COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This core seminar provides an overview of the field of International Politics. Students will explore and be able to demonstrate a working understanding of: substantive issues in the field; major theoretical questions, perspectives and debates; and issues of methodology and interpretation of empirical findings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The workload for this course is extensive. Regular attendance and participation are expected. Students will complete the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss the readings. Preparation includes not only being able to identify and explain the main points of a given article but to have thought about the author’s arguments, the relationships between the week’s readings, and the relationships with earlier readings in the course.

Additional requirements are as follows:

1. Critical reviews (30%). Students will prepare 6-7 page critical reviews, each focusing on a specific week's required reading. The weeks and numbers of papers will be assigned by the instructor the first day of class. Papers must be submitted by email to the instructor (as an attached file in Word format) by the Sunday before class. Reviews must be written in paragraph form and for each article: briefly discuss each author's puzzle/paradox, main argument, and briefly discuss two major strengths and two major weaknesses. Strengths and weaknesses should explore the following: the nature and importance of the puzzle/paradox; logical consistency of the author’s assumptions/hypotheses/argument; appropriateness of illustration/test of argument, findings and the author’s interpretations of findings and the broader ramifications of the article for the field.

2. Papers (60%). Each student will write two 10-12 page papers, one due at mid-semester and one at the end of the semester. Topics will be handed out two weeks in advance. The papers will require no outside research and will require students to draw linkages across the different weeks of the course. Papers can be submitted in hard copy or as email attachments (Word format). No late papers will be accepted.

3. Class Participation (10%). In addition to contributions to class discussions, students will also be assigned to present the arguments of selected authors each week.
READINGS:

There are no books required for purchase for the course. Instead of book purchases you will be spending time/funds on printing and photocopying. All required course readings are available through the MU library. Those students with no undergraduate background in international relations coursework are strongly encouraged to purchase an undergraduate IR text (such as that used for POSC 060) for basic background reading.

Books are at the reserve desk on two hour reserve (look under POSC 206). As a courtesy to your fellow students please check out the book and photocopy the relevant sections and return the book as soon as possible.

Articles are available electronically. To find journal articles go to the MU web page, click on libraries, click on Raynor Memorial Libraries which will take you to the MARQCAT page. Search by title in the journal database. Once you find the journal in the MU catalogue there will be different listings/links for how to connect electronically by date range of the specific issue you are looking for. Some of these links will take you to EBSCO or MUSE which will have the journals accessible by year, volume and issue number. Others will take you to JSTOR which will take you to the journal but will require you to search the entire journal database for the specific article. The best way to do this is to type in the article title in the JSTOR “the exact phrase” search box. This will lead you to the article listing. Click on this and you should arrive at the article. Once you have arrived at the specific article you have a choice to make. You can read the article on line or print the article (for JSTOR look at the top of the page for information on how to print the article; for MUSE and EBSCO sometimes you can just hit your normal print button). In some cases it may be possible to download the article in PDF format to your computer.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

Week 1: August 27: Introduction and Overview


September 3: Labor Day, no class

Week 2 September 10: Realism, the Interstate System and War


**Week 3: September 17: Security Dilemmas, Deterrence and Rationality**


**Week 4: September 24: Realism and the End of the Cold War**


**Week 5: October 1: Regimes, Institutions and (Constructed) Order**


**Week 6: October 8: Liberalism and Democratic Peace**


**Week 7: October 15: Transnational Relations, Economics and the State**


**Week 8: October 22: Hegemony, Regimes and Institutions: the Paradox of Cooperation**


Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy,* Chapters 3, 8 and 9 (31-46, 135-216). On Reserve


Joseph Grieco, *Understanding the Problem of International Cooperation: The Limits of Neoliberal Institutionalism and the Future of Realist Theory,* "in *Neorealism and...*

Midterm paper Due Friday October 26 [must be submitted by 5:00 p.m.]

Week 9: October 29: Domestic Dynamics and Foreign Economic Policy


Week 10: November 5: No Class

Week 11: November 12: Power, Politics and Development


Stephen Krasner, Structural Conflict: The Third World Against Global Liberalism (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985), Chapters 1 and 10 (pp. 3-31, 267-314). On Reserve
**Week 12: November 19: Regions and Integration**


**Week 13: November 26: Where is Justice?**


**Week 14: December 3: Things Illicit**


**Final Paper: Due Wednesday, December 12 [must be submitted by 5:00 p.m.]**