Political Science 53000
Seminar on Great Power Politics
Winter 2018
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 (33%), and two 7-page papers (33% each).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics on February 28, 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 13. 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, *After Hegemony* (Princeton)
Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Cornell)
Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (Yale)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Canvas.

Course Outline:

1. January 3 (Wednesday): Organizational Meeting

2. January 10 (Wednesday): Realism 101


3. January 17 (Wednesday): More Realism 101


4. January 24 (Wednesday): The Nuclear Revolution


-- Keir Lieber and Daryl Press, “The Myth of the Nuclear Revolution,” manuscript. **

5. January 31 (Wednesday): Nuclear Deterrence


6. February 7 (Wednesday): Nuclear War-Fighting


7. February 14 (Wednesday): The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation


-- Eliza Gheorghe, “Proliferation and the Logic of the Nuclear Market,” manuscript. **

8. February 21 (Wednesday): Is Great Power War Obsolete?


10. March 7 (Wednesday): The Future of the Liberal International Order – II


-- John J. Mearsheimer, “The Rise and Fall of the Liberal International Order,” manuscript. **
