

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

## International Politics: Theory And Praxis Of Security

**Lecturer:**

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**Teaching Assistant:**

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4069	Lecture	3	3

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Exam	212406901	English

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## Course Description

### Program of the Course

#### Part 1: Theoretical Approaches to International Security

1. Introduction: the post-Cold War debates among competing theoretical approaches to war and peace
2. The Liberal perspective: the role of democracy in war and peace
3. The Liberal perspective: the role of trade and interdependence in war and peace
4. The Constructivist perspective: The role of norms and culture in war and peace
5. The role of international institutions: realist, liberal and constructivist approaches

#### Part 2: Practical Issues of International Security in the Post-Cold War Era

6. The surprising peaceful end of the Cold War
7. Is the US declining, and does it matter?
8. What is the future of the European peace? Is the "European experiment" over?

9. The rise of China and the future of war and peace in East Asia

10. Is a future major war inevitable, possible or highly unlikely?

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## Course Goals

This course is concerned with international security – that is, issues of war and peace. It builds directly on the course “Introduction to International Politics”. In the first half of the course, we will continue to explore the major competing perspectives in International Relations and their approaches to international war and peace. Having covered realism in the introductory course, we will now explore the role of democracy, trade, norms, culture and international institutions in war and peace. The course is based on the assumption that the role of theory in International Relations is to help us make sense of the real world. Accordingly, in the second part of the course we will apply the three competing theoretical approaches (realism, liberalism and constructivism) to some major practical issues of war and peace in the current era. We will discuss the following questions in light of the theoretical perspectives: Why did the Cold War end peacefully? Is the United States declining as a hegemon, and does it matter? What is the future of the European peace? Why are there increasing tensions in East Asia? To what extent does the meteoric rise of China present a threat to international security, and how should the US respond? Is a future US – China war likely, and how can it be prevented?

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## Grading

The requirements are as follows: attending at least 3/4 of the lectures; reading the required items; and taking a final test at the end of the course.

The final exam will be 100% of the course grade.

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## Reading List

### **The Reading Assignments**

#### **Part 1: Theoretical Approaches to International Security**

##### **1. Introduction: The Post-Cold War Debates among the Competing Theoretical Approaches to War and Peace**

###### **Required Reading:**

Charles Kegley, “The Neoidealist Moment in International Studies? Realist Myths and the New International Realities”, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 37, no. 2 (1993), pp. 131-146.

##### **2. The Liberal Perspective: The Role of Democracy in War and Peace**

###### **Required Reading:**

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *The National Interest*, no. 16 (summer 1989), pp. 3-18.

Azar Gat, “The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers”, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 86, no. 4 (July-August 2007), pp. 59-69.

### **3. The Liberal Perspective: The Role of Trade and Interdependence in War and Peace**

#### **Required Reading:**

Dale Copeland, "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations", *International Security*, vol. 20, no. 4 (1996), pp. 5-41.

### **4. The Constructivist Perspective: The Role of Norms and Culture in War and Peace**

#### **Required Reading:**

Michael Desch, "Culture Clash: Assessing the Importance of Ideas in Security Studies", *International Security*, vol. 23, no. 1 (1998), pp. 141-170.

### **5. The Role of International Institutions: Realist, Liberal and Constructivist Approaches**

#### **Required Reading:**

John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions", *International Security*, vol. 19, no. 3 (1994/95), pp. 5-49.

**[You do not have to read pages 37-46]**

## **Part 2: Practical Issues of International Security**

### **6. The Surprising Peaceful End of the Cold War**

#### **Required Reading:**

Richard Lebow, "The Long Peace, the End of the Cold War, and the Failure of Realism", *International Organization*, vol. 48, no.2 (1994), pp. 249-278.

### **7. Is the US declining as a hegemon?**

#### **Required Reading:**

Josef Joffe, "The Default Power: The False Prophecy of America's Decline", *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 88, no. 5 (2009), pp. 21-35.

Arvind Subramanian, "The Inevitable Superpower: Why China's Dominance Is a Sure Thing," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 5 (September/October 2011), pp. 66-78.

### **8. Peace in Europe: Is the "European Experiment" Over?**

#### **Required Reading:**

Norrin Ripsman, "Two Stages of Transition from a Region of War to a Region of Peace: Realist Transition and Liberal Endurance", *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 49 (2005), pp. 669-693.

## **9. The Rise of China and the future of peace in East Asia**

### **Required Reading:**

John Mearsheimer, "The Gathering Storm: China's Challenge to US Power in Asia", *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, vol. 3, no. 4 (2010), pp. 381-96.

Aaron Friedberg, "The Future of US – China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security*, vol. 30, no. 2 (2005), pp. 7-45.

## **10. Is a Future Major War Likely?**

### **Required Reading:**

Michael Mandelbaum, "Is Major War Obsolete?" *Survival*, vol. 40, no. 4 (1998/99), pp. 20-38.

Nils Gleditsch, "The Liberal Moment Fifteen Years On", *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 52, (2008), pp. 691-712.