

**The Division of Global Affairs
Rutgers University**

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**Class time: Tues 1-3.50
Class meets: Eng 201
Office hours: 4-6PM Thurs.**

Doctoral Seminar in Theory and Methods

This course is designed to assist doctoral students in preparing their dissertation proposals. As such, it is intended to acquaint students with the major substantive, epistemological, methodological and paradigmatic choices you will have to make prior to defending your proposal. As such, the course is pluralistic in its approach, seeking to acquaint you with the key literature and issues, and apply them effectively to your own work.

The course is divided into three sections.

Section 1 will examine the dominant epistemological, methodological and ontological framework in which a dissertation is embedded. The readings are generally abstract. The goal, however, is to help you understand the purpose of your dissertation and then decide the best way to frame your dissertation by addressing questions such as

1. What is a theory?
2. What is an explanation?
3. What is a puzzle?
4. What is the appropriate level of analysis for my work?
5. Which is the most appropriate methodology for me to adopt and why?

Section 2 will examine a series of questions about the relationship between state, society and alternative constructions of the field of global affairs. It will examine the dominant theories of global politics, and alternative ways of formulating the relationship between key state and societal forces. The key questions we will attempt to address include

1. What is liberalism?
2. What is democracy?
3. What is the relationship between the two?
4. What are the underlying assumptions of each approach to Global Affairs?
5. Who are the actors?
6. What is the relationship between these actors?
7. What motivates the actors?

The final section will consist of three weeks of class presentations by participants in the course.

Requirements:

Student grades will be based on four components:

1. Participants will be expected to read the assignments with care and to be well prepared for class on a weekly basis. I will rarely lecture, being reliant on students to discuss the readings and answer central questions about the assigned texts. Twenty percent of the final grade will be based on class participation, consisting of contribution to discussions and a demonstrated familiarity with the readings.
2. Participants will be required to make two class presentations based on assigned readings. Each week I shall assign a couple of the longer readings to individuals who will outline and analyze the structure and substance of the argument. Ten percent of the final grade will be awarded for each presentation.
3. Participants will also be required to make a third presentation based on their own papers in the final weeks of the course. Ten percent of their final grade will be based on their presentation.
4. Participants will be required to complete three papers. The first two will be each short, at 5-7 pages. The first will outline their puzzle and the second will examine the utility of alternative ways of explaining their puzzle. The third will be longer, at 15 pages. It will include a revision of both of the first two papers and very limited examination of the evidence relating to their proposed dissertation, No late papers will be accepted. Each short paper will be worth 10% of the final grade and the final paper will be worth 30% of the final grade.

Readings should be available on blackboard.

NB. I shall have to miss the class on April 3rd due to a professional obligation. Students should be prepared to attend a make-up class later that week.

Course policies:

For this course, no incompletes will be granted. Failure to complete any assignment on time will result in a failing grade for that paper.

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the Rutgers policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination or papers of any individual suspected of violating University Policy.

Course Readings

1. January 17. Introduction

Section One: What is a dissertation? How do I write one?

2. January 24. Purpose of theory: Explanation versus ideology

Thomas Kuhn, 'Logic of Discovery or Psychology of Research?' in Lakatos and Musgrave, Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge', pp.1-23

Imre Lakatos, 'Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research Programmes' in Lakatos and Musgrave, pp.91-195

Kenneth Waltz: Theory of International Politics, Chapter 1

Rudra Sil and Peter Katzenstein, Beyond Paradigms, Chapters 1 and 2.

3. January 31. Forms of Theory and Levels of Analysis

A. Przeworski and H. Teune: The Logic of Comparative Social Inquiry, pp.3-91.

J. David Singer: 'The Level of Analysis Problem in International Relations', World Politics, Vol.14, Oct 1961, pp.77-92.

Alexander George and Richard Smoke, Deterrence in American Foreign Policy, Appendix.

4. February 7. Comparative Explanation: Alternative Ways to Generate and Test an Explanation

A) Induction or Deduction?

Oran Young: 'Professor Russett: Industrious Tailor to a Naked Emperor', World Politics, April 1969, pp.486-511

Bruce Russett: 'The Young Science of International Politics', World Politics, October 1969, pp.87-94

B) Quantitative Methods

'Symposium', International Studies Quarterly, June 1985, pp.119-154

C) Comparison and Segmentation

Mattei Dogan and Dominique Pelassy, How to Compare Nations, pp. 99-111

Paper 1 due on February 14 entitled ‘What is my puzzle?’

5. February 14. The Single and Comparative Case Study Method

Alexander George: 'Case Study and Theory Development: The Method of Structured, Focused Comparison' in P. Gordon (ed.) Diplomacy: New Approaches in History, Theory and Policy, pp.43-68

Harry Eckstein: 'Case Study and Theory in Political Science' in Handbook of Political Science, VII, pp.96-123

Alexander George and Richard Smoke: Deterrence in American Foreign Policy, pp.88-97

Mattei Dogan and Dominique Pelassy, How to Compare Nations, pp. 117-132, and 141-156.

Section Two: Theories of State, Society and Global Affairs

6. February 21. Theories of the State: Liberalism and Democracy

John Locke, The Two Treatises of Government, Second Treatise, Chapters 2, 3, 5, 8

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Author's Intro, Part 1 Chapters 10, 13, 14, 15, 16

John-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, Book 1, Chapters 1-9; Book III, Chps. 3-7 and 12-14

Kenneth Waltz, Man, The State and War, Chapter 4

7. February 28. Realism and Transition Theory

Kenneth Waltz: Theory of International Politics, chapters 2-5.

Robert Gilpin, War and Change in World Politics, Chapters 3-5

William C. Wohlforth, “The Stability of a Unipolar World,” International Security, Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pp. 5–41.

Christopher Layne, ‘The Waning of U.S. Hegemony—Myth or Reality?’, International Security, Vol. 34, No. 1 (Summer 2009).

Richard Ned Lebow and Benjamin Valentino, "Lost in Transition: A Critique of Power Transition Theories," International Relations, 23, no. 3 (September 2009), pp. 389-410.

8. March 6. Liberalism and the Future of the Global System

Joseph S. Nye, The Paradox of American Power: Why the World's Only Superpower Can't Go It Alone, pp.ix-xvi, pp.137-171.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., "The Future of American Power", Foreign Affairs, 89:6, 2010, pp. 2-12

G. John Ikenberry, 'The Future of the Liberal World Order: Internationalism After America', *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2011

Douglass North and Robert Thomas, The Rise of the Western World: A New Economic History, Chapters 1-2.

**Paper 2 due on March 6th entitled
'What are the alternative ways of explaining my puzzle?'**

No Class March 13 due to spring break.

9. March 20. Marxism, Power and the Future of Neo-Liberalism

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*

Robert Cox, 'Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations : An Essay in Method', *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* (1983), Journal of International Studies, Volume: 12, Issue: 2, Pages: 162-175

Stephen Gill, 'Globalisation, Market Civilisation and Disciplinary Neo-Liberalism', Millennium, 24 (3) 1995: 399-422

D.H. Blake and R. Walters: The Politics of Global Economic Relations, (3rd Edition), PP.218-222

10. March 27. Constructivism and the Fusing of Social and Material Power

James Fearon and Alexander Wendt, 'Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View', in Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse-Kappen and Beth A., Simmons, Handbook of International Relations.

Richard Ned Lebow (2005), "Power, Persuasion and Justice", *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 33:3, 551–81.

Simon Reich, *Global Norms*, American Sponsorship and the Emerging Patterns of World Politics, Chapters 1 and 2.

Henry Nau, At Home Abroad: Identity and Power in American Foreign Policy.

Section 3. Applying the lessons

11. April 3. (Class will be rescheduled for later the same week). Overview of course and student presentations

12. April 10. Student Presentations

13. April 17. Student Presentations

**Paper 3 due at the beginning of class on April 24th entitled
'A preliminary evaluation of my argument'**

14. April 24. Conclusion