U6800: Conceptual Foundations of International Politics
Fall 2009

Professor: Stephen Sestanovich
Time: Monday 4:10-6:00
Place: 417 IAB Altschul Auditorium
Website: http://courseworks.columbia.edu

Through a review of major academic writings, lectures, and class discussion, Conceptual Foundations of International Politics examines many of the central concepts, theories, and analytical tools used in contemporary social science to understand and explain international affairs. The theoretical literature is drawn from different fields in the social sciences, including comparative politics, international relations, political sociology and economics; the lecturers include members of the Columbia faculty who are authorities in these fields (as well as, in many cases, experienced practitioners in their own right). The course is designed to enhance students' abilities to think critically and analytically about current problems and challenges in international politics.

Conceptual Foundations is a semester-long course. The lecture/plenary session meets on Monday, and the seminar-style sections also meet every week. Attending lectures and sections is obligatory, and students are required to do the assigned readings before their (6804) section because the readings and lectures form the basis of the discussion sections. Students are expected to know when and where their sections meet.

Assignments:

- Two 6-8 page papers (60%)
- One in-section group debate (20%)
- Active class participation (20%)

The coursepack is available for purchase at the Copy Center. (4th floor IAB)

All course material will be placed on Reserve at Lehman Library.
September 14: “Do We Really Need Theories of International Relations?”
Stephen Sestanovich

Stephen Walt, “International Theories: One World, Many Theories," Foreign Policy (Spring 1998) (available online)

Jack Snyder, "One World, Rival Theories," Foreign Policy (November/December 2004) (available online)


Kishore Mahbubani, “The Case Against the West,” Foreign Affairs (May/June 2008) (available online)

September 21: "Power Politics: Is There Any Other Kind?"
Robert Jervis


Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (Reading: Addison-Wesley 1979) p.102-28

Robert Gilpin, "No One Loves a Political Realist," Security Studies Volume 5, Spring 1996 (available online)


September 28: “All Regimes Are Not the Same – And Why It Matters”
Michael Doyle


October 5: “Is the Balance of Power All In Our Minds?”
Jack Snyder

Alex Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," International Organization Volume 46, Issue 2 (Spring 1992) (available online)


Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” The National Interest Volume 16 (Summer 1989) (available online)

**October 12: “States, Markets and the Global Economy”**

Jeff Sachs  
**Paper Questions Distributed in Lecture**


Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, Communist Manifesto p. 2-12 (available online)

**October 19: “Security, Morality and Weaponry”**  
Richard Betts  


**October 26: "Political Development and Democratization"**

**Sheri Berman**  
**Paper Due in Lecture**


**November 2: Academic Holiday**  
**No Lecture**  
(No Section on Monday or Tuesday; Section Meets on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
**November 9: "Inequality, Institutions, and Economic Backwardness in Latin America"
John Coatsworth**


Jeffrey G. Williamson, “Five Centuries of Latin American Inequality,” Manuscript, Harvard University (August 2009)


**November 16: “Is Colonialism to Blame for Ethnic Conflict and Failed States?”
Mahmood Mamdani
Debate Questions Distributed in Section**


**November 23: “Can China’s Rise Really Be Peaceful?”**  
*Andrew Nathan*


Zheng Bijian, "China's 'Peaceful Rise' to Great-Power Status," *Foreign Affairs* (September-October 2005) (available online)

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993) (available online)


**November 30: “Free Trade: Are the Critics Right?”**  
*Jagdish Bhagwati*  
*Debates Held in Section*  
*Paper Questions Distributed*


Dani Rodrik "Cheerleaders threat to world trade" *The Financial Times* (March 27 2007) and Dani Rodrik, “Feasible Globalizations,” Harvard University (July 2002) (available online)


**December 7: “Globalization and the State”**

**Saskia Sassen**


Lisa Anderson, “‘Antiquated Before They Can Ossify:’ States That Fail Before They Form,” *Journal of International Affairs* Volume 58, Issue 1 (Fall 2004) (available online)

Tyler Cowen, “Last Man Standing,” *The Wilson Quarterly* (Spring 2009) (available online)
December 14: “The Re-Making of American Foreign Policy”


G. John Ikenberry, "Getting Hegemony Right," *The National Interest* Volume 64 (Spring 2001) (available on-line)

Michael Mandelbaum, “Foreign Policy as Social Work,” *Foreign Affairs* (January/February 1996) (available online)


December 16: Paper Due
**Academic Integrity Statement:**

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean’s Disciplinary Procedures. Click here to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online.

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html)

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

[http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html](http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html)

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.