

IR 601: FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Prof Jeremy Menchik

Fall 2022 MW 10:10-11:25am

Classroom: IRB 102, 154 Bay State Rd

Office Hours: M 3:45-5pm; T 3:15-5pm

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Course Objectives

This course provides foundational knowledge of international relations theory for students pursuing careers as IR practitioners. The emphasis will be on linking core IR concepts to real world issues. As such, the course will require students to engage with the readings both as scholarship and as guides to understanding the choices facing policy makers and other participants in international politics. The seminar will investigate themes explored at greater length in other graduate level courses to be taken during as part of the MA degree curricula, including the nature of the international system, the challenges of cooperation and the determinants of state behavior and foreign policy outcomes. Most readings are drawn from scholarly journals, book chapters, and policy journals. Cumulatively, they provide the basis for learning the language of international relations. In addition, the case studies that will be done in class will use a variety of additional sources, including think tank reports, government documents and journalistic accounts.

IR 601 is a discussion-based course, and all students are expected to participate actively. In addition, students will give both individual and group in-class presentations. It is essential for students to come to every class prepared. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with your understanding of the material or the expectations regarding participation, you should consult with your instructor.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend all classes and keep up with the weekly reading assignments.

Participation	20%
Applied IR Presentation	15%
Group Policy Memo	20%
Group Policy Presentation	5%
Term Paper	35%
Paper Drafts & Passport	5%

Participation –20% - Students are required to attend class, do the readings, and participate in class discussions that address both readings and current events. Each of the major topics covered in the course has associated questions – marked on the syllabus – which students should keep in mind as they do the readings. In addition to the regular readings, students are expected to prepare for their fellow students’ presentations by doing the background readings that the presenters distribute.

Applied IR Presentation - 15% - Each student is expected to make one in-class presentation at some point during the semester. The presentation should apply some of the theoretical concepts that were explored in the readings and the lectures to a real-world problem. In each instance, students are asked to consider not only how IR theory may help explain **why** a particular event or phenomenon takes place, but also how that theoretical perspective points towards **possible practical policies** for dealing with the issue being analyzed. Each presentation involves four components:

1. Background– Students will select background material on a real-world issue (current or historical), which will inform both the presentation and the in-class discussion. Readings can include newspaper articles, government documents, or short think tank reports. Those 2-3 short readings should be provided to the instructor and students the Friday prior to the presentation.
2. Presentation Outline – No more than one page in length. Should provide an overview of the structure of the talk and highlight the main points, to be provided to the instructor and students by the night before the presentation.
3. Oral Presentation (10 minutes) – The presenter will briefly lay out the case, including the actors, timeline, etc. Then s/he will address the ways in which that day’s class readings do or do not help to illuminate the causes and outcomes of the case, as well as practical implications of the analysis.
4. Q&A (15-20 minutes) – Students and instructor will pose questions regarding the case and the analysis. The purpose of the discussion is not necessarily to challenge the argument made by the presenter – although a constructive debate between opposing viewpoints is always welcome, and a necessary part of the learning process – but to move the discussion of the issue forward to the next level.

Group Policy Memorandum – 20% – Students will form teams of 3-4. Each team will write and present a 10-12 page policy memorandum dealing with a specific problem of their choice (see guidelines below). Abstract due **9/30**, first draft due **11/4**, final due **12/2**.

Group Policy Presentation – 5% – Students will present their group policy memorandums to the class. Each presentation should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length, followed by a 15-20 minute discussion. Each team member is expected to present part of the memorandum. Remember, this is a collective effort.

Term paper – 35% – Toward the end of the course students will need to hand in a **15-18 page** term paper that focuses on a course related topic. You should begin work on your papers as early as possible. Abstract draft due **10/14**, final due **12/16**.

Paper Drafts, Abstracts & Passport–5%

- ***Passport.*** As part of their participation in the Pardee community, students are also expected to attend at least **two IR-related talks at BU**. There are many events taking place at BU, often sponsored through Pardee Centers, such as the Center for the Study of Asia, the Center for the Study of Europe, the Global Development Policy Center, etc. Students will write a short (maximum length of 1 page) report in which they cover the main points of the presentation and subsequent discussion as well as their own reactions to the event. Please hand in this assignment 1-2 days after attending the presentation.
- ***Group Policy Memorandum Abstract.*** Before the group policy memorandums are due, you are expected to hand in a draft abstract, which will serve as the basis for discussion in the mandatory office hours in week five. This assignment needs to include a proposed title of the group policy memorandum, a summery abstract, and a list of at least ten preliminary sources that the memorandum will draw on. Using 150 words or less, please briefly convey a number of policy options and a proposed policy recommendation that you can potentially use for the group policy memorandum. **Due Sep 30.**
- ***Term Paper Abstract.*** Before the term papers are due, you are expected to hand in a term paper abstract, which will serve as the basis for discussion in the mandatory office hours in week seven. This assignment needs to include a proposed title of the term paper to be handed in later in the term, an abstract, and a list of at least ten preliminary scholarly sources that the term paper will draw on. Using 150 words or less, please briefly set up a debate and articulate a thesis (a central argument). **Due 10/14.**
- ***Group Policy Memorandum First Draft.*** You will submit a full draft of your policy memo in order to receive feedback from the professor.

Mandatory Office Hour Meetings. Students are required to attend the two separate mandatory meetings at office hours to discuss your group policy memorandum, and term papers. Before coming to the meetings, you will want to be ready to discuss your work.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All members of the University are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity, and the CAS Academic Conduct Code will be strictly enforced. We must and shall hold one another to this standard. The Conduct Code can be found at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>.

STATEMENT ON EQUAL ACCESS

Boston University is committed to providing equal access to our coursework and programs to all students, including those with disabilities. To ensure that accommodations can be in place in time for all assignments, please turn in your accommodations letter as soon as possible after the first class to the instructor. After you turn in your letter, please meet with me to discuss the plan for accommodations so that we can be sure that they are adequate and you are supported in your learning. If you have further questions or need additional support, please contact the Office of Disability Services (access@bu.edu).

READINGS

All readings are available either on Blackboard or the internet (URLs provided). If you find that you are unable to link to any reading, please let your instructor know as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Sept 7	Introduction
2	Sept 12/14	Sovereignty, Nationalism, and the State
3	Sept 19/21	Power, Anarchy and Hierarchy
4	Sept 26/28	Policy Making and IR
5	Oct 3/5	Grand Strategy
6	Oct 11/12	International Political Economy - Trade
7	Oct 17/19	International Political Economy – Financial Statecraft
8	Oct 24/26	International Organizations and Civil Society
9	Oct 31/Nov 2	Presentations
10	Nov 7/9	Governing the Global Environment
11	Nov 14/16	Race in International Relations
12	Nov 21	Term Paper and Group Project Workshop
13	Nov 28/30	Ethics and International Relations
14	Dec 5/7	Thinking About the World and the Future
14+	Dec 12	Review

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 (September 7): Introduction

Topics and Questions: Scope and definitions – what is international relations? What is the relationship between the domestic and international politics? What issues does IR as a field address? What is a theory? What is the relationship between a theory and a hypothesis? How does theory in the social sciences differ from theory in the natural sciences? What is a good or useful theory?

Required Reading:

- J. David Singer, 1960. "International Conflict: Three Levels of Analysis," *World Politics*, 12:3, pp. 453-461
- Steven M. Walt, 1998, "International Relations: One World, Many Theories," *Foreign Policy*, pp. 29-46
- Alexander L. George, *Bridging the Gap: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy* (United States Institute of Peace, 1993) Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 3-29

Week 2 (September 12/14): Sovereignty, Nationalism, and the State

Topics and Questions: What is nationalism? Does it cause conflict? What is the state and how is sovereignty defined? What are the requisites for divided sovereignty? What is the difference between the United Nations and a global state? Do you see the state as an effective protector of human rights and security?

Required Reading:

- Benedict Anderson, 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso), Ch. 10.
- Michael Hechter, 2001. *Containing Nationalism*, Oxford University Press, Ch. 1.
- Julie Marie Bunck and Michael Ross Fowler. 1994. "The Chunk and Basket Theories of Sovereignty," in Kenneth W. Thompson, ed., *Community, Diversity, and a New World Order: Essays in Honor of Inis L. Claude, Jr.*, Lanham: University Press of America, pp. 137-144.
- David A. Rezvani, 2014. *Surpassing the sovereign state: The wealth, self-rule, and security advantages of partially independent territories*. Oxford University Press, Chapter 7

Week 3 (September 19/21): Power, Anarchy, and Hierarchy

Topics and Questions: What is a system? What is a structure? How do the different major paradigms in IR think about structure? What are the limitations of the three paradigms in thinking about hierarchy? When analyzing specific countries or regions, what are the key factors we need to know to understand their foreign policies and patterns of interaction? How did the international system as we know it today come into being? How has colonialism shaped IR theory, and how can we move beyond Eurocentric theoretical frameworks?

Required Reading:

- Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, *Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition* (Little, Brown and Company, 1977), pp. 11-37
- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (Addison-Wesley, 1979), pp. 102-128
- Alexander Wendt, 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization* 46:2, pp. 391-425
- Paul Musgrave and Dan Nexon. 2018. "Defending Hierarchy from the Moon to the Indian Ocean: Symbolic Capital and Political Dominance in Early Modern China and the Cold War," *International Organization*, 72:3, 591-626.
- Sabarathnam, Meera. "Is IR Theory White? Racialised Subject-Positioning in Three Canonical Texts." *Millennium* 49:1 (2020): 3–31.
- Kang, David C. (2020). "International Order in Historical East Asia: Tribute and Hierarchy Beyond Sinocentrism and Eurocentrism." *International Organization*, 74(1), 65-93.

Recommended:

- Stephen Walt, *Origins of Alliances* (1990), Ch 2, pp. 17-49.
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (Norton, 2001), pp. 29-54.
- Mattern, Janice, and Ayşe Zarakol, 2016. "Hierarchies in World Politics." *International Organization* 70:3, 623-654.
- G. John Ikenberry, "The End of Liberal International Order?" *International Affairs* 94:1 (2018), pp. 7-23.

Week 4 (September 26/28) - Policy Making and IR

* Policy memo abstract due Sep. 30 * Please post on-line before the end of the day * Plan for your policy memo group to sign up for mandatory office hours next week *

Topics and Questions: How do domestic politics and international relations interact? What is the role of leaders in the making of foreign policy? Are there any patterns that we can identify in the ways that leaders make decisions? In what ways does the organizational structure of government condition policy making? How do interest groups influence policy making? Are there any ways in which we can improve the efficiency of the policy making process?

Required Reading:

- Allison, Graham T. "Conceptual models and the Cuban missile crisis." *American Political Science Review* 63.3 (1969): 689-718.
- Robert D. Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization* 42, no. 3 (1988), pp. 427-460
- Yuen Foong Khong, *Analogies at War* (Princeton: Princeton, 1992), pp. 3-19 (16)
- Jack S. Levy 1998. "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace." *Annual Review of Political Science* 1:1, 139-165
- Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton, 2017), Introduction (pp.3-9), Ch. 1-2 (pp.13-57)
- Elizabeth N. Saunders, 2022. "Elites in the Making and Breaking of Foreign Policy." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25:1, 219-240.

Week 5 (October 3/5) – Grand Strategy

* Mandatory office hour meetings this week * Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss your group policy memo topic, policy options, recommendation, and preliminary sources *

Topics and Questions: What is grand strategy? What criteria should we use in evaluating grand strategies? What is the role of military force in foreign policy? Why have the US and other great powers so often been frustrated in using force against weaker adversaries? What are the disadvantages of grand strategizing?

Required Reading:

Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale, 1966), pp. 35-59, 63-91

Hal Brands, *What Good Is Grand Strategy?* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2014), pp. 1-16

Phil Haun, *Coercion, Survival and War: Why Weak States Resist the Strong* (Stanford, 2015), pp. 11-31, 49-72

David M. Edelstein and Ronald R. Krebs. 2015. “Delusions of Grand Strategy.” *Foreign Affairs*, 109-116.

Nina Silove, 2018. “Beyond the Buzzword: The Three Meanings of ‘Grand Strategy.’” *Security Studies* 27:1, 27–57

Recommended:

Robert J. Art, “To What Ends Military Power?” *International Security* 4, no. 4 (Spring 1980), pp. 3-14 only – do not read the whole thing

Robert Jervis, “Nuclear Weapons and the Common Defense,” *Political Science Quarterly* Vol. 101, No. 5 (1986), pp. 689-703

Barry Posen and Andrew Ross, “Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy,” *International Security* 21, no. 3 (Winter 1996-1997), pp. 5-43

Week 6 (October 11/12) – International Political Economy – Trade [Oct 11 is BU Monday]

* Please sign up for the mandatory office hours for term papers taking place next week*

Topics and Questions: What are the advantages and disadvantages of relying on the free market and free trade? Can a free market actually exist? What is the proper role of the government in regulating the market? How do economies and states benefit from international trade? What are the potential downsides? What are the political implications of asymmetric dependence? What rules govern international trade, how are they made, and what incentives do they create for states and firms?

Required Reading:

Albert O. Hirschman, *National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade* (University of California Press, [1945] 1980), pp. 13-34.

Robert Gilpin, *The Political Economy of International Relations* (Princeton University Press, 1987), chapters 1 and 2, pp. 8-64

Ian Bremmer, “State Capitalism Comes of Age,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2009.

Soo Yeon Kim, *Power and the Governance of Global Trade: From the GATT to the WTO* (Cornell University Press, 2010), chapter 1

Leonardo Baccini, 2019. "The Economics and Politics of Preferential Trade Agreements," *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22:1, 75-92

Chad P. Bown and Thomas J. Bollyky, "How COVID-19 vaccine supply chains emerged in the midst of a pandemic," *Peterson Institute for International Economics Working Papers*, 21-12, August 2021. <https://www.piie.com/sites/default/files/documents/wp21-12.pdf>

**Term paper abstract due October 14 * Please post on-line before the end of the day **

Week 7 (October 17/19) – International Political Economy – Financial Statecraft

** Mandatory office hour meetings this week * Please come to the meeting prepared to discuss your proposed term paper and preliminary sources **

Topics and Questions: What is the Global Financial Safety Net? What is/should be the balance between global and regional efforts? What is the potential and pitfalls of financial statecraft for states and the global economy?

Required Reading:

Jonathan Kirshner, *Currency and Coercion* (Princeton, 1997), chapter 1.

Cohen, Benjamin J., 2006. "The Macrofoundations of Monetary Power," in David Andrews, ed., *International Monetary Power* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press), pp. 31-50.

Leslie Elliott Armijo & Saori N. Katada, 2015. "Theorizing the Financial Statecraft of Emerging Powers," *New Political Economy*, 20, 1:42-62.

Jonathan Masters and Andrew Chatzky, 2020. "The IMF: The World's Controversial Financial Firefighter," *Council on Foreign Relations Background*

<https://www.cfr.org/background/imf-worlds-controversial-financial-firefighter>

Laurissa Muhlich, Barbara Fritz, William Kring, and Kevin Gallagher, 2020. "The Global Financial Safety Net Tracker: Lessons for the COVID-19 Crisis from a New Interactive Dataset," *GEGI-GDP Policy Brief 10*.

https://www.bu.edu/gdp/files/2020/04/GEGIGDP_PolicyBrief_Final.pdf

Daniel Drezner, "The United States of Sanctions: The Use and Abuse of Economic Coercion," *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2021.

Week 8 (October 24/26) - International Organizations and Civil Society

Topics and Questions: What is an institution? What role do international institutions play in world politics? What is an international regime? What is a region? What factors favor the development of regional as opposed to global institutions? What is civil society? Is there a global civil society? Are international institutions more important today than they once were? If so, in what ways?

Required Reading:

Robert Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes," *International Organization* 36, no. 2 (Spring 1982), 325-355

Stephen D. Krasner, "Structural Causes and Regime Causes: Regimes as Intervening Variables," in Krasner, ed., *International Regimes* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1983), pp. 1-22

- Audie Klotz, "Transnational Activism and Global Transformations: The Anti-Apartheid and Abolitionist Experiences," *European Journal of International Relations* 8, no. 1 (March 2002), pp. 49-76
- Towns, Ann. 2009. "The Status of Women as a Standard of 'Civilization.'" *European Journal of International Relations* 15 (4): 681–706.
- Seva Gunitsky, 2015. "Corrupting the Cyber-Commons: Social Media as a Tool of Autocratic Stability." *Perspectives on Politics*, 13:1, 42–54.

Week 9 (Oct 31/Nov 2) - Group Presentations

* Group policy memo first draft due Nov. 4 * Please post on-line before the end of the day *

Week 10 (November 7/9) – Governing the Global Environment

Topics and Questions: Why is the common good so hard to achieve? What is the free rider problem? What are some examples of collective action problems? How can they be overcome? What approach would you use to address global warming?

Required Reading:

- Singer, Peter. 2016. *One World Now: The Ethics of Globalization*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 2.
- Nordhaus, William. 2020. "The climate club: how to fix a failing global effort." *Foreign Affairs*. 99: 10-17.
- Patrick, Stewart M. 2021. "The International Order Isn't Ready for the Climate Crisis." *Foreign Affairs* 100 (6): 166–76.

Week 11 (November 14/16) - Race in International Relations

Topics and Questions: What is the role of race in international relations? How has race and racism influenced the history and ideology of the field? What might be learned by historicizing the field and broadening its purview to include race, religion, indigeneity and other aspects of international affairs?

Required Reading:

- Neta C. Crawford, 1994. "A Security Regime among Democracies: Cooperation among Iroquois Nations." *International Organization* 48, 3: 345–85.
- Kelebogile Zvobgo and Meredith Loken, 2020. "Why Race Matters in International Relations," *Foreign Policy* 237: 11-13.
- Julian Go, 2020. "The Racist Origins of U.S. Policing." *Foreign Affairs* (July 16): <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-07-16/racistorigins-us-policing>
- Jeremy Menchik. 2021. "Woodrow Wilson and the Spirit of Liberal Internationalism," *Politics, Religion & Ideology* 22:2, 231-253.
- Bianca Freeman, D.G. Kim, David A. Lake, 2022. "Race in International Relations: Beyond the 'Norm Against Noticing.'" *Annual Review of Political Science* 25:1, 175-196.
- Zachariah, Mampilly. 2022. "The Du Bois Doctrine." *Foreign Affairs* <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/web-du-bois-doctrine-race-america-century>

Week 12 (November 21) – Term Paper and Group Project Workshop

No reading

Week 13 (November 28/30) - Ethics and International Relations

Topics and Questions: What is the role of ethics in international affairs? What is the ethical obligation of rich countries to poor countries?

Required Reading:

Max Weber, “Politics as a Vocation” (1918), pp. 22-27

Martha Nussbaum, “On Capabilities and Human Development”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoD-cjduM40> (10 minutes)

Ta-Nehisi Coates, June 2014. “The Case for Reparations.” *The Atlantic*.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Olúfẹ̀mí O. Táíwò and Beba Cibralic, Oct 10, 2020. *Foreign Policy*. “The Case for Climate Reparations.” <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/10/10/case-for-climate-reparations-crisis-migration-refugees-inequality/>

Somini Sengupta, Nov 11, 2021. “Calls for Climate Reparations Reach Boiling Point in Glasgow Talks.” *The New York Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/11/climate/climate-glasgow-cop26-loss-damage.html>

Olúfẹ̀mí O. Táíwò, Jan 10, 2022. “The Fight for Reparations Cannot Ignore Climate Change” *Boston Review* <https://bostonreview.net/articles/the-fight-for-reparations-cannot-ignore-climate-change/>

* Final group policy memo due December 2 * Please post on-line before the end of the day *

Week 14 Finale (December 5/7) – Thinking About the World and the Future

Topics and Questions: What are examples of ignored and overlooked topics in IR theory? What are some challenges to the contemporary world order, and how might they be more effectively addressed? How are rising powers likely to shape the future of the world order?

Sabaratnam, Meera. 2011. “IR in Dialogue ... but Can We Change the Subjects? A Typology of Decolonising Strategies for the Study of World Politics.” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 39 (3): 781–803.

David Lake, Martin, L., & Risse, T. 2021. “Challenges to the Liberal Order: Reflections on International Organization.” *International Organization*, 75:2, 225-257.

Colgan, J., Green, J., & Hale, T. 2021. “Asset Revaluation and the Existential Politics of Climate Change.” *International Organization* 75:2, 586-610.

Weiss, J., & Wallace, J. 2021. “Domestic Politics, China’s Rise, and the Future of the Liberal International Order.” *International Organization* 75:2, 635-664.

Week 14+ (December 12) – Review

No reading

* Term papers due December 16 * Please post on-line before the end of the day *

Policy Memorandum Guidelines

- **Executive Summary:**
 - One-para summary which includes the policy options, which one you are recommending and why.
- **Audience**
 - Who will be directing and/or implementing this policy?
- **Introduction**
 - Set up the problem: why it is an issue, what are the goals/criteria for success?
- **Analysis**
 - Provide information about the situation, history, statistics etc. Include the history of the situation and what policy maker(s) have done thus far with what policy effects.
- **Policy options**
 - Outline the status quo (restate the above briefly) and outline pros and cons including political feasibility. Include sub-headings.
 - Provide other options: you should have minimum one and maximum three other options. Each policy option is a separate sub-heading with pros and cons also with sub-headings.
- **Recommendations**
 - This should include a short reminder of the criteria for success and state why the policy option that you are recommending does the best job.
- **Citations**
 - Use endnotes: use endnotes with full citations (i.e. instead of in-text author/date and a bibliography).