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 seminar, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%), and one 15-page paper (75%) due at the end of the course.

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 17. 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.

Jon Elster, *Explaining Social Behavior* (Cambridge)
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (Chicago)
Charles Tilly, *Coercion, Capital, and European States* (Blackwell)
Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw Hill)

All articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters with ** next to them are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. January 6 (Wed): Organizational Meeting

2. January 13 (Wed): “The Father of Us All”


4. January 27 (Wed): Structural Realism #1
5. February 3 (Wed): Structural Realism #2

-- John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 1, 2, 5
-- John Mearsheimer, "Reckless States and Realism," *International Relations*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (June 2009), pp. 241-256.**

6. February 10 (Wed): The Emergence of the State


7. February 17 (Wed): Assessing Intentions and Fostering Trust


8. February 24 (Wed): Assessing Power


9. March 3 (Wed): Human Nature Realism #1


10. March 10 (Wed): Human Nature Realism #2