IR 105
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2014
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:50
Maginnes 270

Course Description: The course builds on IR 10. It aims to expose students to some of the most important controversies and debates in IR theory at a more advanced level. We shall also concern ourselves with certain important methodological, epistemological and philosophical issues as they come up in the debates between different schools of thought in IR. Finally, we shall examine some interesting empirical disputes to see how theories are applied to settle them.

Prerequisite: IR 10.

Grades will be based on two take-home essays, a final exam, and class participation. The first essay will be worth 25%, the second will be worth 35% of the grade, and the final exam will be worth 30% of the final grade. Class participation will count for the remaining 10%. There will be no make-up or extra credit assignments.

Readings: All readings, with one exception, will be available electronically on coursesite. The exception is Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (New York, NY: McGraw Hill, Inc., 1979), which students will have to purchase.

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 PM.

Accommodation for students with disability: Students who have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodation should contact both the instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center 212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must obtain documentation from Academic Support Services before accommodation can be granted.
Schedule

1. **Introduction (08/26)**
   - No readings.

2. **Knowledge and superstition (08/28)**
   - *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial* (Documentary).

3. **How do we accept and discard theories? Falsifiability (09/02)**

4. **Is social science possible (09/04)**

5. **The scientific method and international relations: a feminist critique (09/04)**

6. **Structural Realism (09/09)**
   - Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, chs. 5-6, 8.
7. Refinements of Waltz’s theory (09/11-09/16)

8. Agents and structures (09/18-09/23)

9. Case study 1: From community to anarchy? (09/25)

10. Case Study 2: From anarchy to community? (09/30)
11. The security dilemma (10/02)


13. Making credible commitments in international crises (10/14)

14. More on commitments: weakness is strength and strength is weakness (10/16)

15. Asymmetric information in mediation and intervention (10/21)

16. Domestic politics, state preferences, and foreign policy (10/23)
17. Case study 3: the Israel lobby and the US foreign policy (10/28)

18. Is the decline in the frequency of war caused by the spread of democracy? (10/30-11/04)

19. Is the decline in the frequency of war caused by economic change? (11/06)

20. Normative change and international politics (11/11-11/13)


23. Theory and prediction (12/02)

24. Summary and wrap-up (12/04 – FINAL ESSAYS DUE)
   - No readings.

Final exam date TBD