

## CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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Conceptual Foundations of International Politics examines many of the central concepts, theories, and analytical tools used in contemporary social science to understand and explain international affairs. The theoretical literature is drawn from different fields in the social sciences, including comparative politics, international relations, political sociology and economics; the lecturers include members of the Columbia faculty who are authorities in these fields (as well as, in many cases, experienced practitioners in their own right) alongside a number of outside guest speakers. The course is designed to enhance students' abilities to think critically and analytically about current problems and challenges in international politics.

Conceptual Foundations is a semester-long course. The weekly plenary session will meet on Monday in Altschul Auditorium on the first floor of the International Affairs Building. The seminar-style sections will also meet every week in person. The course is designed to provide background, through the readings and lectures, for student engagement with the concepts, ideas and arguments in section. Attending section discussions is therefore obligatory, and students are expected to both attend the lecture and complete the assigned readings before their (IAIA U6804) section meeting.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Two 2500 word papers; see below for due dates. (30% each)
2. One in-section group debate (20%)
3. Active class participation (20%)

**September 12: “Do We Really Need Theories of International Relations?”**  
**Lisa Anderson (Altschul Auditorium)**

Stephen Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” *Foreign Policy* (Spring 1998)

Jack Snyder, “One World, Rival Theories,” *Foreign Policy* (November/December 2004)

Susanne Rudolph, “The Imperialism of Categories: Situating Knowledge in a Globalizing World,” *Perspectives on Politics*, (March 2005)

Fara Dabhoiwala, "Imperial Delusions," *The New York Review of Books* (July 2021)

Mizan R. Khan, “Climate Change, Adaptation and International Relations Theory,” *e-ir.info* (April 2016)

**Suggested:**

Richard K. Betts, “The Realist Persuasion,” *The National Interest* (September/October 2015)

**September 19: “Power Politics: Is There Any Other Kind?”**  
**Kimberly Marten (Altschul Auditorium)**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (1651) Chapters 13-14

Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) pp.102-128.

Eliot A. Cohen, “Thucydides, Really!” *The American Interest* Volume II, Issue 3 (January/February 2007); and Richard K. Betts, “Not With My Thucydides, You Don't,” *The American Interest* Volume II, Issue 4 (March/April 2007).

Rosa Brooks, “Making A State by Iron and Blood,” *Foreign Policy* (August 2015)

Ann J. Tickner, “Hans Morgenthau's principles of political realism: A feminist reformulation,” *Millennium* (December 1988)

Robert Gilpin, “Hegemonic War and International Change,” in Richard K. Betts, ed. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, Third Edition (New York: Pearson-Longman 2008)

**Suggested:**

Jacqueline Hazelton, “The ‘Hearts and Minds’ Fallacy: Violence, Coercion, and Success in Counterinsurgency Warfare,” *International Security* (Summer 2017)

<p><b>September 26: “All Regimes Are Not the Same – And Why It Matters” Allison Carnegie (Pre-Recorded)</b></p>
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Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace,” in Hans Reiss ed., H. B. Nisbet (trans.), *Kant: Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1991) pp. 93-109.

Michael Doyle, *Ways of War and Peace* (New York: Norton 1997) pp. 205-212, 251-311, 474-484.

John J. Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*, Second Edition (New York: Norton 2004) pp. 319-331.

Robert Jervis, “Theories of War in an Era of Great Power Peace: Presidential Address, American Political Science Association 2001,” *American Political Science Review* (March 2002).

Rory Taylor, “Native American Treaties: 6 Native leaders on what it would look like if the US kept its promises,” *Vox* (September 2019)

**Suggested:**

Arthur A. Stein, “Neoliberal Institutionalism” in eds., Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations* (New York: Oxford University Press 2010) pp. 201-218.

Christian Davenport, “When Democracies Kill: Reflections from the US, India, and Northern Ireland,” *International Area Studies Review* (March 2012)

**October 3: “Is the Balance of Power All In Our Minds?”  
Kanisha Bond (Altschul Auditorium)**

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest* (Summer 1989)

Alex Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” *International Organization* (Spring 1992)

Martha Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention,” in Peter J. Katzenstein, ed., *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press 1996) pp.153-185.

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press 1998) pp. 39-78.

Jonathan Haidt, “When and Why Nationalism Beats Globalism” *The American Interest* (July 2016).

Keisha N. Blain, “Civil Rights International: The Fight Against Racism Has Always Been Global,” *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2020).

**October 10: “States and Markets”**

**Jeff Sachs (Altschul Auditorium)**

**Paper Questions Distributed (electronically)**

Charles Calomiris, “A Globalist Manifesto for Public Policy: The Tenth Annual IEA Hayek Memorial Lecture,” *Institute of Economic Affairs* (April 2002)

Jeffrey Sachs, *The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time* (New York: Penguin Books 2006) pp.51-90.

William Easterly, *The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor* (New York: Basic Books 2014) pp.3-42.

Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty* (New York: Crown Publishers 2012) pp.70-96.

Vincent Ferraro, “Dependency Theory: An Introduction,” in Giorgio Secondi ed., *The Development Economics Reader* (London: Routledge 2008) pp. 58-66.

**October 17: State-Making and State-Failing**  
**Dipali Mukhopadhyay (Altschul Auditorium)**

Lisa Anderson, “Antiquated Before They Can Ossify: States that Fail Before They Form,” *Journal of International Affairs* (Fall 2004)

Noora Lori, “Statelessness, ‘In-Between’ Statuses, and Precarious Citizenship,” *Oxford Handbook on Citizenship* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2017)

Dipali Mukhopadhyay, *Warlords, Strongman Governors and the State in Afghanistan* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014) pp.316-362.

Séverine Autesserre, *Peaceland: Conflict Resolution and the Everyday Politics of International Intervention* (New York: Cambridge University Press 2014) pp.1-17.

Tanisha Fazal, “State Death in the International System,” *International Organization* 58 No 2 (Spring 2004) pp.311-344.

William Reno, “Fictional States and Atomized Public Spheres: A Non-Western Approach to Fragility,” *Daedalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* (Fall 2017).

**October 24: “Political Development and Democratization”**  
**Lisa Anderson (Altschul Auditorium)**  
**Paper Due (submit electronically)**

Robert Dahl, *Polyarchy: Participation and Opposition* (New Haven: Yale University Press 1971) pp. 1-16.

Fareed Zakaria, “The Rise of Illiberal Democracy,” *Foreign Affairs* (December 1997) and Robert Kagan, “The Ungreat Washed,” *The New Republic* (July 2003).

Lisa Anderson, “‘Western Institutions’ and ‘Universal Values’: Barriers to Adoption of Democracy,” in Peter F. Nardulli, ed., *International Perspectives on Contemporary Democracy* (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2008)

Andrea Kendall-Taylor, A, Erica Frantz, and Joseph Wright, “The Global Rise of Personalized Politics: It’s not Just Dictators Anymore,” *Washington Quarterly* (January 2017)

Sumit Ganguly, “India Under Modi: Threats to Pluralism,” *Journal of Democracy* (January 2019)

Sheri Berman, "How Democracies Emerge: Lessons from Europe," *Journal of Democracy* (January 2007); "Misunderstanding Gradualism," response by Thomas Carothers; and Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "The Sequencing "Fallacy," *Journal of Democracy*, (July 2007).

**Suggested:**

Francesco Cavatorta, "The Convergence of Governance: Upgrading Authoritarianism in the Arab World and Downgrading Democracy Elsewhere?" *Middle East Critique* (Fall 2010)

<p><b>October 31: Race and International Relations</b>  <b>Robbie Shilliam (Altschul Auditorium)</b></p>
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Robbie Shilliam, "Race and Racism in International Relations: Retrieving A Scholarly Inheritance," *International Politics Review* (November 2020)

Robert Vitalis, "The Graceful and Generous Liberal Gesture: Making Racism Invisible in American International Relations," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (June 2000)

Jamelle Bouie, "The Enlightenment's Dark Side," *Slate* (June 7, 2018).

Zeynep Gulshah Capan, "Decolonising International Relations?" *Third World Quarterly* (October 2016)

Zachariah Mampilly, "The Du Bois Doctrine: Race and the American Century," *Foreign Affairs* (September/October 2022)

Walter Russell Mead, "The Jacksonian Tradition and American Foreign Policy" *The National Interest* (Winter 1999-2000).

**Suggested:**

Gurminder K. Bhambra, Yolanda Bouka, Randolph B. Persaud, Olivia U. Rutazibwa, Vineet Thakur, Duncan Bell, Karen Smith, Toni Haastrup, and Seifudein Adem, "Why is Mainstream International Relations Blind to Racism," *Foreign Policy* (July 2020).

<p><b>November 7: Academic Holiday</b>  <b>No Lecture</b></p>
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**November 14: The World's Rising Powers**  
**Thomas Christensen (Altschul Auditorium)**  
**Debate Questions Distributed in Section**

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993).

Jessica T. Mathews, "Power Shift," *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 1997)

Thomas Christensen, *The China Challenge: Shaping the Choices of a Rising Power* (W.W. North & Company 2015) pp.37-62.

Andrew Nathan, "The Puzzle of the Chinese Middle Class," *Journal of Democracy* (April 2016).

Julia Gurganus and Eugene Rumer, "Russia's Global Ambitions in Perspective," Carnegie Endowment (February 2019)

Michael Doyle, "A New Cold War?" *UIpaper* (Number 2/2018).

**November 21: "Populism, Inequality, and Unrest in Latin America"**  
**Eduardo Moncada (Altschul Auditorium)**

Steven Levitsky and María Victoria Murillo, "Building Institutions on Weak Foundations," *Journal of Democracy* (April 2013).

Eduardo Moncada, "The Politics of Criminal Victimization: Pursuing and resisting power." *Perspectives on Politics* (July 2019)

Trejo, Guillermo and Sandra Ley, "Why did drug cartels go to war in Mexico? Subnational party alternation, the breakdown of criminal protection, and the onset of large-scale violence." *Comparative Political Studies* (August 2017)

Manuel Meléndez-Sánchez, "Latin America Erupts: Millennial Authoritarianism in El Salvador" *Journal of Democracy* (January 2021)

Daniela Mussi and Alvaro Bianchi, "Rise of the Radical Right," and Christen Smith, "Lingering Trauma in Brazil: Police Violence Against Black Women," *NACLA Report on the Americas* (December 2018)

John Coatsworth, "Inequality, Institutions and Economic Growth in Latin America," *Journal of Latin American Studies* (August 2008).

**November 28: “Confronting Colonial Legacies”****Zachariah Mampilly****Paper Questions Distributed****Debates Held in Section**

Robert Jackson and Carl Rosberg, “Why Africa's Weak States Persist: The Empirical and the Juridical in Statehood,” *World Politics* (October 1982)

Ian Lustick, “The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political ‘Backwardness’ in Historical Perspective,” *International Organization* (Autumn 1997)

Lina Benabdallah, “Power or Influence? Making Sense of China’s Evolving Party-to-party Diplomacy in Africa,” *African Studies Quarterly* (October 2020)

Zachariah Mampilly and Adam Branch, *Africa Uprising: Popular Protest and Political Change* (Zed Books 2015) pp.1-39.

Mahmood Mamdani, “Beyond Settler and Native as Political Identities: Overcoming the Political Legacy of Colonialism,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* (October 2001)

Amy Chua, “A World on the Edge,” *The Wilson Quarterly* (Autumn 2002).

**December 5: The Unraveling of the American Global Order****Alex Cooley (Altschul Auditorium)**

Alexander Cooley and Daniel H. Nexon, “The Real Crisis of Global Order: Illiberalism on the Rise” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 2022) and “How Hegemony Ends: The Unraveling of American Power” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2020)

Dani Rodrik, *The Globalization Paradox: Democracy and the Future of the World Economy* (New York: W.W Norton 2011) pp.184-233.

Jagdish Bhagwati and Arvind Panagariya, *Why Growth Matters: How Economic Growth in India Reduced Poverty and the Lessons for Other Developing Countries* (Public Affairs 2013) pp.1-25.

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and Its Discontents Revisited* (New York: W.W. Norton 2017) Introduction & pp.1-43.

Matthew Kroenig, “International Relations Theory Suggests Great-Power War Is Coming,” *Foreign Policy* (August 27 2022)

**Suggested:**

Stefan Foa and Yascha Mounk, “Signs of Deconsolidation,” *Journal of Democracy* (January 2017)

**December 12: American Primacy and Humanitarian Intervention**

**Richard Haass**

**Paper Due – Submitted Electronically**

Stephen Brooks and William Wohlforth, *World Out of Balance: International Relations and the Challenge of American Primacy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2010) pp.1-21.

Richard Betts, “Institutional Imperialism,” *The National Interest* (May/June 2011).

Charles Kindleberger, “International Public Goods without International Government,” *American Economic Review* (March 1986).

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Need Saving?* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2013) pp. 27-80.

Robert Pape, “When Duty Calls: A Pragmatic Standard of Humanitarian Intervention,” *International Security* (Summer 2012)

Alan Kuperman, “Obama's Libya Debacle: How a Well-Meaning Intervention Ended in Failure,” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2015)

**Suggested:**

Kate Cronin-Furman, Nimmi Gowrinathan, and Rafia Zakaria, “Emissaries of Empowerment” *White Paper* (The City College of New York: September 2017)

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures. Click here to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online:

<http://bulletin.columbia.edu/sipa/academic-policies/academic-and-professional-conduct/>

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

<http://bulletin.columbia.edu/sipa/academic-policies/discipline-procedures/>

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.