INR 6305: American Foreign Policy, Graduate Seminar  
Spring 2006  

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Course Description and Requirements  
The objective of the course is to introduce graduate students to various theoretical approaches to the analysis of foreign policy. Although the substantive focus of the readings is on U.S. foreign policy, most of the theoretical perspectives we will discuss are in principle applicable to other states.  
The course requirements include class participation, two reaction papers, and a final, take-home exam.  

Participation: You will be expected to have done all the week’s reading before each class, and to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in depth. Your active participation in class is very important; it will account for 20% of the final grade.  

Short Papers: You will be required to submit two papers in which you will review and critique a week’s assigned literature (or a significant aspect thereof). The essay should identify major common theme(s) and/or disputations in the assigned literature and evaluate the literature’s strengths and/or limitations. You may choose any two weeks during the term to submit your papers on (no later than the beginning of the class). The length of each paper should not exceed five double-spaced pages. Each one of the two papers will account for 20% of the final grade.  

Take-home Exam: The exam will consist of one essay question of the kind that may appear on the comprehensive PhD exam or the MA exam in International Relations. I will e-mail the question to you on Friday, April 28, at Noon, and it will be due back on Monday, May 1, at 9:00 AM. This assignment will account for 40% of the final grade.  

Required Readings: Many of the assigned readings are journal articles that you will be able to easily download from JSTOR or other online data bases. Other readings consist of book chapters or sections; they will be placed in a box (or folder) located in the graduate students lounge on the third floor—please check out and photocopy them. Additionally, the following three books, from which we will read large sections, are (or will be) available for purchase at Orange & Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th Street (across from Krispie Kreme):  


At the beginning of each class session, I will briefly explain where you can find the readings assigned for the following week.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 9: Introduction
No reading

Jan. 16: MLK Day—No Class

Jan. 23: Some Classic Perspectives—Realist, Liberal-Wilsonian, Left


Jan. 30: Realist Perspectives—Security Policy


Feb. 6: Realist/Statist Interpretations of Foreign Economic Policy


Feb. 13: America’s State Structure in a Comparative Perspective

- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, chaps. 1–2, 7. [115 pp.]
Feb. 20: Domestic Politics


Feb. 27: Public Opinion and the Media


March 6: Capitalism and Class


March 20: No Class
March 27: Ideas, Identity, Discourse I


April 3: Ideas, Identity, Discourse II


April 10: Bureaucratic Politics; Psychology


April 17: Bureaucratic Politics; Psychology: the case of the Vietnam War

- Khong, *Analogies at War*, chaps. 1–3, 5–6, 9 [155 pp.]
April 24: Current U.S. Foreign Policy: Documents and Critical Perspectives

- Check out the website of the Project for a New American Century at [http://www.newamericancentury.org/index.html](http://www.newamericancentury.org/index.html). Read the “Statement of Principles.”
- John Mearsheimer, “Hans Morgenthau and the Iraq War: Realism vs. Neo-Conservatism,” opendemocracy.com, posted May 19, 2005 (may be downloaded from Mearsheimer’s web page at [http://johnmearsheimer.uchicago.edu](http://johnmearsheimer.uchicago.edu)).

Friday, April 28: Take Home Exam E-mailed at Noon

Monday, May 1: Exam Due at 9:00 AM