Instructor: Prof. Rajesh Rajagopalan  
Room 216, SIS Building (Ph. 2670-4349)   Email:
Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 am-11:30 am  
Office Hours: One hour after class and by appointment

Course Description
Realism and its variants remain one of the most important and definitely the oldest of the theoretical approaches to the study of interstate politics. This course is designed to provide an intensive reading of recent Realist literature in international politics. This course is structured presuming you have some basic understanding of international political theory; reading and discussions will build on that base. It may be useful to revisit more introductory material from time to time, especially that relating to Realism and its variants. We will start with the some of the basic writings in the field and build up to some of the major debates, both within Realism as well as between Realists and other alternate theoretical approaches. However, by and large, we will focus on the Realist responses and writings rather than on challenges from other theoretical perspectives.

Course Requirements and Grade Assessment
All students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. All papers should be emailed to my email address above.

a) You will be required to write two book/essay reviews. Each review should be at least 800 words in length. In order to avoid duplication, you are required to get prior approval for the essay you want to review. Preferably, the essays for review should not be from the syllabus, unless there is a very good reason for it. Reviews are due on September 24 and October 22. The reviews will account for 20% (2x10%) of your total grade. Please email your reviews to the address mentioned above. Ensure that your file is in MS Word 2003, and that your name is mentioned in the file name (eg.: “review essay-1-your-name”)

b) You are required to write a term paper on a topic of your choice. The choice of topic will, however, have to be approved by the instructor. Topics should be approved by September 5. The term paper should be roughly 4000 words in length (including footnotes). Class presentations of the papers are on October 3 (initial) and November 7. These term papers should be research papers, not opinion pieces. Term papers should follow the SIS Style Manual, strictly. Please consult the instructor if you are uncertain about any rule. The term paper is due on November 19 and will account for 40% of your total grade. Please email your paper to the address mentioned above. Ensure that your file is in MS Word 2003, and that your name is mentioned in the file name (eg.: “termpaper-your-name”)

c) A final exam will be held in class during exam week and will account for the remaining 40% of your total grade.

Explanations of Grades
A+: Essay/paper demonstrates extraordinary and original insight and is elegantly written and argued. Awarded very rarely.
A: Essay/paper that demonstrates comprehensive grasp of the subject matter and some originality and is well written.
A-: Competent response that covers most of the major points/issues and is cogently written and argued.
B+: Competent response, cogently written and argued but with one major or a few minor mistakes.
B: Demonstrates some competence, but marred by either major mistakes or omissions and is not well written.
B-: Only covers very few expected points or issues.
C+: Answer/essay that demonstrates poor or no understanding of the subject matter.

Plagiarism or any other kind of academic cheating will invite severe penalties. Please consult the instructor if you are unsure of the rules regarding plagiarism.
Course Reading Schedule

[Most readings are available on JSTOR and other electronic databases on the JNU Library website. Those materials that are not available on JSTOR will be available from the Photocopying Shop in the Basement level of the SIS building]

1. Realism and Neorealism: An Overview

Required:

Recommended:

2. Neorealism and the End of the Cold War

Required:

Recommended:

3. Realism and the Balance of Power


4. Balance of Power vs. Hegemonic Realism

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

5. Defensive/Contingent Realism

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

6. Offensive Realism

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
7. Bringing OR and DR Together

Required Reading:

8. Neoclassical Realism

Required:

Recommended:

9. Realisms and American Hegemony

Required:

Recommended:

10. Realists and American Strategy

Required:

**Recommended:**

### 11. Realism and Domestic Factors

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

### 12. Neorealism and Foreign Policy

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

### 13. Realism and Culture

**Required:**

**Recommended:**

### 14. Realist Constructivism

**Required:**

Recommended:

15. Neorealist Responses to Theoretical Challengers
Recommended:

Recommended:

16. Critiques of Neorealist Methodology
Recommended:

Recommended: