The course is designed to familiarize undergraduate students with important realist scholarship, and some important critiques of that scholarship.

All reading is required. Required reading must be completed before the class for which the reading is scheduled to be discussed.

Class Participation

The format of the class will be a mixture of lecture, group discussion and debate. Students must do the readings, and come prepared to discuss them in class. Everyone is expected to participate in class discussions.

Each student will choose a particular week’s readings and be prepared to “co-lead” a group discussion each week. Each co-leader should prepare a 12-15 minute presentation: 5 minutes on summarizing the main points of the argument, and the remainder making criticisms and raising questions for discussion. Co-leaders should distribute the list of questions to the class no later than 5pm of the Monday before the class. The list may be distributed electronically.

As an additional incentive to encourage timely reading, the instructor will schedule quizzes on the assigned material.

Note: Depending on the size of class, students may be required to participate as “co-leader” two or three times during the semester. If more than one co-leader is assigned to a week, co-leaders should meet to coordinate their remarks.

Written Assignments:

There are two take-home assignment: a five-seven page paper in which students further explore a particular topic from weeks 1-8 (worth 35% of the final grade); and a five-seven page paper in which students either answer an essay question on material covered in weeks 9-15 or write a research paper applying realist theory to a historical event of their choice (worth 40% of the final grade). The remaining 25% of the grade depends on in-class participation.
Both written assignments must use 1.5 line spacing, must be presented in Times New Roman 12 point font, and must have 1 inch margins at top and bottom, and 1.2 inch margins on left and right.

Footnotes/Endnotes, bibliographies and block quotations will not be counted when calculating essay length for the two take-home assignments.

**Assignment One – Discussion Paper – due October 20th**

A 5-7 page discussion and critique of a topic from weeks 2 -8. Students must explore the topic by finding additional scholarly materials using library resources. Students will find and read other scholarly books and articles which address the topic, and provide a discussion of important issues that have been debated and discussed.

**Assignment Two – Application of Realist Theories or Essay Question – due Nov 17**

A 5-7 page paper showing how different strands of realism can be applied to a particular historical event. For example, students might compare defensive structural realism’s and power transition theory’s accounts for the causes of World War One. Alternatively, students can choose to answer a question based on materials covered in weeks 9-14. Essay questions for the second alternative will be handed out on Nov 3.

Additional information on how to approach these two assignments will be given in class.

**Attendance**

Attendance will be monitored. Students are permitted to miss one class at their discretion. Absences in excess of the one class allowance must be for cause. Please provide a written explanation, together with supporting documentation. For example, if you miss a class due to medical reasons, please provide a letter from your doctor. Absences in excess of the one class limit that are not for cause may at the instructor’s discretion result in a lesser and possibly failing grade.

**Mutual Respect**

Members of the class will be expected to exhibit appropriate behavior to the instructor and each other. Most importantly, students are required to give to others the respect and consideration they would wish for themselves. At its best, a classroom operates as a marketplace of ideas, where open discussion permits students to digest and evaluate information. Students must realize that while it is permissible to question a competing point of view, it is never appropriate to allow the conversation to degenerate into personal attacks. It is also expected that students will exhibit good manners, listen when others are talking, and generally behave in a professional manner. Students who behave inappropriately may be asked to leave the classroom and will have points deducted from their final grades.
**Cheating**
Cheating on an exam or paper assignment will result in an automatic loss of all points for that assignment and possibly an E for the entire course. Cheating includes looking at notes/readings during closed-book exams. Cheating also includes copying any part of a classmate’s work, or failing to cite or quote where appropriate.

**Incompletes and Make-Up Exams**
An incomplete will only be given in exceptional cases (i.e., illness or other circumstances beyond the student’s control). Students will only be given an incomplete if they have been doing passing work during the course of the semester. Make-up exams will be given only in exceptional circumstances and only when the student can provide documentation of an illness or some other cause for failing to take the exam at the scheduled time.

**SCHEDULE AND READING LIST**

(1) **Aug 25**  **INTRODUCTION: REALIST INTERNATIONAL POLITICS**

(2) **Sep 1**  **LEVELS OF ANALYSIS AND PARADIGMS****


(3) **Sep 8**  **ANARCHY**


(4) **Sep 15**  **POWER**


(5) Sep 22  CLASSICAL REALISM


(6) Sep 29  BALANCE OF POWER THEORY


(7) Oct 6  RISE AND FALL REALISM


(8) Oct 13  NEOREALISM ****


(9) Oct 20  DEFENSIVE STRUCTURAL REALISM


(10) Oct 27  OFFENSIVE STRUCTURAL REALISM


Tina Jones, guest lecture.

(11) Nov 3  NEOTRADITIONAL/NEOCLASSICAL REALISTS

(12) Nov 10  REALISM AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE


(13) Nov 17  REALISM AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS


(14) Dec 1  CONCLUSION: REALISM AND AMERICAN POWER