Northwestern University
440 Winter 2016

International Relations Theory
Graduate Seminar

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This seminar provides an introduction to contemporary issues in international relations theory. It presents various approaches and views toward core concepts such as power, anarchy, sovereignty, law, normativity, and more, as they are used in IR scholarship. The course is designed to support students’ interests in research on topics in international politics.

Seminar meetings: Friday, noon to 3pm, Ripton Room, Scott Hall

Office hours Wednesday 10-12, rm 306 Scott Hall.

Assignments

- Seminar participation 50%
  - contributions by every seminar member expected every session

- Seminar presentation 10%
  - introduce one reading one week, with material to launch the discussion

- Final essay 40%
  - 10-page proposal, outline, and bibliography of a research paper

Required Texts


**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND MEETINGS**

January 8 - Introductions


January 15 - Anarchy


January 22 - Power


January 29 - Power - II

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, through Chapter 5 or so.


Karl Marx and Fredrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*.


February 5 - Sovereignty


February 12 - Varieties of Modes of Inquiry in IR


Ian Shapiro. 2004. “Problems, Methods, and Theories in the Study of Politics, or: What’s Wrong with Political Science and What to do about it.” In Ian Shapiro,


**February 19 - ‘Normativity’ and IR Research**


**February 26 - International Law**


March 4 — no meeting