

**Political Science 60233 Sec. 01: Great Books in International Relations Theory**  
Debartolo 334, Tuesdays 3:30-6:15pm  
Syllabus S14

Professor Dan Lindley  
Department of Political Science  
Office: 448 Decio Hall; Phone: 574-631-3226; Email: dlindley at nd.edu  
Website: <http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/>

**OVERVIEW**

This course examines a range of books that are at the heart of a number of debates in the political science sub-fields of international relations and U.S. foreign policy. These books offer arguments involving systemic, cultural, organizational/bureaucratic, and cognitive/decision-making theories. This foreign policy course is foundational for graduate students in IR, teaches FP with a security studies emphasis, and is designed to complement other offerings in the department (IR theory, IPE, IOs, etc.). Books on political psychology and organizational politics are a distinctive emphasis compared to other graduate level offerings.

This is a 'great books' class. We read one or two great books on each theory or subject. Undergraduates are not required to do the supplemental readings. After the first few classes, a student will lead each class by presenting an in-depth book review and then leading discussion. Students will prepare their reviews ahead of time in the form of short papers (5 pages+ or so) which will be distributed in advance of class to help spur discussion and comment (this requirement may be modified if the class size is small and students end up presenting more than one book). Reviews contain two elements: summary and critique. The reader should be made aware of what the author was arguing and of major flaws in the argument.

The remaining assignment is to write a 25-35 page paper that applies a chosen theory or combination of theories to explain an event in IR or U.S. foreign policy not covered in depth in the class. Paper proposals, outlines, and final drafts will be due as noted below. A template for assessing our books and articles is my handout on how to read books and articles, in the packet and available via my website: <http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/>.

Students will present their papers at the end of the semester. This gives students a dress-rehearsal at giving a conference style paper (talk for 20 minutes, and then get peppered with questions). These papers should therefore be good enough to present at a conference, and may be a first step toward a publication. These papers may also be a first step toward a dissertation topic and/or proposal.

NOTE ON BOOK COSTS: 1. I have asked the book store to order used paperback copies. 2. You may sell back your books which you buy at the bookstore. 3. The books will be on reserve and the class will be small, so reserve is a viable option for doing the readings for this class. 4.

You may be able to find these books on discount at places like Amazon.com or used ones through used book supersites such as Alibris.com, Powells.com, etc. 5. You may wish to own many of these books anyway.

## WHAT GOOD IS THIS COURSE?

GRADUATE STUDENTS: This course is a seminar in case-study methods. Your paper is case study, and we examine each book in a methodologically rigorous way (see the How to Read advice handout if you need convincing). Also, by examining exemplars in a number of core debates in IR, this course should prove quite useful in studying for general exams (and for structuring arguments, learning to critique works in depth, and writing clearly). However, this course is not a field seminar. For those wishing broader readings, please avail yourself of George Lopez's (now Keir Lieber, I think) Theories of IR course, and/or consult these two field seminar syllabi (or find others): <http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/handouts/fieldsemsyls.html>

UNDERGRADUATES: This course is ideal for those juniors wishing advance preparation for senior writing seminars and particularly honors theses. You will come away with better case study methods, presentation, and writing skills – all helpful for graduate schools. Do not be deterred by the graduate students. If you are interested in this course in the first place, chances are you will compete quite effectively.

## READINGS:

The following books are required, will be available for purchase, and will hopefully be on reserve:

\* Allison, Graham, and Zelikow, Philip, *Essence of Decision : Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2 ed., (New York, NY: Addison-Wesley, 1999)

\* Waltz, Kenneth N., *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1983)

\* Press, Daryl G., *Calculating Credibility: How Leaders Assess Military Threats* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, Sept. 2007).

\* Jervis, Robert, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976)

\* Schelling, Thomas C., *Arms and Influence* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press; November 5, 2008), Revised edition.

\* Blainey, Geoffrey, *The Causes of War* (New York, N.Y.: The Free Press, 1973)

\* Walt, Stephen M., *The Origins of Alliances* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1990)

\* Robert Axelrod and Richard Dawkins, *The Evolution of Cooperation* (New York, NY: Basic Books, 2006), Revised Edition

\* Keohane, Robert O. and Joseph S. Nye Jr., *Power and Interdependence* (New York, NY: Pearson 2011) 4 ed.

\* Lindley, Dan, *Promoting Peace with Information: Transparency as a Tool of Security Regimes* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007) Get from author for 40% off or find used.

\* Gilpin, Robert, *Global Political Economy: Understanding the International Economic Order* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001)

\* McNeill, William H., *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000* (Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1984)

Recommended for all; but especially should be owned by all POLS graduate students: Brady, Henry E. and Davis Collier, eds., *Rethinking Social Inquiry* (Rowman & Littlefield 2004), Van Evera, Stephen, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997), and Alexander L. George and Andrew Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005). We will not discuss the suggested readings.