Introduction to International Relations
Heather M. Smith

Goals of the Course
This course begins with an overview of the dominant paradigms in international relations and considers major issues in international relations from each perspective. Some topics covered in the course include: factors contributing to the onset and termination of war, the influence of domestic politics on interactions between states, conflicts over the environment, and the role of non-state actors in international politics.

Required Texts


3) Course reader with all of the other readings.

Grading
Grading for this course will be based on the following:
1 paper due on February 1st (20%)
1 paper due on March 1st (20%)
Participation and attendance (15%)
Final Exam (45%)

Course Outline and Assignments
Week 1
January 9: Introduction and overview.
January 11: The problem of governance without government

Week 2: The Sovereign State
January 16: The Peace of Westphalia

January 18: Westphalia Contd.

Week 3: Realism
January 23: Understanding Realist Theory
January 25: Realist Theory in Action: Using Realism to Explain the 1991 Gulf War

**Week 4: Liberal and Constructivist Critiques of Realism**
January 30: Liberal institutionalism
Keohane and Nye, “Complex Interdependence and the Role of Force” in Art and Jervis.
February 1: Constructivism [*Paper #1 due at the beginning of class*]

**Week 5: Explanations of War Onset**
February 6: Explanations for war
February 8: Rationalist explanations for war applied to WWI

**Week 6: War Continued**
February 13: The security dilemma
February 15: Domestic politics and war

**Week 7: International Political Economy and Globalization**
February 20: Intro to IPE
February 22: Effects of globalization
Week 8: Non-State Actors
February 27: International institutions
March 1: Transnational advocacy networks and NGO’s [Paper #2 Due]

Week 9: The Effects of Domestic Politics on Global Politics
March 6: A theory of domestic politics and international cooperation
March 8: Evaluating the effects of domestic politics on foreign policy

Week 10: Human Rights and the Environment
March 13: Environment
March 15: Human Rights
Keck and Sikkink, “Human Rights Advocacy Networks in Latin America,” in Activists Beyond Borders.

Final Exam