

Week 1: September 5th (Introduction)

International Relations:

- Politics that stretch beyond a country's borders
- Unit of Analysis: focus on states, governments, organizations, corporations, NGOs, individuals
- Issues: Security, economic, environment, human rights, health, space, cyber governance
- Examples: North Korea and nuclear weapons, US and Russian relations, climate change, future of NAFTA, refugees
- State: (Not USA) Gov. claiming sovereign authority over lands and people
- Nation: Group of people with shared identity
- Country: Line on a map

The Fog of War:

- Lessons:
 - 1. Empathize with your enemy. McNamara believes that we should look at the world through the eyes of our enemies to understand their decisions (Cuban Missile Crisis, soft vs. hard message and JFK's response)
 - 2. Rationality alone will not save you. McNamara claims that luck in part saved us during the CMC. He thinks there is still nuclear war potential
 - 3. There's something beyond one's self: McNamara talks about the life events that contributed to his policy decisions later in his life as Defense Secretary. (Outside circumstances affecting you as a person later)
 - 4. Maximize Efficiency: McNamara recounts his time in WWII when he was assigned to the 58th Bomb Wing where he was largely responsible for firebombing Japanese cities which increased the efficiency of US bomber runs.
 - 5. Proportionality should be a guideline in war. McNamara poses the question on whether it was necessary to drop two atomic bombs on Japan after having destroyed so much already with the firebombing. He believes the US were indeed acting as war criminals by destroying so much. He compares the sizes of US cities vs. the Japanese cities bombed.
 - 6. Get the data. While working at Ford, McNamara commissioned many studies to gain information to make cars safer and more successful. This led him to become the first non-Ford family president. He then went on to become the Secretary of Defense where he stressed JFK to consider and educate himself on the situations of each country before making decisions.
 - 7. Belief and seeing are both often wrong. Film shows various tapes talking about the Gulf of Tonkin and whether it had truly happened, they agree that it did occur. It had not.
 - 8. Be prepared to reexamine your reasoning. McNamara explains that even if the US is the most powerful nation today, not to use that unilaterally.
 - 9. In order to do good you must engage in evil. Although this is true, you have to try to minimize evil. McNamara sympathized with the anti-war protesters.

- 10. Never say never. McNamara thinks that had JFK been alive, the Vietnam war would have played out much better.
- 11. You can't change human nature. "Fog of War" refers to how complex and blurry war can be and that humans can't ever fully comprehend the complexities at once. He thinks human nature would make it impossible to end war anytime soon. McNamara talked about him not speaking about the war once resigned. He explained that he would be damned for saying anything and damned for saying nothing at all.
- I think it's clear that many of McNamara's lessons within "The Fog of War" are quite present in his views of the world and the way he made his career choices.

Global Politics: Chapters 1 & 2

- Chapter 1:
 - Theoretical perspectives provide answers to basic questions (who are the main actors? Why do they do what they do? What are the underlying factors that govern political relationships? Etc. These questions/issues are important to understand because they make assumptions, present alternative explanations and provide a basis for understanding future politics.
 - Realism: Dominant theoretical perspective that sees states as the most important actors in global politics. They pursue power and because of the anarchical nature of the international system, this causes conflict

Week 2: September 12, 2017 (Realism)

Realism: Power and Conflict

- Key Actors: States
- Tools: Military Power, Diplomacy
- Reality: Largely Objective
- Bargaining Context: Zero-sum (concentrate on maximum payoff situations)
- International: Anarchic
- Conflict: State pursuit of self-interest
- Approach to Peace: balance of power
- Policy Prescriptions: Pursue self-interest
- Explanatory Power: State aggression, weakness of institutions

Liberalism: Cooperation and Interdependence Key Actors: States, Institutions, NGOs

1. The first principle of political realism maintains that politics are grounded in observable laws of human nature – any idealistic attempt to challenge these laws will only lead to failure.
2. Realists believe that power is the main articulation of political interest, a hypothesis which can be tested by the observable actions of statesmen throughout history.
3. In other words, while the unit of analysis remains power, the method and articulation of power throughout centuries has changed and will continue to do so.
4. Ethics are incorporated into political realism through the calculation of the political consequences of a particular policy or action.

5. Power forms the basis for judging the actions of other countries and developing appropriate reactions to those actions.
6. Morgenthau warns that policy has been repeatedly guided by legal and moral guidelines instead of strictly political considerations. As a result, the power of a country and the welfare of its citizens have been routinely endangered. Instead, realism advocates that policy must arise out of purely political analysis: an analysis of power.

Structural Realism (or NeoRealism) on the other hand assumes that the international system is anarchic; that is, there is no credible power above the states that compromise the system, and that states cannot be certain of the intentions of other states. Also, that at least some states have offensive capabilities and that states have preferences which they seek to realize, and that survival is a prerequisite for realizing such a preference.

Security Dilemma is the problem that certain measures that enhance your state's security typically diminish that of others. Hence as state that is amassing instruments of war, even for its own defense, is cast by others as a threat requiring response. Building your defense can lead to greater insecurity. Best outcome is to cooperate. Ex. Nuclear war

"balance-of-power politics prevail wherever two, and only two requirements are met: that the order be anarchic and that it be populated by units wishing to survive".^[56] They can do this either through **internal balancing**, where a state uses internal efforts such as moving to increase economic capability, developing clever strategies and increasing military strength,^[57] or through "external balancing", which occurs when states take external measures to increase their security by forming allies.

Offensive Realism: Somewhat similar to Classical (you never know intent, maximize power)

Tenets	Classical	Offensive	Defensive
Actors	States, who act as unitary rational actors		
Goal	Power	Survival	
Focus	Conflict		Conflict and Alliances
Organizing Principle	Human Nature	Anarchy and Self-Help, Distribution of Power	
Means	Maximizing Power, military force		Having sufficient power, military force
Dynamics of System	Balancing, Acquiring Power	Balancing, militarization, preventing regional hegemons, acquiring power	Balancing, Bandwagoning

Hegemon: a leading major power. USA has been a hegemon in world politics and they are concerned about the rise of china. Has military capabilities.

REALISM

- CLASSICAL REALISM: Very historical, human nature, goal is power and balancing while acquiring power.
- STRUCTURAL REALISM: Drops human nature, Survival is the goal
 - OFFENSIVE REALISM: States gain more security by becoming as powerful as possible. (closest to classical) (CHINA)
 - DEFENSIVE REALISM: System punishes attempts at getting too much power. (all about only having what is needed not having the most)
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HOW DO STATES ENSURE THEIR SURVIVAL:

- Classical: they actually seek power rather than survival
- Offensive: Ensures survival by becoming as powerful as possible
- Defensive:

Waltz assumes that "states seek to ensure their survival." The real aims of states may be endlessly variable, but in a world without security survival is the essential prerequisite and thus a useful foundation for the theory. "Internationally, the environment of states' action, or the structure of their system, is set by the fact that some states prefer survival over other ends obtainable in the short run and act with relative efficiency to achieve that end."

Status Quo: being ok with the hegemons. Japan

Revisionist: opposing the hegemons. North Korea, Iran

To summarise, realists believe that natural human aggression which is absorbed by individual states existing in an anarchical international system can encourage them to seek power and distrust other states which will make cooperation very difficult to achieve.

Week 3: September 19, 2017 (Realism Cont.)

Main take away from Obama Bush: it doesn't matter who the president is, for realists, the states are the main actors, not the heads. You can look at someone like Obama who is very different from Bush policy wise, and America is still relatively run the same way.

Balance: states don't always balance power or military it can be a balance of threat. Ex. Iran and North Korea have missiles and USA is trying to get rid of them whereas France and UK also have same missiles but they are not truly a threat.

How to assess threat: Aggregate power (economy, population, technology), proximity (geographical distances), offensive power (some weapons are more offensive ex. Aircraft bomber), aggressive intentions (ambiguous basically stating that some countries have good intentions like France or UK rather than Iran. It's a grey zone for Walt and Mearsheimer).

BALANCE OF POWER:

- Balancing: making alliances to counter hegemon/power. Safest option because it prevents hegemony.
- Bandwagoning (not actually balancing): joining the powerful/hegemon ex. Canada giving a province in order not to be invaded by the US. Dangerous because your friend can be your enemy the next day. "If this war actually kicks off, I want to be on the winning side"
- Buck-Passing: trying to stay out of it and have the others do the work
- WALT reading summary

North Korea:

- China:
 - They are not attacking North Korea
 - They have trade deals
 - They support North Korea
 - They prevent strong UN sanctions against North Korea
 - Offensive Realism: China wants to become a regional hegemon and by supporting North Korea they are preventing USA from stopping them.
 - Defensive Realism: Trying to balance US influence in the area by allowing another power in which they can control or work with. (Waltz) Balance of threats would mean that the US by their aircrafts and military (Offensive Power) (Walt)
 - Liberal theory:
 - Constructive theory: China would see a more ideological fit with North Korea than US.
- North Korea:
 - Wants to move up and have more power, trying to break the status quo
 - Classical: Kim wants as such power as possible
 - Offensive: wanting to build army to balance US influence
 - North Korea feels threatened by US and Trump because under the Walt theory of balance of threat.

Polarity:

- The world has one pole: USA
- Never in history has there been a state as strong as the US.
- a) Because the US is so powerful, it makes it difficult to succeed with foreign policy. When you are stronger than everyone else it is harder to have a discussion and goals for foreign policy. You could argue that US fails simply because of how often they swing, no other state is as powerful and as active
- b) they are no more easy problems. Founding fathers wanted US to conquer continent and hemisphere, they did it. We needed to rebuild Europe, they did it.. The global issues are problems that we don't know how to solve or that aren't worth solving.
- There is a feeling of obligation that the USA has to act on issues.

- IR theorists first thought USA would only have a “moment” and that other countries or the EU would step up and have its moment.
- Wolforth: the US is so far ahead by ten times. Because they are so far ahead, who would even dare to challenge them, therefore it creates peace and other states have to bandwagon, they submit to USA.
- Arguments that it isn't peaceful: not just how long or how much power. While there been no world war, there have been many smaller ones.

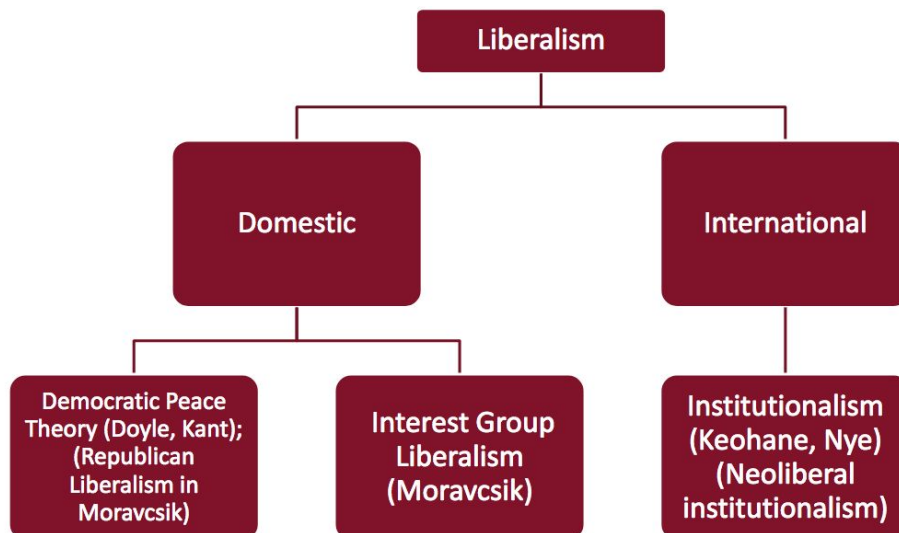
Three different strategies that the Unipole or USA could take:

- Defensive Dominance: Maintain status Quo
 - Uncertain about future intentions
 - Major states can bandwagon
 - Minor states may resist
 - Nukes
 - Defensive capabilities
- Offensive Dominance: Change status Quo yo advantage
 - Unipole wants more (revisionist demands)
 - Minor powers resist
 - Preventive war against minor powers like USA and North Korea
- Disengagement: No attention
 - Vacuum
 - Multi-Poles, Bipolar powers regionally
 - competing
- Factors: geographical arrangements (like Canada and US), political alliances

Unipolarity doesn't always equal peace according to Monteiro

Week 4: Liberalism

Journal: When it comes to conflict, do you find it compelling that democracies don't fight wars against one another? Why or why not?



Liberalism:

1. Domestic:
 - a. Democratic theory (Doyle)
 - b. Interest group liberalism (Moravcsik)
2. International:
 - a. Institutionalism (Keohane)

Realism+

- Rationality of Actors: But not just by states
- Anarchy: But can be mitigated
- Still a self-help world

Relative vs. Absolute Gains

- Relative: How do I fare compared to others?
- Absolute: Will I fare better, worse or the same?
- Be like Captain Kirk from Star Trek : Win-Win situations and outcomes.

Distinctiveness:

Actors: Not just states

- Corporations, non-governmental organizations, social movements also matter

Goal: Not just survival also economic & social

Focus: Cooperation

Organizing principle: Anarchy mitigated by 'globalization'

IS WAR BETWEEN NATIONS INEVITABLE?

Realist will say yes. Liberals were the first to question this inevitability.

International: Neoliberal Institutionalism:

Keohane looks at the world like a muffin, while there is a lot of dough (conflict) there are specks of chocolate (cooperation) which make it good.

Prisoner's dilemma: general version of the security dilemma (Watch video link)

US/USSR Nukes Solutions to get a Win-Win:

- 3rd party verifications - audits
- Sign an agreement : disarmament with a timeline, consequences
- One-sided action (unilateral) being the first one to make a move, making a shield
- Long-term relations (iteration)
- Tit-for-Tat (reciprocity) you do a little bit, i do a little bit, disarm 2, ill disarm 3
- Linking Issues: we will disarm our nukes but you have to disengage in turkey, linking problem not having to do with the issue to gain.
- Increase costs of nuke building or decrease costs of decreasing nukes (USA paying for broken USSR to disarm the nukes)

International Institutions:

- Institutions = Rules
- International Treaties
- Sometimes referred to as international “regimes”
- Similar to international Organizations but NOT NGO’s
- NAFTA, UN, EU, WORLD BANK

How can institutions facilitate cooperation:

Reduce ‘Transaction Costs’

- Reduce costs of making or enforcing agreements
- Regular meetings
- Negotiations
- Monitoring by inspections to gain info
- Rules of enforcement, what would happen if...

Interdependence

- Increase costs of ‘conflict’

Institutions can increase credibility and reduce uncertainty.

Economic networks and personal networks are stretching far beyond borders. Countries are interdependent and this ups the cost of war. USA would not go to war with China because they both need each other. Conflict would cut links and it would be costly.

Iran and NAFTA:

Israel scared of Iran because of threat of nuclear capabilities. USA tells Iran to stop and they say no. Many countries get involved and they came up with a deal saying that as long as they would be peaceful and follow guidelines, no sanctions on trade will be enforced between Iran and all major countries.

Win-Win: USA is happy because Iran has no nukes. Iran is happy, they can trade.

Realism explanation: Iran would have stopped anyway because of Israel not happy and USA backing them.

Liberalism explanation: It was the agreement they signed that made them.

Summary:

- Argue that win-win (or at least no-lose win) scenarios are possible
- Means: International institutions and interdependence mitigate anarchy
 - Institutions are a means of solving international problems

Many times: More actors = more difficult to solve

Sometimes problems are more difficult or impossible to resolve

- Deadlock: Israel/Palestine : they have two polar opposite goal

Democratic Peace Theory : Domestic IR

Three theories of Democratic Peace:

1. Monadic theory: argues that democracies are more peaceful and less likely to go to war with any other state
2. Dyadic: (Most accepted) argues that democracies are peaceful with one another but likely to fight with other non-democratic states
3. Systematic: holds that the international system becomes more peaceful with the increase in democratic states

Normative argument of democratic peace theories that democratic states trust each other because they share social norms

Leaders will respond to public and will only go to war when they can win.

Finally the argument of interdependence hypothesis that democratic states tend to adopt free market economies, leading to more international trade, which would make war less likely

Argument is that liberal states won't go to war with each other

Second set of Explanations: Democratic Peace Theory (Domestic [the flour in the muffin])

- Liberalism: set of institutions within a state. Principles such as individual freedom, political participation, private property, and equality of opportunity.

The effect of democracy ('republicanism')

- How does voting affect desire for country to go to war?
 - Who dies(it's often not the wealthy who go to war)? What's popular? What do elected officials want?
 - You need a really good reason to go to war, (being threatened)
 - Democracies don't want to go to war, when they go to war it's because they have been threatened by a non-democratic state.
- You also need international law
- Interdependence in trade: If you go to war with France, no more French cheese. China, no more iPhones, no more Apple jobs in USA.

These are the three main points of the democratic peace theory

1. Monadic theory argues that democratic states are more peaceful and won't go to war
2. Democratic states a
3. Systematic theory: (RE WATCH VIDEO)

Third Set of Explanations: Interest Groups

What role does government play?

- Aggregates domestic interests
- Government one actor among many

Interests of State NOT from structure of international system

Means: The government seeks to maximize benefits of domestic interest groups

- Interdependence matters

CONCEPT CHECKS: at least one will be on the quiz.

The Second Iraq war occurred because American Military Contractors could benefit.

- Many american companies are making billions off of wars

Germany doesn't impose tariffs on French cheeses because of the EU.

- Because of the free trade agreements within the EU, there are no tariffs. Unless agreed upon with other countries, there are tariffs for these products.

Canada and the US haven't gone to war since 1912 because they're Democracies.

- You can argue with the Normative argument of democratic peace theories that democratic states trust each other because they share social norms.
- USA never invaded Canada again because the population was hostile, and while it could be seized militarily, it made no sense and it would give them a permanent interdiction on trade from the british.

NATO exists as a union of democracies

- An alliance of collective defense
- An alliance of collective security
- An alliance of collective interests

NATO is a means for the US to exert influence on its allies, and doesn't really matter

Week 5: Constructivism

Journal: Which of the explanations for the formation of the EU do you find most compelling and why?

What conditions made World War II possible?

- Balance of power
- Balance of threat
- Failure of International Institutions (League of Nations)
- Fight against Fascism

WWII Ideology:

- Why is it that the US chooses to supports the UK rather than germany (US could have gotten all north america, germany could have gotten europe, Japan Asia, but something doesn't sit well with fascism)

While other theories might say that talk is cheap and that Trump's threats against NK don't matter, Constructivism says yes it does. Constructivism also states that it didn't have to be this way. While other theories state that who the leader of the states doesn't matter, constructivism states that situations are contingent, that there are a certain number of things which determine the outcome.

Example of leisure suits. They used to be huge, why not anymore? They are not fashionable any more. Trends and times change.

Do you act differently if you are with your parents or if you are at reggies? Different setting make different things normal and okay.

Ideas as Exogenous:

Social Construction:

People do one thing and not another because of:

- Ideas (i.e. WW II)
- Norms (i.e. fashion)
- Identities (i.e. parents vs. friends)
- Beliefs
- Other Interpretive filter

Constructivism is a structural theory of the international system that makes the following core claims:

- (1) states are the principal units of analysis for international political theory;
- (2) the key structures in the states system are intersubjective rather than material; and
- (3) state identities and interests are in important part constructed by these social structures, rather than given exogenously to the system by human nature [as (neo)realists maintain] or domestic politics [as neoliberals favour].

Constructivism is a theory that examines state behavior in the context of state characteristics. All states are unique and have a set of defining political, cultural, economic, social, or religious characteristics that influence its foreign policy. States have identities and those identities define their behavior in the international system. The US has a foreign policy character. Russia has a foreign policy character. The cold war is a product of the clash of those identities. The end of the cold war may be a function of changes in the Russian identity.

social theory of international politics” that emphasizes the social construction of world affairs as opposed to the claim of (neo)realists that international politics is shaped by the rational-choice behaviour/decisions of egoist actors who pursue their interests by making utilitarian calculations to maximize their benefits and minimize their losses, hence the materiality of international structures.

Weak form of constructivist: Ideas and norms matter but they aren't mutually constitutive.

Strong form of constructivist: Has mutually constitutive, your behaviour affects the context, and the context affects you.

Marxists-Economic Landscape

Realists-Security Competition Landscape

Institutionalists-Organizational Landscape

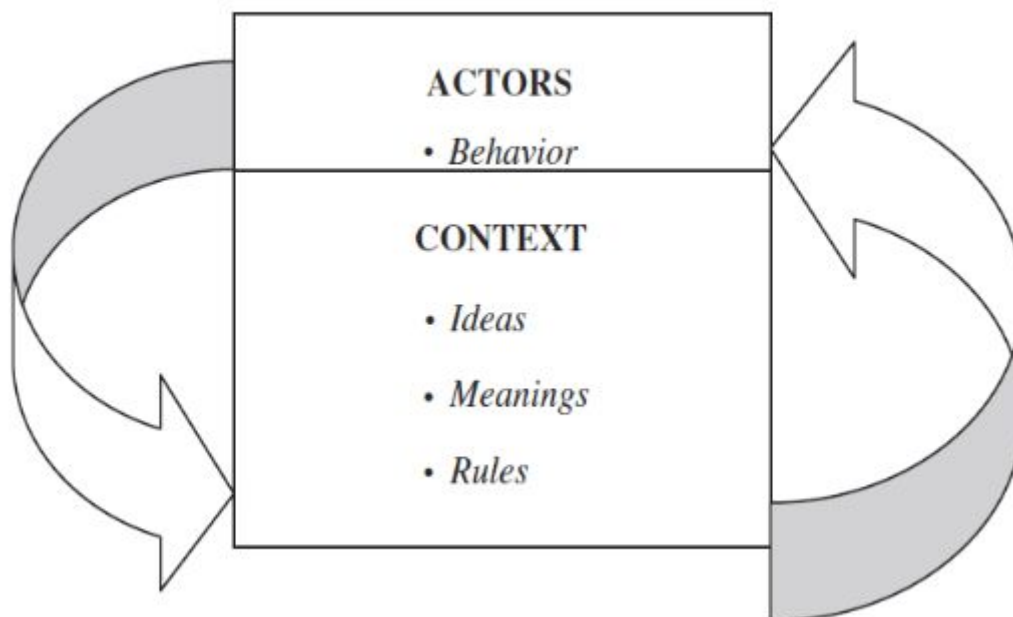
Constructivists-'Landscape' of ideas, norms, identities and practices

Ontology: what is the nature of reality? (what are things?)

Traditional Arguments:

Gas use in WW:

- More cruel
- Constructivism argument: there is a 'taboo' against chemical weapons. While burning people alive is okay, people state that gas is too barbaric. You enforce the social norm so when someone uses gas, the other countries reinforce the idea by their language.
- Even the US has these weapons after spending billions of dollars on them. These weapons could save lives but because of social norms, they don't.
- Same situation happens with Nukes. People didn't know much about nukes but once the results of how dangerous the outcome was, certain countries started being against them. It becomes a social norm of what is okay within warfare. There is no international treaty that says you can't use nukes. Yet people still don't. Nukes are used for defense or deterrence.



Constructivism: Contingency

Non-constructivist theories:

- Some set of conditions require certain actions
- Variation
- They add probability to try to account for random things that occur
- Example: monica lewinsky and Clinton, they can't exactly explain why this happened. Realism and liberalism can't explain the random things

Neorealism states that Anarchy leads to insecure and suspicious states, competing and maximizing interests to survive.

Critique: It didn't have to be this way

- Anarchy does not always mean chaos or conflict
- Competition or cooperation depends on social interactions over time
- Rules and ideas emerge
 - Other states as potential enemies: insecurity and competition
 - Other states as allies: cooperation and trust
- Change is possible, new social circumstances transforming identities and interests
 - E.g. European Union after WWII

Roosevelt example: Just because the USSR was powerful doesn't mean that there ended to be a fight (cold war) between them and USA. Maybe had Roosevelt hadn't died, there would have been no cold war because he didn't view the USSR as an enemy, but rather someone who they could work with.

What is the European Union?

- A body created by treaties between 28 (soon to be 27) states
- To which they have delegated responsibilities in many public areas.
 - Treaties give it the power to make own laws and regulations

Realist Argument: To balance USSR

Liberalism Argument: Unify trade and cooperation, economic and national benefits.

Constructivist Argument: Europe is its own place. There is a communal national identity.

Starts to develop european norms and standards.

Institutionalists: national governments each have their own interests and domestic interests.

Through these treaties, they can bargain and negotiate. And they can always back out if needed.

Why does the EU continue to grow after the Cold war.

Constructivist take on the EU:

After two World Wars, some Europeans say: we must get past this cycle of national violence (Especially to work out a way to control Germany)

1950: Pan- Europeanism

- Stalls the EU, nothing new since the steel treaties, nothing expands

1980s: president of France and European Commission share a vision for a united Europe.

- Against the protests of the UK which views itself differently,
 - Single European Act (1986)
 - Maastricht Treaty (1992)
 - Among Many

Had it not been for those two individuals, would there be an EU today? No according to Parsons.

Epistemology: how do we know what we know?

- Pluralist approaches: Objective Truth
- Political Science vs. Political Studies

But..

- If political actors are bound within certain interpretations, why should observers and analysts be any less subjective

Constructivist Conclusion:

- They have 'fought' their way to mainstream IR. Not just to explain 'low' arguments.
- There are many forms of it. It is a very broad tent.

Main points:

- Social Construction Matters (Material as well)
- Characterised by mutually constitutive relationship.

Goals of Actors: Depends on norms, there no clear cut answer.

Means: Social constructs

Week 6: Interstate Wars and Nuclear Weapons

Op-Ed Assignment (Outline):

- Submit the Op-Ed and author (Within the last two years about IR)
- List three central arguments makes
 - For each, tie it to an argument/lens seen in class
- List three sources you could use from class to write your paper
 - Use one consistent citing style

Midterm 20%:

- Three Sections:
 - Quiz
 - Major Concepts and Theories
 - Essay Question: choice of two, 35 minutes.

- Use subheads: No fluff, while you won't have time for all these, use them to organize your essay. I.e. Actors: well a liberal might say this, a constructivist might say this, etc. Then move onto another subhead.
 - Introduction
 - Actors
 - Goals
 - Focus
 - Organizing Principle
 - Means
 - Dynamics of System
 - Conclusion

How to Prep:

- Go over paragraph questions from quizzes
- Make a chart:
 - Actors
 - Goals
 - Etc.

Check power point about "what to know"

Week 7: International Institutions

Regimes=Institutions=Rules

Interest: General way of achieving a goal (power)

IOs=Inter-governmental Organizations

Do they matter?

- Realism: No
 - IOs are a tool or 'strategy'
 - Realists use it to get their preferences and affect weaker states
 - Membership is voluntary (anarchy) and they can leave at anytime and there is no real cost
 - They reflect power distribution of the world (Mearsheimer)
 - They are a tool, softer form of coercion
 - So they either have no effect for realists or are used as a strategy.
- Liberalism: Yes, in a material sense
 - IOs as strategy to maximize national interests
 - Includes other actors like NGO, Corps, even IOs
 - Domestic Explanations:
 - Interest Group (Moravcsik)
 - Governments more or less 'empty'
 - Aggregate National interests
 - What benefits powerful domestic groups? Trade agreements
 - Open Economy Politics (OEP)
 - Domestic Credible Commitment (Dynamic Inconsistency) Problems
 - How to guarantee tomorrow's government will follow through
 - They can blame IOs for unpopular actions

- Harder to undo policies...can reduce uncertainty
 - IOs can be a useful domestic political tool
 - Regime or Neo-Liberal Institutionalism
 - Focuses on international explanations
 - IOs can shape preferences and promote interdependence
 - IOs solve international problems
 - Constructivism: Yes, but only in a material sense
 - IOs influences ideas, norma, identities
 - Perception matters: how actors interpret interest, preferences, world
 - Mechanisms:
 - Norms: what is appropriate? How are states supposed to act? (Tanenbaum)
 - Identities: What does it mean to be something? (EU) (Parsons)
 - Ideas: How do dominate ideas on solving problems (Haas)
 - Beliefs: How does believing in something structure our actions? (Wendt)
 - IOs:
 - Spread norms, identities, ideas (so do NGOs and Corps.)
 - Regularized patterns of behavior
 - Reinforce
 - Slower process of influence
 - IE: EU, Nuclear and Chem weapons

	Realist	Liberal	Constructivist
Do IOs matter?	No	Yes	Yes
How do they exert influence?	They don't exert independent influence	Changing incentive structures, providing transparency, credibility	Norms, Ideas, Identities, Beliefs
Why do they exist?	Tools for the powerful	Solve Problems	Solve problems, result of ideas, norms, identities, beliefs
What actors matter?	States	States, NGOs, Corporations, etc.	States, NGOs, Corporations, etc.

Readings:

- The Politics, Power, and pathologies of International Organizations:
 - Essentially states that most IR theories view IOs under positive light and don't question to investigate day to day bureaucracies.

Week 8: Feminist Theories of IR

What are feminist theories: they 'problematize' gender. Interrogate power structures related to identities. Feminist theories start from gender as a hierarchy.

How to contrast to other theories:

- Feminist theories have normative commitments
 - They are not trying to be objective, they go in claiming something is wrong and right.
 - Everyone has a bias, normative theories state them up front. This can taint the way they see the world.
- Similarities to constructivism:
 - Seeing gender as a social construct

Problematize: meaning they do not take things for granted. Things like gender, race, sexuality are not a given. Example: Non-Binary Genders. Not everything is physically based, social constructs affect these things. Example: pink used to be viewed as very masculine, some older societies had women going to war and men staying home. If biology should explain all these, there shouldn't be exceptions.

Feminist Theories: Methods of Inquiry

- Tend to focus on certain cases
- Be interdisciplinary

Check Summary

Three projects:

- Exposing the extent and effects of masculinist bias: effects of men bias
- Adding women and their experiences to existing frameworks: many texts are written by men, about men.
- Reconstruct theory

Do feminist approaches belong in IR?

- Do the issues extend beyond boundaries of a country?
- Do these theories tell us something about politics among many countries?
- While now it is accepted, it wasn't always this way.
- Often subject to defensive reactions...man-haters, etc.
 - While you might not agree, it doesn't mean it doesn't have value.

You could argue that feminist theories are constructivist theories.

Intersectionality: used in critical theories to describe the ways in which oppressive institutions (racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, etc.)

Week 9: Wealth, poverty, globalization

What is the “world”?

- A. Subjective
 - a. Narratives, ethnographies, etc.
 - b. Not usually making broad gun
 - c. Qualitative
- B. Objective
 - a. Super-Complex
 - i. Not necessarily generalizations
 - ii. Qualitative
 - iii. Case Studies
 - b. Break it down
 - i. Quantitative
 - ii. Generalizations