**POSC 5600:** **Analysis of International Politics**

Fall 2017 – Dealy Hall 203

Prof. Raymond Kuo

Welcome to *POSC 5600: Analysis of International Politics*. This course is an advanced introduction to the causes and nature of international conflict and cooperation. It is intended to provide you with a rigorous analytical framework for the rest of your graduate study, and we will therefore focus on major theories and conceptualizations of international politics.

As a graduate course, POSC 5600 presumes that you have some background – whether academic and/or professional – in foreign policy, history, and international institutions/regimes. Indeed, the knowledge and perspective that you bring to this master’s program is one of its key highlights, and you should take full advantage of that.

As a result, I encourage you to draw upon this background in our discussions, particularly as we apply theoretical lenses to such questions as: Why do states wage war? Why do states sometimes liberalize trade and sometimes engage in protectionism? How is international order created? Do international institutions, human rights, or leaders matter? Are “non-state actors” usurping the prerogatives of sovereign states? How does bargaining affect policy outcomes, and how do such things as nuclear weapons affect bargaining behavior?

This course has three principal objectives:

1. To situate your current and future studies in the context of the unique challenges of cooperating and conflicting in international environments;
2. To help you develop a “toolkit” of theoretical perspectives that can be applied to any past or current international challenge;
3. To enhance your analytical capabilities, in line with modern scholarly methodology and practical application;
4. To discover or reinforce a fascination with the complexity, frustration, and awesomeness of international affairs and politics.

Finally, some work on econometrics will be helpful, particularly as understanding and applying mathematical rigor is one of the best ways to develop robust arguments and analysis.

**Schedule**

Classes meet on Mondays from 7:30-9:20 pm. We will typically have a 10 min. break halfway through each class. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Additional information on class etiquette and protocol can be found in the “Class Expectations and Guidelines” document on the “Extra Materials” section of the course’s Blackboard page.

**Books to Purchase**

All readings are available through e-reserves on our Blackboard site. In addition, we will be covering Kenneth Waltz’s *Theory of International Politics* extensively. Although we have pdfs of all the relevant chapters, it is a good book for any international relations practitioner to have on their shelf. Furthermore, should you need a primer on global history, I would recommend reading Henry Kissinger’s *Diplomacy* (1994) in advance of or alongside the course.

Finally, I have posted additional content to the “Extra Materials” portion of the Blackboard site. In particular, if you are new to the study of International Relations, I encourage you to read the pieces “Reading Theory” and “Reading History.”

**Contact Information**

Prof. Kuo’s office is Faber 671. He may be reached at [rkuo@fordham.edu](mailto:rkuo@fordham.edu) (preferred and more reliable) or x3969. His regular office hours are Mondays, 1:15-3:00 pm and by appointment.

**Summary of Key responsibilities and Dates**

*Participation*

Classes will be focused on discussion. As a result, active participation is essential to this course, particularly as it provides you an opportunity to learn from your colleagues, who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge on their own.

*Response Paper Varies*

At the end of the first session, each student will select a week in which to write a 5-page paper critically commenting on the readings for one session this semester (except the last one). These papers are to be completed and distributed to the entire class by e-mail by 6 p.m. on the Sunday preceding the class. Students must be prepared to defend this paper in class.

*Policy Memo Due Dec. 12th*

Each student will be responsible for completing a policy memo on a topic of their choosing. These memos must address and analyze a critical and contemporary foreign policy challenge. It should recommend a policy with regard to the issue for a decision-maker within a national government, a leading NGO, or a private corporation active in that area (your choice of audience).

To help focus the memo and enhance its relevance to contemporary subjects, please incorporate an analysis of how your topic intersects with cyber security/defense and/or information communications technology.

Please come see by mid-November so we can chat about your topic. The memo should be no longer than 15 pages, without works cited. The completed assignment must be sent to me by e-mail attachment on the due date by 5 pm.[[1]](#footnote-1) As in the worlds of policy and journalism, technical difficulties are the responsibility of the writer.

*Mock Comprehensive Exam* *Dec. 19*

The weighting of each assignment is as follows:

1. *Participation*: 25%
2. *Response Paper*: *25*%
3. *Policy Memo*: 30%
4. Mock Comprehensive Exam: 20%

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

Week 1 **Approaches to Theory and Empirical Analysis** Sept. 7

*Causal Inference*

* James Fearon, “Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science,” World Politics 43 (January 1991): 169-195.
* King, Keohane, and Verba. (1996) *Designing Social Inquiry*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 3-5.
  + Skim any technical parts. Focus on what is causal inference, how you achieve it, and how you avoid bias/error.

Week 2 **Realism: Anarchy, the Balance of Power, and War** Sept. 12

* K. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, Chs. 2, 6. OPTIONAL: 1, 4, 5, 8.
* John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, (Norton, 2001) chs. 1-2, pp. 1-54.
* Stephen Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning,” Art and Jervis.

*Debate: The West, Russia, and the Ukraine Crisis: Who is At Fault?*

* + John Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault: The Liberal Delusions that Provoked Putin,” Foreign Affairs (Sept/Oct 2014). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141769/john-j-mearsheimer/why-the-ukraine-crisis-is-the-wests-fault>
  + Strobe Talbott, “The Making of Vladimir Putin,” Politico Magazine (17 August 2014) [http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/08/putin-the-backstory-110151.html#.VAW1YMt0xok](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/08/putin-the-backstory-110151.html" \l ".VAW1YMt0xok)
* [OPTIONAL] Joseph Grieco, “Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Institutionalism,” International Organization, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Summer 1988), pp. 485-507.

Week 3 **War: Why Does It Happen?** Sept. 19

*Game Theoretic Accounts*

* James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” International Organization 49:3 (Summer 1995): 379-414.

*World War 1*

* Robert Jervis, “Offense, Defense, and the Security Dilemma,” Art and Jervis.
* Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War," International Security, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Summer 1984).
* Keir A. Lieber, “The New History of World War I and what It Means for International Relations Theory,” International Security 32:2 (Fall 2007) 155-191.
* [OPTIONAL] Robert Powell, “Bargaining in the Shadow of Power,” In The Shadow of Power (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), Chp 3.
* [OPTIONAL] Jack Snyder and Keir A. Lieber , “Correspondence: Defensive Realism and the ‘New’ History of World War I,” International Security 33:1 (Summer 2008): 174-194.
* [OPTIONAL] Mark Trachtenberg, "The Meaning of Mobilization in 1914," International Security, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Winter 1990/91), pp. 120-150.

Week 4 **Power, Order, and International Institutions** Sept. 26

* Ikenberry, After Victory, chapters 2-3.
* Robert Keohane, “Realism, Neorealism, and the Study of World Politics,” Ch 1 in R. Keohane, ed., *Neorealism and its Critics*, (1986) pp. 1-26.
* John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” International Security, Vol. 19, No. 3 (December 1994), pp. 5-49. <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/A0021.pdf>
* [OPTIONAL] Robert O. Keohane, “International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work,” Art and Jervis.

Week 5 **The Democratic Difference** Oct. 3

* Andrew Moravcsik, “Taking Preference Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics,” *International Organization* 51, 4 (1997), pp. 513-554.
* John Owen, “How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace,” International Security (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125. <http://www.jstor.org/discover/10.2307/2539197?uid=3739808&uid=2129&uid=2&uid=70&uid=4&uid=3739256&sid=21104584861167>
* Stephen Rosato, “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory,” American Political Science Review, Vol. 97, No. 4 (2003), pp. 5585-602. <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=191046>
* [OPTIONAL] Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” Art and Jervis.

Week 6 **Trade and Free Markets** Oct. 17

*Basics on Trade*

* Krugman, Obstfeld, and Melitz. *International Economics: Theory & Practice*. Ch. 3, 5, 10.

*Domestic Sources of Trade Preferences*

* [EITHER] Ronald Rogowski, “Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments”, pp. 3-17.
* [OR] Ronald Rogowski, “Institutions as Constraints on Strategic Choice,” in Lake and Powell, eds. *Strategic Choice,* pp. 115-136.
* Michael Bailey, Judith Goldstein, and Barry Weingast, “The Institutional Roots of American Trade Policy,” *World Politics* (1997), pp. 309-38.
* Mansfield, Edward and Diana Mutz. 2009. “Support for Free Trade: Self-Interest, Sociotropic Politics, and Out-group Anxiety.” International Organization 63: 425-58.

*International Economic Institutions*

* Thomas Lairson and David Skidmore, *International Political Economy*, pp. 71-89 and 116-24. (28 pp.)
* Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony* (1984), pp. 85-101, 135-150, 187-190. (37 pp.)

Week 7 **Development and Aid** Oct. 24

*Development*

* Krugman, Obstfeld, and Melitz. *International Economics: Theory & Practice*. Ch. 22 and pp. 509-510, “Classifying Monetary Systems: The Open-Economy Trilemma.”
* Paul Krugman, "The Myth of Asia's Miracle," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 1994:63-79.
* Huntington, S. P. (1968). *Political Order in Changing Societies*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 59-71.
* Ross, Michael. “The Political Economy of the Resource Curse.” *World Politics*. 51 (January 1999), 297-322.
  + This is a complicated one. Just get the main idea about what the resource curse is and various explanations for it at a broad level.

*Aid*

* William Easterly. 2006. *The White Man’s Burden,* pp. 37-59. (25 pp.)
* Jeffrey Sachs. “The Case for Aid.” Foreign Policy. January 21, 2014. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/21/the-case-for-aid/>
* Kosack. (2003). “Effective Aid: How Democracy Allows Development Aid to Improve the Quality of Life,” *World Development*, Vol. 31, No. 1, (p. 1-22). (skim through technical parts)
* [OPTIONAL] Birdsall, Nancy and Francis Fukuyama. 2011. The Post-Washington Consensus: Development After the Crisis. *Foreign Affairs*. March/April 2011
* [OPTIONAL] Robert Wade. 1992. “East Asia’s Economic Success: Conflicting Perspectives, Partial Insights, Shaky Evidence,” *World Politics* 44: 270-320.

Week 8 **Norms and Ideas** Oct. 31

* Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” *International Organization* (Spring 1992), pp. 391-425.
* Finnemore & Sikkink. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change, *International  
  Organization* Vol. 52 (1998).
* Nina Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-use,” *International Organization*, Vol. 53 (1999): 433-46.
* A. Johnston,“Thinking About Strategic Culture,” *International Security,* Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 32-65.
* [OPTIONAL] Thomas Risse. “Let’s Argue: Communicative Action in World Politics.” *International Organization* 54 (2000): 1-39.
* [OPTIONAL] Ronald Krebs and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, “Twisting Tongues and Twisting Arms: The Power of Political Rhetoric,” *European Journal of International Relations* (2007): 35-66.
* [OPTIONAL] Mark Haas, *Ideological Origins of Great Power Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005), pp. 73-103.

Week 9 **Rising Powers and the Problem of Order** Nov. 7

NOTE: Pay particular attention to dates when doing these readings. Many focus on or are motivated by China’s rise, but they draw upon temporally contingent evidence. When evaluating their arguments, please keep in mind when the pieces were written and how things have changed between the different readings.

*Theoretical Frameworks*

* Christopher Layne, “The Unipolar Illusion: Why New Great Powers Will Rise,” *International Security* (Spring 1993), pp. 5-16. (12 pp.)
* Barry Posen, “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care?” Art and Jervis.
* Mark Leonard, “Why Convergence Breeds Conflict,” Foreign Affairs (Sept/Oct 2013). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139650/mark-leonard/why-convergence-breeds-conflict>

*Predictions and Analysis*

* Arvind Subramanian, “The Inevitable Superpower: Why China’s Dominance Is a Sure Thing,” Art and Jervis.
* Ruchir Sharma, “Broken BRICS: Why the Rest Stopped Rising,” Foreign Affairs (Nov/Dec 2012) <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138219/ruchir-sharma/broken-brics>
* David Shambaugh, “China and Global Governance,” Chapter 4, in China Goes Global (Oxford, 2013).
* David Shambaugh, “China Engages Asia: Reshaping the Regional Order,” *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Winter 2004/2005), pp. 78-85.
* Thomas Christensen, “Fostering Stability or Creating a Monster? The Rise of China and U.S. Policy toward East Asia,” International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 81-126.
* G. John Ikenberry, “The Rise of China and the Future of the West,” Foreign Affairs (Feb/March 2008). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63042/g-john-ikenberry/the-rise-of-china-and-the-future-of-the-west>
* [OPTIONAL] Richard Fontaine and Daniel M. Kliman, “International Order and Global Swing States,” Washington Quarterly, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Winter 2013), pp. 93-109. <http://www.cnas.org/files/documents/publications/CNAS_GlobalSwingStates_KlimanFontaine.pdf>

Week 10 **International Law and Human Rights** Nov. 14

*What the Law Says* [SKIM THESE]

* UN Charter, Chapter VII: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter7.shtml>
* Geneva Convention IV: <https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/1595a804df7efd6bc125641400640d89/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5?OpenDocument>

*Should We Care?*

* Hathaway, Oona. “Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?” The Yale Law Journal, Vol. 111, No. 8 (Jun., 2002), pp. 1935-2042. [GET THE MAIN POINTS AND SKIM!]
* von Stein, Jana. “Do Treaties Constrain or Screen? Selection Bias and Treaty Compliance.” American Political Science Review. Vol. 99, No. 4, November 2005.
* Fazal, Tanisha. (2012) “Why States No Longer Declare War.” *Security Studies*. Vol. 21, Issue 4.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09636412.2012.734227?journalCode=fsst20>

* [OPTIONAL] Morrow, James D. “When Do States Follow the Laws of War?”American Political Science Review, Volume 101, Issue 03, August 2007, pp 559-572.
* [OPTIONAL, BUT AN OUTSTANDING BOOK] Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars.* Chapters 1 - 3.

*Discussion Questions*

Come to class ready to answer the following questions, based particularly on the first two readings:

* When can you declare war? Must a state declare war to launch hostilities?
* Who can you launch a war against? What are threats to peace, and who decides?
* What is the difference between a combatant and a non-combatant? When can you legitimately kill the latter?

Week 11 **Nuclear Weapons** Nov. 21

* Robert Jervis, The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution: Statecraft and the Prospect of Armageddon, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989). Chapter 1.
* John Mueller, “The Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons,” International Security 13:2 (Autumn1988), pp. 55-79. (24 pp.)
* Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, “[The Great Debate: Is Nuclear Zero the Best Option](http://nationalinterest.org/greatdebate/yes-3950/),” The National Interest (Sept/Oct 2010), (Sagan Says Yes, Waltz Says No, Sagan Responds, Waltz Responds) (12 pp.)

Week 12 **Transnational Actors, Good and Bad** Nov. 28

*The Good*

* Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, “Transnational Activist Networks,” Art and Jervis.
* Anne-Marie Slaughter, “America’s Edge: Power in a Networked Century,” Foreign Affairs (Jan/Feb 2009). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/63722/anne-marie-slaughter/americas-edge>
* [OPTIONAL] Josh Busby, Moral Movements and Foreign Policy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), Chapter One.

*The Bad*

* Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism.” *International Security*, 31,1 (summer 2006), 49-80.
* Max Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does Not Work.” *International Security*, 31,2 (fall 2006), 42- 78.
* Max Abrahms, "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." *International Security*, 32, 4 (Spring 2008):78-105.

Week 13 **Signaling and Reputation** Dec. 5

* Fearon, James. [Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands versus Sinking Costs](https://www.stanford.edu/group/fearon-research/cgi-bin/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Signaling-Foreign-Policy-Interests-Tying-Hands-versus-Sinking-Costs.pdf" \t "_blank). *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41, 1 (February 1997), 68-90.
* Jessica Weeks, “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve,” *International Organization*, Winter 2008 (62.1)”
* Thomas Schelling, *Strategy of Conflict*, Ch. 2.
* McManus, Roseanne and Keren Yarhi-Milo. “Front Stage, Back Stage”

Week 14 **The Environment** Dec. 12

* Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” in Art and Jervis, pp. 347-353. (6 pp.)
* Elinor Ostrom, “Reflections on the Commons,” in Ostrim, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (1990), pp. 2-21. (20 pp.)
* Gareth Porter and Janet Welsh Brown, “The Development of Environmental Regimes: Nine Case Studies,” (selections) in Porter and Brown eds., *Global Environmental Politics*, (1996), pp. 67-81, 105-106. (16 pp.)
* Alan Dupont, “The Strategic Implications of Climate Change,” Art and Jervis.
* [OPTIONAL] Kenneth Oye and James H. Maxwell, “Self-Interest and Environmental Management,” in Robert Keohane and Elinor Ostrom, eds. *Local Commons and Global Interdependence: Heterogeneity and Cooperation in Two Domains* (1995), pp. 191-221. (31 pp.)

Week 15 **The Shape of the Future** Dec. 19

* Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations,” *Foreign Affairs* 72 (1992-3), pp. 22-49. (26 pp.)
* Ian Bremmer and Nouriel Roubini, “A G-Zero World,” Foreign Affairs (March/April 2011). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/67339/ian-bremmer-and-nouriel-roubini/a-g-zero-world>
* Charles Kupchan, Chapter 5 (“Alternatives to the Western Way”) in No One’s World: The West, the Rising Rest, and the Coming Global Turn (Oxford, 2012).
* Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History", *The National Interest* (Summer 1989), pp. 3-18. (15 pp.)
* [OPTIONAL] Thomas Schelling, “A World Without Nuclear Weapons,” Art and Jervis.

Week 15 **Mock Comprehensive Exam** Dec. 18

NOTE: We are not meeting in class. The exam will be done individually at any place of your choosing.

You will write a comprehensive exam at the end of the IPED program. To prepare you for that, this mock exam will provide you with a list of questions. Please select one and provide an answer with the following guidelines:

* 4-5 pages long
* Double spaced, 1” margins all around
* Times New Roman, 12 pt. font
* MS Word or PDF only (.doc, .docx, or .pdf)
* Filename Format: “POSC5600 Mock Comp [FIND]”

The exam will be sent to you on Dec. 19 at 10 am. You must return it to me by Dec. 19 at 10 pm. Full citations are required.

1. Late submissions will be graded down at a rate of a 1/3 of a grade every 20 minutes. So an A becomes an A- if the paper is turned in 17 minutes late, for example. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)