

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

Political Science 53000
Seminar on Great Power Politics
Winter 2008
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 Wednesday 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.

David B. Abernethy, *The Dynamics of Global Dominance* (Yale)
John Lewis Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience* (Harvard)
Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (Cornell)
Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony* (Princeton)
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton)
Jennifer Pitts, *A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France* (Princeton)
Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons* (Norton)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Chalk.

All books used in this course are on 24-hour reserve at Regenstein Library.

Course Outline:

1. January 9 (Wed): Organizational Meeting

2. January 16 (Wed): Realism 101

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

3. January 23 (Wed): The Concepts of "Survival" and "Uncertainty"

-- Tanisha M. Fazal, *State Death: The Politics and Geography of Conquest, Occupation, and Annexation* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007), chapters 1-3.**

-- Daragh Grant, "Making Sense of Survival: Rethinking State Interests in IR Theory," PISP paper, University of Chicago, 2007.**

-- Dustin Ells Howes, "When States Choose to Die: Reassessing Assumptions About What States Want." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (2003), pp. 669-692.**

-- Burak Kadercan, "Use & Abuse of Survival Assumption in Neorealism: A Constructive Criticism," MA Thesis, University of Chicago, 2007. **

-- Andrew Kydd, "Sheep in Sheep's Clothing: Why Security Seekers Do Not Fight Each Other," *Security Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Fall 1997), pp. 114-155. **

-- Evan Braden Montgomery, "Breaking Out of the Security Dilemma: Realism, Reassurance, and the Problem of Uncertainty," *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 151-185.**

4. January 30 (Wed): 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 6 (Wed): Bargaining Theory and International Politics

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

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

-- Thomas C. Schelling, *The Strategy of Conflict* (Oxford University Press, 1960), chapters 2-3. **

6. February 13 (Wed): Lying in International Politics

-- John J. Mearsheimer, "Lying in International Politics," unpublished manuscript, March 16, 2006 version prepared for Lone Star National Security Forum.**

-- Chaim Kaufmann, "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Summer 2004), 5-48. **

7. February 20 (Wed): Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation

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

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

8. February 27 (Wed): Neoconservatism and the Bush Doctrine

-- Jonathan Monten, "The Roots of the Bush Doctrine: Power, Nationalism, and Democracy Promotion in U.S. Strategy," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Spring 2005), pp. 112-156. **

-- Gaddis, *Surprise, Security and the American Enterprise*, read entire book.

-- Frances Fukuyama, "The Neoconservative Moment," *National Interest*, No. 76 (Summer 2004), pp. 57-68. **

-- John Ikenberry, "The End of the Neo-Conservative Moment," *Survival*, Vo. 46, No. 1 (Spring 2004), pp. 7-22. **

-- Charles Krauthammer, "In Defense of Democratic Realism," *National Interest*, No. 77 (Fall 2004), pp. 15-25. **

-- Charles Krauthammer, "Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World," 2004, Irving Kristol Lecture at AEI. **

9. March 5 (Wed): Liberalism and Empire

-- Pitts, *A Turn to Empire*, read entire book.

10. March 12 (Wed): The European Empires, 1415-1980

-- Abernethy, *The Dynamics of Global Dominance*, read entire book.