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 (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 17. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. 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.

Please type your name and the question itself at the top of each paper.

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

John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan* (Princeton)
Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Cornell)
Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony* (Princeton)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. January 7 (Wed): Organizational Meeting

2. January 14 (Wed): Offensive Realism

3. January 21 (Wed): Defensive Realism
4. January 28 (Wed): International Institutions


5. February 4 (Wed): Bargaining Theory and International Politics


6. February 11 (Wed): Audience Costs


7. February 18 (Wed): The Nuclear Revolution

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


-- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities,” American Political Science Review, Vol. 84, No. 3 (September, 1990), pp. 731-745. **


-- Ikenberry, Liberal Leviathan, read entire book.


10. March 11 (Wed): The Causes and Conduct of the Ukraine Crisis


-- John J. Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 93, No. 5 (September/October 2014), pp. 77-89. **


-- The following three pieces in the August 2014 Carnegie Forum on “Rebuilding U.S.-Russia Relations” August 2014. **

   Tim Frye, “A Tale of Two Narratives.”
   Mark Kramer, “Why Russia Intervenes.”
   Daniel Treisman, “Driven by Domestic Politics.”