have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

John M. Hobson, *The Eurocentric Conception of World Politics* (Cambridge)  
John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan* (Princeton)  
Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Cornell)  
Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony* (Princeton)  
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton)  
Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons* (Norton)  
Srdjan Vucetic, *The Anglosphere* (Stanford)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with \*\* next to them are on Chalk.

**Course Outline:**

**1. January 10 (Thurs): Organizational Meeting**

**2. January 17 (Thurs): Offensive Realism**

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, read entire book.

**3. January 24 (Thurs): Defensive Realism**

-- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (January 1978), pp. 167-214. \*\*

-- Sean M. Lynn-Jones, "Offense-Defense Theory and Its Critics," *Security Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Summer 1995), pp. 660-91. \*\*

-- Andrew Kydd, "Sheep in Sheep's Clothing: Why Security Seekers Do Not Fight Each Other," *Security Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Fall 1997), pp. 114-55. \*\*

#### **4. January 31 (Thurs): International Institutions**

-- Keohane, *After Hegemony*, chapters 1-7, 11.

-- George W. Downs, David M. Rocke, and Peter Barsoom, "Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation?" *International Organization*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (Summer 1996), pp. 379-406. \*\*

-- John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Winter 1994/95) pp. 5-49. \*\*

#### **5. February 7 (Thurs): Bargaining Theory and International Politics**

-- James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (1995), pp. 379-414. \*\*

-- Jonathan Kirshner, "Rationalist Explanations for War?" *Security Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn 2000), pp. 143-50. \*\*

-- David A. Lake. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War," *International Security*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (Winter 2010/11), pp. 7- 52. \*\*

-- Dani Reiter, "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1, No. 1 (March 2003), pp. 27-43. \*\*

#### **6. February 14 (Thurs): Audience Costs**

-- James D. Fearon, "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88, No. 3 (September 1994), pp. 577-92. \*\*

-- Alexander B. Downes and Todd S. Sechser, "The Illusion of Democratic Credibility," *International Organization*, Vol. 66, No. 3 (July 2012), pp. 457-89. \*\*

-- Kenneth A. Schultz, "Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 4 (December 1998), pp. 829-44. \*\*

-- Jack Snyder and Erica D. Borghard, "The Cost of Empty Threats: A Penny, Not a Pound," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 105, No. 3 (August 2011), pp. 437-56. \*\*

-- Marc Trachtenberg, "Audience Costs: An Historical Analysis," *Security Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (January 2012), pp. 3-42. \*\*

### **7. February 21 (Thurs): Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation**

-- Jervis, *Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution*, read entire book.

-- Sagan and Waltz, *Spread of Nuclear Weapons*, read entire book.

### **8. February 28 (Thurs): Culture and International Politics**

-- Hobson, *Eurocentric Conception of World Politics*, read entire book.

-- Vacetic, *The Anglosphere*, read entire book.

### **9. March 7 (Thurs): Liberal Imperialism**

-- Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan*, read entire book.

-- Richard K. Betts, "Institutional Imperialism," *National Interest*, No. 113 (May/June 2011), pp. 85-96. \*\*

### **10. March 14 (Thurs): The Origins and Future of the EU**

-- Josef Joffe, "The Euro: The Engine that Couldn't," *New York Review of Books*, Vol. 44, No. 19 (December 4, 1997), pp. 26-31. \*\*

-- Andrew Moravscik, "Preferences and Power in the European Community: A Liberal Intergovernmentalist Approach," *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (December 1993), pp. 473-524. \*\*

-- Andrew Moravscik, "Europe after the Crisis: How to Sustain a Common Currency," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 91, No. 3 (May/June 2012), pp. 54-68. \*\*

-- Craig Parsons, "Showing Ideas as Causes: The Origins of the European Union," *International Organization*, Vol. 56, No. 1 (December 2002), pp. 47-84. \*\*

-- Sebastian Rosato, "Europe's Troubles: Power Politics and the State of the European Project," *International Security*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Spring 2011), pp. 45-86. \*\*