

**International Relations and Diplomacy
PP5258**

(Gateway Course for the International Relations Specialization)

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore

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Dr. Kanti Bajpai

Email: sppkpb@nus.edu.sg

Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4 pm, Thursday 2-4 pm

Course Description

This course is designed for students with little background in international relations. It is designed to introduce students to the analysis of international relations from the point of view of policy making – what are the major issues in the international system, how can we think about them analytically, and what kinds of policy options are available to manage or resolve the challenges facing governments and societies. The course begins with a review of the major theories of International Relations, lenses through which we can understand the complexity of events. It then goes on to deal with a range of contemporary challenges beginning with great power conflict and ending with global challenges (climate change, the competition for energy, pandemics and health). The objective is to help students understand international issues in their own right but also to think about the inter-relationship between international/global issue and norms and domestic choices. The course has been developed with an on eye Asia and the rise of China.

Course Framework

This course has the following goals:

- To help students understand the major issues on the international agenda and of interest to Asia in particular
- To encourage problem-solving thinking about these issues
- To foster an appreciation of the complexity of the challenges facing policy makers and of the inter-relationship between domestic politics and international politics
- To provide an overview of the major theoretical and conceptual tools for thinking about International Relations
- To give students an opportunity to engage with a key international issue of interest to them and to write a research and policy paper on it

Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Be able to identify the major policy challenges and major actors in the international system and relevant to Asia
- Understand the evolution and points of contestation between the great powers in the international system, namely, the US and China
- Be knowledgeable about the key challenges in Asia as well as the rise of China
- Have a comprehension of various global commons problems and comprehend the increasing role of non-state actors
- Identify the major theoretical traditions that have informed approaches to the study and understanding of international relations

Readings

The readings in the course are intended to provide students with a strong base for the other courses in International Relations. The idea is for you to engage with some of the best writings on the subject as a way of increasing your capacity to think about the state of the world, why it is the way it is, and how it could be different. The readings are conceptually and theoretically grounded, in most cases. Concepts and theories help describe the world we live in, they lead us towards explanations of why we do what we do, and how we affect the world. Both policy makers and students of public policy need concepts and theories to understand what is happening and why. I have tried to limit our weekly reading to about 60 pages.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in the following manner:

Presentation (one)	10%	Sign up for any week in the semester
Short paper 1	20%	Due in class Week 6 (choose any topic from Week 3-8)
Short paper 2	20%	Due in class Week 9 (choose any topic from week 9-13)
Term paper	50%	Due in class Week 13

Presentation:

- Making a presentation is an important skill.
- The aim is to get students to make a 15-minute presentation and to answer questions for 5 minutes from the class.
- The presentations will be graded by all the other students and by me. Students will send me their grades confidentially.
- The presentations can either be a summary of the main arguments in the readings for that week; or it can take a more critical position towards the readings.
- We will begin each classes with the presentations.

The Short Papers:

- The length of the paper should be 2000 words.
- The idea is to get students to think about a policy issue and to lay out the options in dealing with that policy. For example, what are the policy options in dealing with Iran's nuclear programme? In order to answer this question, you will probably have to "pretend" that you are a policy maker for one of the actors involved in the issue – e.g. Iran, the US, Israel, China, etc. Students are free to use the discussions questions to help them write their short papers: they could choose to answer one or more or those questions.
- The students should draw on the readings they have done on that topic, other readings done in the course, and readings from other sources to present the various policy options for a country or organization in dealing with that problem.
- They should then argue the case for the best option, as they see it.

- The readings are a resource. The objective is not to assess the readings. It is to use the readings to try and lay out the options and to think about the costs and benefits of various options.

The Term Paper:

- The length of the paper should be 5000 words (not including the bibliography).
- The idea here is similar to the short papers except that the length of the paper is bigger. However, the paper should not be on the same topic as the short papers.
- The term paper should address a policy issue. It should lay out the various options for dealing with that issue and then make a recommendation for the best option.
- It should draw on the relevant course readings and also other readings that the student has found through his research.
- The paper should begin with stating what the issue is and why it is important.
- It should have a context section which tells the reader the historical and other background to the issue – how the issue arose, what policies were tried, how we have got where we have.
- The main part of the paper should then lay out the various policy options available to decision-makers and to assess the costs and benefits, feasibility or lack of it, associated with each option.
- The paper should conclude with which option is best and why.
- Term paper topics should be discussed with me. I can help make sure that you are on the right track and give you suggestions on sources.

A brief note on plagiarism:

Please be aware of plagiarism: it is a serious offence. Plagiarism is passing off someone else's data, words, and ideas as your own.

You must cite appropriately. Here is an excerpt from the Harvard Kennedy School's guidelines on citation, which is useful:

“Facts: If you assert a fact, you should be able to document it with reliable sources.

Quotes: If you use text that someone else has written, put it in quotes and credit the original author.

Ideas: If you use ideas that reflect someone else's original insight, acknowledge their contribution (even if you don't use their exact words).”

Do note that if the language you use is “substantially” close to someone else's text and even if you cite the original author, it is plagiarism.

All written submissions will be checked with turnitin.com for possible plagiarism

Course Structure

August 14: Course Introduction (Shopping Week)

August 21 (Week 2): Theory: Realism; Liberalism

Jack Donnelly, "Realism," in Scott Burchill et al, *Theories of International Relations* (New York: Palgrave, 2009), pp. 31-56.

Kuik Cheng-Chwee, "Malaysia's China Policy in the Post-Mahathir Era: A Neoclassical Realist Explanation," RSIS Working Paper, No. 244, RSIS, July 30, 2012, downloaded from <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/workingpapers/wp244.pdf>. (skim)

Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, 4th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), chapter 4, pp. 96-126.

Discussion questions:

- How much does the distribution of power explain? What is power?
- Do interdependence, international institutions, and democracy foster peace?
- How norms help produce cooperation? When do relative gains matter?
- Does domestic politics affect foreign policy?

August 28 (Week 3): Theory: Constructivism; Global Governance

Robert Jackson and Georg Sorensen, *Introduction to International Relations: Theories and Approaches*, 4th ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), chapter 6, pp. 159-180.

James Rosenau, "Governance in a New Global Order," in David Held and Anthony McGrew, eds., *Governing Globalization: Power, Authority and Global Governance* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001, 2011), pp. 70-86.

Robert Gilpin, "A Realist Perspective on International Governance," in David Held and Anthony McGrew, eds., *Governing Globalization: Power, Authority and Global Governance* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001, 2011), pp. 237-248. (skim)

Discussion questions:

- Do ideas and identity matter more than power and other material factors?
- How can we tell if ideas and identity affect decision making?
- Can we really talk about "governance" in global affairs? What are the limits of global governance?

September 5 (Week 4): The Great Powers: The Rise of China, What it Means, and China-US Relations

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

Kenneth Liberthal and Wang Jisi, *Addressing US-China Strategic Distrust*, Monograph 4, John L. Thornton China Center at Brookings, March 2012, pp. 7-33 (chapter on China by Wang Jisi), download from

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/3/30%20us%20china%20lieberthal/0330_china_lieberthal.

Zhang Weiwei, *The China Wave: Rise of a Civilizational State* (Hackensack, New Jersey: World Century Publishing, 2012), chapter 1 and 3. (skim)

Henry Kissinger, "The Future of US-Chinese Relations," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 91, no. 2, March/April 2012, p. 44-55. (skim)

Discussion questions:

- Will the US and China go to war?
- Is the conflict between the US and China about power/status, misperception, the nature of world order/ideology, or culture and identity?
- Is the era of US-China cooperation over?

September 12 (Week 5): The Future of East and Southeast Asia: China in Asia

David Kang, "Getting Asia Wrong: The Need for New Analytical Frameworks," *International Security*, vol. 27, no. 4, Spring 2003, pp. 57-85.

Amitav Acharya, "Will Asia's Past Be Its Future?" *International Security*, vol. 28, no. 3, Winter 2003/4, pp. 149-164.

Lalita Boonpriwan, "The South China Sea dispute: Evolution, Conflict Management and Resolution," paper for ICIRD 2012 conference, Thailand, downloaded from <http://www.icird.org/2012/files/papers/Lalita%20Boonpriwan.pdf>.

Li Mingjiang, "Chinese Debates of South China Sea Policy: Implications for Future Developments," *RSIS Working Paper*, No. 239, RSIS, Singapore, May 17, 2012, downloaded from <http://www.rsis.edu.sg/publications/WorkingPapers/WP239.pdf>.

Discussion questions:

- Will China be a benign hegemon in Asia?
- Can regional institutions and norms bring China and Southeast Asia closer? Or should the regional states seek powerful allies to check China?
- What can be done to reduce conflict in the South China Sea?

September 19 (Week 6): Regional Rivalry: China-India, India-Pakistan

David Scott, "Sino-Indian Security Predicaments for the Twenty-First Century," *Asian Security*, vol. 4, no. 3, 2008, pp. 244-270.

Lora Saalman, "Between 'China Threat Theory' and 'Chindia': Chinese Responses to India's Military Modernization," *Chinese Journal of International Politics*, vol. 4, 2011, pp. 87-114.

T.V. Paul, "Why Has the India-Pakistan Rivalry Been so Enduring? Power Asymmetry and an Intractable Conflict," *Security Studies*, 15:4 (October-December 2006), pp. 600-630.

- Is it power/status, misperception, ideology, identity that explains the China-India, India-Pakistan rivalry?
- Will there be war between these countries in the future?
- How can they cooperate and resolve their differences?

October 2 (Week 7): Proliferation, Nuclear Terrorism

Scott D. Sagan, "The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," *International Security* (Spring 1994), pp. 66-108.

Mathew Kroenig, "Time to Attack Iran," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2012, pp. 76-86.

Colin H. Kahl, "Not Time to Attack Iran," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012, pp. 166-173. (skim)

Feng Zhu, "Flawed Mediation and a Compelling Mission: Chinese Diplomacy in the Six-Party Talks to Denuclearize North Korea," *East Asia*, vol. 28, no. 3, 2011, pp. 191-218.

James W. Moore, "Nuclear Terrorism: Exaggerating the Threat?" *The Journal of Conflict Studies*, vol. 26, no. 1, Summer 2006.

Discussion questions:

- Why is the spread of nuclear weapons worrying?
- How can the international community and Iran work out their differences?
- What can China and other powers do about North Korea's nuclear programme?
- How worrying is the threat of nuclear terrorism?

October 9 (Week 8): Ethnic Violence, Humanitarian Intervention, "R2P"

Stuart J. Kaufman, "Ethnic Conflict," in Paul D. Williams, ed., *Security Studies: An Introduction* (Abingdon, Oxford: Routledge, 2008), pp. 200-215.

James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin, "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97, 1 (February 2003), pp.75-90.

Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2011, pp. 48-59.

Benjamin A. Valentino, "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2011, pp. 60-73.

Andrew Garwood-Gowers, "China and the Responsibility to Protect: The Implications of the Libyan Intervention," *Asian Journal of International Law* First View (1-19).

Discussion questions:

- Is ethnic conflict due to "ancient hatreds" or elite manipulation? Why is there ethnic violence?
- What are the costs and benefits of humanitarian intervention?
- Why are countries such as China and India suspicious of humanitarian intervention/R2P?

October 16 (Week 9): Terrorism; the End of Al Qaeda?

Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review*, vol. 97, no. 3, 2003, pp. 1-19.

Assaf Moghadam, "Motives for Martyrdom: Al Qaeda, Salafi Jihad, and the Spread of Suicide Attacks," *International Security*, vol. 33, no. 3, Winter 2008/9, pp. 46-78.

Max Abrahms, "What Terrorists Really Want: Motives and Counter-terrorism Strategy," *International Security*, vol. 32, no. 4, Spring 2008, pp. 78-105.

Fawaz Gerges, *The Rise and Fall of Al Qaeda* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), Chapter 4 and Conclusion.

Discussion question:

- Are terrorists rational and strategic? Or are they driven by emotion and ideology? Do poverty, demography, and other socio-economic factors foster terrorism?
- Is Al Qaeda about to collapse? Does that mean the end of global terrorism?

October 23 (Week 10): Democratization

Jack A. Goldstone, "Understanding the Revolutions of 2011: Weakness and Resilience in Middle Eastern Autocracies," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2011, pp. 8-16.

David Beetham, "The Contradictions of Democratization by Force: The Case of Iraq," *Democratization*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2009, pp. 443-454.

Barnett Rubin and Ahmed Rashid, "From Great Game to Grand Bargain: Ending Chaos in Afghanistan and Pakistan," *Foreign Affairs*, November-December 2008.

Faoud Ajami, "The Arab Spring at One," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2012, pp. 56-65.

Ali Parchami, "The 'Arab Spring': The View from Tehran," *Contemporary Politics*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2012, pp. 35-52. (skim)

Victor D. Cha and Nicholas D. Anderson, "A North Korean Spring?" *The Washington Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 1, Winter 2012, pp. 7-24.

Discussion questions:

- Why have democratic upsurges suddenly broken out in the Arab world?
- What have been the effects of the Afghan and Iraq interventions?
- Is democratization likely to bring about stability and will it spread to Asia?

October 30 (Week 11): Dealing with Climate Change

Council on Foreign Relations, "The Global Climate Change Regime," Issue Brief, July 2012, downloaded from <http://www.cfr.org/climate-change/global-climate-change-regime/p21831>.

Gørild Heggelund, "China's Climate Change Policy Domestic and International Developments," *Asian Perspectives*, Vol. 31, No. 2, 2007, pp. 155-191, downloaded from <http://www.asianperspective.org/articles/v31n2-g.pdf>.

Sandeep Sengupta, "International Climate Change Negotiations and India's Role," in Navroz Dubash, ed., *Handbook of Climate Change and India: Development, Politics, and Governance* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 101-117.

Daniel Bodansky, "The Copenhagen Climate Change Conference: A Postmortem," *The American Journal of International Law*, vol. 104, no. 2, April 2010, pp. 125-138.

David Biello, "What Is Geoengineering and Why Is It Considered a Climate Change Solution?" *Scientific American*, April 6, 2010, downloaded from <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=geoengineering-and-climate-change>. (skim)

Bjorn Lomborg, "Environmental Alarmism, Then and Now," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 91, no. 4, July/August 2012, pp. 24-40. (skim)

Discussion questions:

- Why has the world not been able to get agreement on carbon emission limits?
- Are China and India "spoilers" in climate change negotiations? What is driving their stances?
- Do we need to think beyond carbon emissions? Are we suffering from environmental alarmism?

November 6 (Week 12): The Scramble for Energy

Roland Dannreuther, "China and Global Oil: Vulnerability and Opportunity," *International Affairs*, vol. 87, no. 6, 2011, pp. 1345-1364.

Navroz K. Dubash, "From Norm Taker to Norm Maker: Indian Energy Governance in Global Context," *Global Policy*, vol. 2, Special Issues, September 2011, pp. 66-79.

Michael T. Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet: How Scarce Energy is Creating a New World Order* (Oxford: One World, 2008), pp. 146-176 on Africa.

Navroz K. Dubash and Ann Florini, "Mapping Global Energy Governance," *Global Policy*, vol. 2, Special Issues, September 2011, pp. 6-18.

Ruth Ravve, "Shale Oil in America: Economy Fix or Dangerous Fantasy?" *Fox News.com*, December 27, 2011, downloaded from <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/12/27/shale-oil-in-america-economy-fix-or-dangerous-fantasy/#ixzz22NNfQdoc>.

Discussion questions:

- How are China and India thinking about their energy needs? Will the discovery of huge shale oil deposits in the US and other places reduce the problem of energy demand?
- What are the effects of their scramble for energy on other regions such as Africa?
- What can the international community do to promote cooperation in energy? Is global energy governance desirable or should the market take care of supply and demand?

November 12 (Week 13): Pandemics and Global Health Governance

Rachel Irwin, "Indonesia, H5N1, and Global Health Diplomacy," *Global Health Governance*, vol. III, no. 2, Spring 2010.

Ethan B. Kapstein and Busby, "Making Markets for Merit Goods: The Political Economy of Antiretrovirals," *Global Policy*, vol. 1, no. 1, January 2010, pp. 75-90.

“Debating an End to AIDS,” Interview with Laurie Garrett, Council on Foreign Relations, July 27, 2012, downloaded from <http://www.cfr.org/health-and-disease/debating-end-aids/p28759>.

K. Lee and D. Fidler, “Avian and Pandemic Influenza: Progress and Problems with Global Health Governance,” *Global Public Health*, vol. 2, no. 3, 2007, pp. 215-234.

Lawrence O. Gostin and Emily Mok, “Grand Challenges in Global Health Governance,” *British Medical Bulletin*, 2009: 90: 7-18.

Thomas J. Bollyky, “Developing Symptoms,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2012, pp. 134-145. (skim)

Discussion questions:

- How has the world responded to pandemics like HIV/AIDS and influenza?
- What is the role of non-state actors in global health issues? Has it been a positive role on the whole?
- What are the key challenges of global health governance?