This seminar surveys the key paradigms and theoretical perspectives in International Relations. We will cover cross-paradigmatic themes with an aim of inculcating theoretical pluralism and tolerance of diverse perspectives. The course will help PhD students preparing for their IR comprehensive exam, while providing MA students with a sound theoretical foundation. It aims to train graduate students in efficient and critical reading of complex materials and arguments. The premium is on how to methodically analyze a book or an article in order to grasp its structure, cast its argument in relation to others, and develop original and critical thinking. The course does not cover every aspect of IR but it offers the background theoretical knowledge necessary for other courses in security, political economy, foreign policy analysis, international development, global governance, global and regional order, civil conflict etc.

Requirements
Students are expected to write 3 short essays (8-10 double-spaced pages each) on agreed topics, covered in the course. They could be reviews of works as well as application of a set of theories to a case or an extrapolation of an argument into new directions. MA students can opt for a longer paper of 25 double-spaced pages if they choose. A one-paragraph outline of the papers should be distributed among the participants beginning from the third week and the seminar will discuss each of the research topics individually. All papers should conform to Chicago style of footnotes and bibliography. In addition, each student is expected to make several oral presentations on the basis of the required readings for the week. The deadline for paper submission is November 28, 2019.

Statement of Academic Integrity
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, double submission, and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Evaluation
Essay outline and presentations .... 10%
Class participation & attendance .... 30%
3 Research Essays (20 marks each) .... 60%
Week I (Sept 5)
Introduction, Overview of IR Discipline


Week 2 (Sept 12)
Realism: Classical, Structural, Neoclassical

Waltz, Kenneth, Theory of International Politics, New York, Random House, 1979, Chs. 4-6 and 8.
Lobell, Steven E. Norrin M. Ripsman, and Jeffrey Taliaferro, eds., Neoclassical Realism, the State and Foreign Policy, Cambridge University Press, 2009; ch.1. pp.41, Ch.10

Week 3 (Sept 19)
Balance of Power and Hegemonic Stability

Paul, T.V. Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era (New Haven:
Yale University Press, 2018), chs.1, 2 & 8.

Week 4 (Sept 26)
Liberalism


Week 5 (Oct 3)
Democratic Peace

Sorensen, Georg, A Liberal World Order in Crisis: Choosing Between Imposition and Restraint, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011), Intro, 1, 2; Conclusion.

Week 6 (Oct 10)
Constructivism


**Week 7 (Oct 17)**

*Alternative Perspectives*


**Week 8 (Oct 24)**

*Change in World Politics*


**Week 9 (Oct 31) Global IR; Regional Orders**


**Week 10 (Nov 7) Security Dilemma; The Spiral Model; Arms Races and War**


**Week 11 (Nov 14) Deterrence & Strategic Interaction**


**Week 12 (Nov 21)**

**Nuclear Revolution**


**Week 13 (Nov 28)**

**Foreign Policy Making**


Additional Readings

Note: These readings are useful for your paper writing and comprehensive exam preparation. They will not be discussed in the class.

Paradigms, Epistemology, Methodology
Singer, J. D. “The Level of Analysis Problem” World Politics, 1’4, 1, October 1961, 324-35.


Realism
Mastanduno in Paul and Hall, International Order and the Future of World Politics
Morgenthau, Politics among Nations
Aron, Peace and War
Waltz, Man, State and War

English School
Wight, Martin, Power Politics (1978)

Liberalism
Kant, Immanuel, Perpetual Peace and other Essays
Locke, John, Two Treatises of Government
Dale C. Copeland, Economic Interdependence and War (Princeton University Press, 2015), 1-50; 428-446.

**Constructivism**

**Global Governance**

**International Law**

**Alternative Perspectives**


**Domestic Politics**


**Foreign Policy Making**


**Nuclear Weapons/Proliferation**


**Status Quest**

Larson, Deborah Welch and Alexei Shevchenko, Quest for Status: Chinese and Russian Foreign Policy (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019).


**Other**


**Methods/Writing**

UC Berkley, Dissertation writing guidelines: 
file:///Users/paul/Desktop/Courses/Dissertation%20Proposal%20Resources%20%7C%20UC%20Berkley%20Institute%20of%20International%20Studies.webarchive

Andrew Moravcsik, “Active Citation: a Precondition for Replicable Qualitative Research,” *PS*, January 2011:29-35.