INR 6305: American Foreign Policy, Graduate Seminar  
Spring 2008

Ido Oren  
320 Anderson Hall  
Phone:273-2393  
E-mail: oren@polisci.ufl.edu  
Web page: http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/oren/  
Office Hours: M, W, F 3:00–5:00 pm, or by appt.

Course Description and Requirements

The objective of the course is to introduce graduate students to various 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. It should have a coherent structure and should not read like a “laundry list” or a “stream of consciousness.” 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. The exam will be handed out in class on Friday, April 18, and it will be due back on Monday, April 21, 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 located in the graduate student lounge on the third floor—please check out, photocopy, and promptly return these readings to the box. Additionally, you should purchase the following four books, which we will read in their entirety, or read large sections of—they are (or will be) available at Orange & Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th Street (across from Krispie Kreme):

- Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, Civilizing the Enemy: German Reconstruction and the Invention of the West (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2006).

1
At the beginning of each class session, I will briefly explain where you can find the readings assigned for the following week.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**January 11**  
**Introduction**  
No reading

**January 18**  
**Major Interpretive Traditions—Realist, Liberal-Wilsonian, “Open Door”**  

**January 25**  
**Recent Realist Perspectives**  

**February 1**  
**Realist/Statist Interpretations of Foreign Economic Policy**  

**February 8**  
**America’s State Structure in a Comparative Perspective**  
- Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, chaps. 1–2, 7. [115 pp.]
February 15  Domestic Politics


February 22  Public Opinion and the Media


February 29  Capitalism and Class

March 7  Social/Discursive Construction I

March 14  Enjoy Spring Break!

March 21  Social/Discursive Construction II

March 28  No Class

April 4  Bureaucratic Politics; Psychology

April 11  Bureaucratic Politics; Psychology: the case of the Vietnam War
- Khong, *Analogies at War*, chaps. 1–3, 5–6, 9 [155 pp.]
April 18
Debating Current U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East
Take-home exam handed out


Monday, April 21: Exam Due at 9:00 AM