

SELECTED PROBLEMS OF IR THEORY

Tuesdays, 17.15-19.15
Room 4

Prof. Friedrich Kratochwil
Register with [Maureen](#)

Description: The purpose of the course is to introduce the student to some of the important debates in the field and to its basic concepts. It is expected that all students have read the assignments before each class and participate in the discussion with focused and pertinent contributions. Requirements: There are three ways you can participate: Option 1: you do all the readings, participate in class discussions and write a paper. In that case you will get full credit for the seminar and fulfil one of the writing requirements of the department. Option 2: you do the readings and participate. In that case you will meet the seminar (hrs) requirement but not the paper writing requirement. Option 3: (subject to explicit approval since students of option 1 and 2 will have precedence): you “window shop”, i.e. come in only for those parts that interest you, assuming, of course, you are familiar with the assigned readings. Students of option 1 and 2 are not to miss more than two sessions, otherwise they will not fulfil any of the requirements. (Since emergencies happen, I suggest you use your two “wild cards” wisely).

I. Introduction: Defining the field (8 January)

Readings:

1. [Edward Hallett Carr](#), *The Twenty Years' Crisis: 1919-19* (Macmillan, 1946), chap 5 (The Realist Critique), and chap. 6 (The Limits of Realism).
2. Yosef Lapid, “The Third Debate”, *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 33 (1989): 235-54
3. Cameron Thies, “Progress, History and Identity in International Relations Theory: The Case of the Idealist-Realist Debate”, *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 8, N2. 2 (June 2002): 147-85.
4. Friedrich Kratochwil, “History, Action and Identity”, *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 12 (1) (March 2006): 5-29
5. Barry Buzan and Richard Little, “Why International Relations has Failed as an Intellectual Project and What to do About it”, *Millennium*, vol. 30, No. 1 (2001): 19-39

II. The Problem of “Science”(15 January)

Readings:

1. [Carl Hempel](#), “The Function of General Laws in History” in Carl Hempel, *Aspects of Scientific Explanations* (New York: Free Press, 1965, chap 9
2. [Paul Diesing](#), *How Does Social Science Work?* (Pittsburgh: University of

Pittsburgh Press 1991), chap 2

3. [Friedrich Kratochwil](#), "Evidence, Inference and Truth as Problems of Theory Building" in Mark Lichbach, Ned Lebow (eds.), *Theory and Evidence in Comparative Politics and International Relations* (New York: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2007), chap 2

4. [Mark Blyth](#), "ELEN Degenerates – or- Four plus two Reasons for Taking Ideas Very Seriously (mimeo, 2007)

III. Critical Theory and the Pragmatic Turn (22 January)

Readings:

1. Steve Bernstein, Ned Lebow, Janice Stein, Steve Weber, "God Gave Physics the Easy Problems", *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 6 (March 2000), 43-76

2. Robert Cox, "Social Forces, States and World Order", *Millennium*, vol. 10 (1983) 126-55

3. David Owen, "Reorienting International Relations: On Pragmatism, Pluralism and Practical Reasoning", *Millennium*, vol. 31 (No. 3) 2002, 653-73

4. [Friedrich Kratochwil](#), "Looking Back from Somewhere: Reflections on What Remains 'Critical' ion 'Critical Theory'", *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 33 (2007) special issue, 25-47

5. [Joerg Friedrichs](#), [Friedrich Kratochwil](#), "On Acting and Knowing", EUI Working Paper, MWP 2007/35

IV. The Central Problematique: Power, Security and the Issue of Cooperation (29 January)

Readings:

1. David Baldwin, "Money and Power", *Journal of Politics*, vol. 33, No. 3 (Aug 1971):578-614.

2. [David Baldwin](#), "Power Analysis and World Politics: New Trends versus Old Tendencies" in David Baldwin, *Paradoxes of Power* (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1989), chap. 7.

3. Michael Barnett, Raymond Duvall, "Power in International Politics", *International Organization* vol. 59 (Winter 2005): 39-75.

4. Randall Schweller, David Priess, "A Tale of Two Realisms: Expanding the Institutions Debate", *Mershon International Studies Review*, vol. 41, No. 1, (May 1997): 1-32.

5. Charles Glaser, "Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self help", *International Security*, vol. 19, No 3 (1994/95) :50-90.

V. "Power" in Action: the cases of "sanctions" and "deterrence" (5 February)

Readings:

1. Baldwin David, "The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice", *International Security*, vol. 24 no 3 (1999/2000): 80-107.

2. Kirshner, Jonathan, *The Microfoundations of Economic Sanctions*", *Security Studies*, vol. 6, no 3 (1997) 32-64.



3. Tostensen, Arne, Bull, Beate: "Are smart sanctions feasible?", *World Politics*, vol. 54, no 4 (2002): 373-403.
 4. Huth, Paul, Russett, Bruce, "'Deterrence Failure and Crisis Escalation", *International Studies Quarterly*, vol. 32, No. 1 (March 1988): 29-45.
 5. Lebow, Richard, Stein, Janice "Deterrence The Elusive Dependent Variable", *World Politics*, vol. 42 , no 3. (1990):336-69.
- VI. Anarchy, System, Society (12 February)
1. Readings:
 2. Kenneth Waltz, "Political Structures" in Robert Keohane (ed), *Neo-realism and its Critics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1986), chap 4.
 3. Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is what the States make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics, *International Organization*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Spring 1992): 391-425.
 4. Paul Schroeder, "Historical Reality vs Neo-realist Theory", *International Security*, vol. 19 (Summer 1994): 108-148.
 5. John Ikenberry, *After Victory* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), chaps. 1 and 2.
 6. Richard Little, "The English School's Contribution to the Study of International Relations", *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 6, No 3 (2000):395-422.
- VII Agents and Structures (19 February)
- Readings:*
1. David Dessler, "What is at stake in the Agent/Structure Debate, *International Organization*, vol. 43 (Summer 1989): 441-73.
 2. Heikki Patomäki, "How to tell Better Stories about World Politics", *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 2 (March 1996): 105-133
 3. Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge, Engl.: Cambridge University Press, 1999), chap. 4
 4. Patrick Jackson, Daniel Nexon, "Relations before States", *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 5, No.3 (1999). 291-327.
 5. Roxanne Lynn Doty , "Aporia: A Critical Explanation of the Agent/Structure Problem", *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 3, No.3 (1997): 365-92.
- VIII. Systems as Constitutions (26 February)
- Readings:*
1. Christian Reus-Smit, *The Constitutional Structure of International Society and the Nature of Fundamental Institutions*", *International Organization*, VI. 51, No.4 (1997):555-89.
 2. Susan Strange, *States and Markets*, 2nd ed. (London: Pinter, 1993), chap. 1 and 11.
 3. Wouter Werner, Jaap de Wilde, "The Endurance of Sovereignty", *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 7, No. 3 (Sept. 2001): 283-313.
 4. Friedrich Kratochwil, "On the Notion of 'Interest' in Internatioanl Relations", *International Organization*, vol. 36 (Winter 1982), 1-30



5. Peter Gourevitch, "The Second Image Reversed: The International Sources of Domestic Politics", *International Organization*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Fall 1978): 881-912.

IX Actors (4 March)

Readings:

1. Andrew Moravcsik, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics", *International Organization*, Vol. 51, No. 4 (1997): 513-53.

2. Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games", *International Organization*, vol. 42, No. 3 (Summer 1988): 427-460.

3. Margaret Keck, Kathryn Sikkink, "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics", *International Social Science Journal*, Unesco, No. 159 (1999): 89-101.

4. David Kennedy, "The Politics of the Invisible College: International Governance and the Politics of Expertise" in Doris Fuchs, Friedrich Kratochwil (eds.), *Transformative Change and Global Order: Reflections on Theory and Practice*, (Munster, Ger-London: Lit: 2003): 83-129.

5. Friedrich Kratochwil, "Global Governance and the Emergence of World Society?" (mimeo: forthcoming)

X. International Institutions (11 March)

Readings:

1. John Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions", *International Security*, Vol. 19, No 3 (Winter 1994/95): 5-49.

2. John Ruggie, "Multilateralism: the Anatomy of an Institution", *International Organization*, vol. 46, No.3 (1992): 561-98.

3. Ian Hurd, "The Strategic Use of Liberal Internationalism", *International Organization*, vol. 59 (Summer 2005): 495-526.

4. Ann Marie Slaughter, *The Real New World Order*, *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 76, No 5 (1997): 183-97.

Rodney Hall, Thomas Biersteker (eds.), *The Emergence of Private Authority in Global Governance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), chaps. 1 and 10.