



University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

Psychology and
International Relations
POL 487H1/2206H1 S

Professor Todd Hall

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Office hours by appointment

COURSE STATEMENT

International politics, at base, involves human beings interacting with other human beings. A key assumption of this course is that human actors within international relations make meaningful choices and engage in consequential behaviors that are not fully determined by external structures. Accepting this assumption means accepting that we need a theory of the human mind responsible for such choices and behaviors in order to explain observable outcomes in international politics.

This course looks at the ways in which scholars in the field of international relations have drawn upon the field of psychology as a means to enhance their theories of the human actor within international relations. Some have sought to amend rationalist models of belief formation and decision making by introducing psychological insights into the effects of biases, learning, and heuristics. Others have even challenged the very conception of human rationality by citing recent advances in neuroscience. But all share the idea that a better understanding of how the human mind works can benefit the study of international relations.

The goal of this course is to provide you with a survey of the various ways psychology has been imported into the field of international relations to challenge or improve existing models of international actors. You will be asked to critically analyze the contributions that scholars of international relations have made in enhancing our understandings of the mental processes at work behind what we see on the international stage.

The instructor would like to thank Jon Mercer, Steven Bernstein, and Victor Falkenheim for inspiring various elements of this syllabus.

Course Evaluation Schedule

Type	Percentage	Details
Weekly Response Papers	4% per paper, 40% total	Due in hard copy at the end of each class, weeks 2-11,
Participation and Attendance	20%	
Research Proposal	40%	Due on the last day of class

Weekly Response Papers:

You are required to write a one page response to the readings each week. To be clear, a response paper is not a summary. You are asked to give your thoughts about the arguments presented in the readings; this should involve creative and critical engagement. For instance, you can discuss the readings in terms of their benefits, pitfalls, implications, or possibilities for improvement. Response papers will be graded according to a +/✓/- format. A plus (10 points) means that the response paper shows significant thought and insight. A check (7 points) means that the response paper shows thought, but is lacking sufficient engagement with the readings. A minus (5 points) represents the bare minimum satisfaction of the requirements. Failure to hand in a response paper will result in a zero grade.

Seminar Attendance and Participation:

Seminar attendance is mandatory. Half of your participation grade is simply for showing up. The other half depends on your active participation in and contribution to classroom discussion.

Research Proposal Papers:

This class requires that you write a fifteen page research proposal paper due on the last day of class. The research proposal is to build upon the readings to investigate an empirical puzzle or theoretical question in international relations. To be clear, you are proposing a project that would further our understanding of a particular psychological phenomenon in international relations. You should therefore (1) outline what you intend to investigate, (2) state why this question is important, (3) review what existing literature argues, (4) describe how you would investigate this question, and (5) hypothesize on what you would expect to find. More detailed requirements will be given to you as the assignment date approaches.

Required Readings

A course pack is available for purchase at **The Copy Place** (720 Spadina, Suite 100, 416-961-2679). All other readings are available in electronic form through the University of Toronto Library website.

Conditions of Participation

By registering for this course, you are agreeing to abide by the following conditions. These conditions may appear strict, but they are meant to ensure that this course fulfills its goals. If this seems to be very contractual, that is intentional. This syllabus constitutes an agreement between the instructor and the students about their respective rights and responsibilities pertaining to the course.

*Seminar attendance is mandatory. The only way that you can be excused is by reason of documented religious holiday, health problem, or personal emergency. Documentation of religious holidays must be submitted to me within the first two weeks of the course. Documentation of health problems or personal emergencies must be submitted to me within one week of the missed seminar. Excused absences will have the attendance and participation grade for that day dropped from their final total. Response papers will still need to be submitted within one week of the absence. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a grade of “0” for the day.

*We will be using Blackboard to manage this course. This syllabus and other important information about the course, including the assignments and updated readings, will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to log on to the Blackboard website and obtain the posted information. All students must have a U of T email address to do so. You can log onto the Blackboard site at: portal.utoronto.ca. For detailed instructions, see the appendix to this outline.

*Classes begin promptly at ten minutes after. Lateness will affect your participation grade. Breaks will occur at the discretion of the instructor. In cases where there is a significant amount of material to cover, we may need to forsake the break period.

*To ensure academic freedom of expression and the limitation of content to intended audiences, audio or video recording is not permitted without the express written permission of the instructor. If you have reason to need audio recording, you must discuss this with me.

*Use of cell phones, gaming devices, or computers for non-related web-surfing or chatting during class is not permitted. This behavior is disruptive; you will be asked to leave the class.

*Office hours are by arrangement with the instructor. You may email me to schedule a time to meet.

*Readings are required and expected to be completed by the time of the seminar. The instructor reserves the right to change readings during the course, as there may be newly released publications or developments that warrant such action. In such cases, you will be notified both by Blackboard and in class the week prior.

*You are also welcome to email the instructor regarding questions or issues pertaining to the course. I will attempt to answer emails sent on weekdays within 24 hours. Emails sent after business hours on Fridays will be treated as having arrived on Monday at 8AM. In other words, do not expect immediate responses, particularly late at night or on weekends. Be aware, email sent to our utoronto addresses is property of the university and can be made public should the university deem this necessary or appropriate.

*The research proposal is due at the beginning of class on the date specified. PROPOSALS WILL BE HANDED IN VIA TURNITIN (see below) AS WELL AS IN HARD COPY. The late penalty is ½ per cent of your *final course grade* (not your essay grade) per business day late, up to a total of 5 per cent (10 days), after which, late assignments will not be accepted. Essays handed in after the start of class will count as 1 day late. The ONLY way to avoid a lateness penalty is to provide proof of a severe medical or other emergency in the form of a signed medical note, etc. that explains why you are unable to complete the assignment on time. You should make a reasonable effort to contact the instructor as soon as the problem arises. Please be advised that it is at the professor's discretion to decide on the legitimacy of the reason for an extension request and whether to accept the late assignment. Multiple assignments due at the same time or exams in other courses do not constitute legitimate reasons for waiving the late penalty. Should you have concerns about submitting your work to TURNITIN, please discuss this with the instructor during the first weeks of class to arrange an alternative.

*Late papers should be submitted on TURNITIN AND a hard copy handed in to the Political Science office, where they will be date-stamped. We will not accept assignments handed in under the professor's office door, in mailboxes, by email or fax. ***Always keep an extra copy of your assignments that you can email to us on short notice. Also keep a copy of your rough notes.***

**THE FINAL GRADES IN THIS COURSE ARE FINAL.* The grades are not arbitrary; they reflect our assessment of your work as a demonstration of your progress towards the goals of this class. If you need to maintain a certain average, or get a specific minimum grade in this class, make sure that the quality of your work warrants this grade. Remember, an “A” letter grade means that, according to the Faculty Guidelines, you have shown “outstanding performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter and sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.” You should not expect an “A” simply for completing the basic requirements.

*Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or the course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Using the words, content, or ideas of others in written work for which you will receive credit in this course requires citing that work. This includes ideas or articles found on the internet. Failure to properly cite other people’s words or ideas constitutes plagiarism and is a **very serious** academic offence, as are other forms of academic dishonesty. *If you are uncertain whether citation is needed, or how to cite properly, please consult the instructor or your T.A.* See also the departmental memo on plagiarism attached to this syllabus. Ignorance of citation requirements does not constitute an excuse.
- *Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.*

Course Plan

Week 1: January 13

Class Introduction

Week 2: January 20

“The Rational Baseline”

Morrow, JD. 1994. *Game Theory for Political Scientists*: Princeton University Press. pp.17-43

Duncan Snidal, “Rational Choice and International Relations,” In *Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse-Kappen and Beth A. Simmons, Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications. pp. 73-94.

Simon, HA. 1985. Human Nature in Politics: The Dialogue of Psychology with Political Science. *The American Political Science Review*: 293-304.

Week 3: January 27

Leaders as Individuals in IR

Byman, DL, and KM Pollack. 2001. Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In. *International Security* 25(4): 107-46.

McDermott, Rose. 2004. *Political Psychology in International Relations* Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapter 7-8

Henry A. Murray, “Analysis of the Personality of Adolph Hitler: With Predictions of His Future Behavior and Suggestions for Dealing with Him Now and After Germany's Surrender.” Available at:
<http://library.lawschool.cornell.edu/WhatWeHave/SpecialCollections/Donovan/Hitler/Hitler-TOC.cfm>

Week 4: February 3

Information, Beliefs, and Biases

Kaufmann, CD. 1994. Out of the Lab and into the Archives: A Method for Testing Psychological Explanations of Political Decision Making. *International Studies Quarterly* 38(4): 557-86.

Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4

Week 5: February 10

Learning

Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 6

Levy, Jack. 1994. Learning and Foreign Policy: Sweeping a Conceptual Minefield. *International Organization* 48(02): 279-312.

Week 6: February 17

Analogies and Metaphors

Khong, YF. 1992. *Analogies at War: Korea, Munich, Dien Bien Phu, and the Vietnam Decisions of 1965*: Princeton Univ Pr. Chapters 1-2, 8-9

Shimko, Keith L. 1994. Metaphors and Foreign Policy Decision Making *Political Psychology*, 15(4): 655-71.

Week 7: February 24 NO CLASS

Week 8: March 3

Prospect Theory and IR

McDermott, Rose. 2001. *Risk-Taking in International Politics: Prospect Theory in American Foreign Policy*: Univ of Michigan Pr. pp. 1-77, 165-186.

Levy, Jack. 1992. Prospect Theory and International Relations: Theoretical Applications and Analytical Problems. *Political Psychology* 13(2): 283-310.

Week 9: March 10

Images

Herrmann, Richard K., and Michael P. Fischerkeller. 1995. Beyond the Enemy Image and Spiral Model: Cognitive-Strategic Research after the Cold War. *International Organization* 49(3): 415-50.

Herrmann, Richard K., James F. Voss, Tonya Y. E. Schooler, and Joseph Ciarrochi. 1997. Images in International Relations: An Experimental Test of Cognitive Schemata. *International Studies Quarterly* 41(3): 403-33

Week 10: March 17

NO CLASS

Week 11: March 24

Social Identity Theory and IR

Mercer, Jonathan. 1995. Anarchy and Identity. *International Organization* 49(2): 229-52.

Gries, Peter. H. 2005. Social Psychology and the Identity-Conflict Debate: Is a 'China Threat' inevitable? *European Journal of International Relations* 11(2): 235-65.

Shamir, M, and T Sagiv Schifter. 2006. Conflict, Identity, and Tolerance: Israel in the Al Aqsa Intifada. *Political Psychology* 27(4): 569-95.

Week 12: March 31

The Emotions in IR

Crawford, Neta. 2000. The Passion of World Politics. *International Security* 24(4): 116-54.

Löwenheim, Oded, and Gadi Heimann. 2008. Revenge in International Politics. *Security Studies* 17: 685-724.

Saurette, Paul. 2006. You Dissin Me? Humiliation and Post 9/11 Global Politics. *Review of International Studies* 32(3): 495-522.

Week 13: April 7

The Emotions in IR (Part 2): Complex Emotion, Affect, and Rationality

McDermott, Rose. 2004. The Feeling of Rationality: The Meaning of Neuroscientific Advances for Political Science. *Perspectives on Politics* 2(4): 691-706.

Mercer, Jonathan. 2010. Emotional Beliefs. *International Organization* 64(Winter): 1-31.

Hall, Todd and Andrew Ross. 2010. Affect and IR. *Working paper*.

Week 14: April 12 (Make up class)

“Where should we go from here?”

Research Proposal Presentations
