

# LECTURE 0: INTRODUCTION

SIS-301 • SPRING 2012 • THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY/SIS

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# THE SYLLABUS

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- THINK OF THE SYLLABUS AS A CONTRACT
- CAN ONLY BE MODIFIED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF CLASS AND PROFESSOR
- ONE EXCEPTION: I CAN MAKE UNILATERAL MODIFICATIONS THAT WORK TO YOUR ADVANTAGE; YOU CANNOT

# COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

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- WE ARE ON AN INTELLECTUAL JOURNEY TOGETHER
  - NOT AN OCCASION FOR GRANDSTANDING, BULLYING, PROSELYTIZING, OR CONDEMNING
  - NOT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO TRY TO DISCOVER WHAT I THINK
  - THIS NOT ABOUT BEING RIGHT; IT IS ABOUT EXPLORING WHAT MIGHT BE RIGHT
- THE TAPESTRY OF OUR CONVERSATION IS CENTRAL

# ARGUMENTS

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- AN ARRANGEMENT OF STATEMENTS SUCH THAT SOME SUPPORT OR ENTAIL OTHERS
- PREMISES: THE STATEMENTS DOING THE ENTAILING
- CONCLUSION: THE STATEMENT THUS ENTAILED
- ARGUMENTS ARE ABOUT CONNECTING PREMISES AND CONCLUSIONS
- IN THIS COURSE, ARGUMENTS HAVE TO BE GROUNDED IN THE TEXT: ARGUMENTS ABOUT ARGUMENTS

# ARGUMENT RULES

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1. ENGAGE THE ARGUMENT, NOT THE PERSON
2. MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE ARGUMENT
3. EVERY ALTERNATIVE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
4. THE PRINCIPLE OF CHARITY: ASSUME THAT OTHERS ARE MAKING AN ARGUMENT RATHER THAN JUST SOUNDING OFF

# THEORY

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- A WAY OF SEEING
- CAN BE USED AT LEAST TWO WAYS:
  - EXPLANATORY ARGUMENTS (VALIDITY)
  - ETHICAL ARGUMENTS (SOUNDNESS)
- BOTH NEED PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE THEORIES THEMSELVES

# THEORY

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BASIC CHARACTERISTICS:

ABSTRACT/IDEALIZED

GENERAL (DEFINITIONS, CAUSES)

CATEGORICAL

YOU CAN'T NOT HAVE A THEORY!

# THEORIZING

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- "WORLD POLITICS"
- "INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS"
- "INTERNATIONAL POLITICS"
- "FOREIGN POLICY"



# THE GREAT CONVERSATION

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- THINKING THEORETICALLY ABOUT WORLD POLITICS...
- ...A SUBSET OF THINKING THEORETICALLY ABOUT POLITICS...
- ...A SUBSET OF THINKING THEORETICALLY
- PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT THESE ISSUES FOR A LONG, LONG TIME

# THE GREAT CONVERSATION

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- OUR CONCERNS ARE ALREADY SHAPED BY THAT CONVERSATION...
- ...ESPECIALLY BY THE EUROPEAN/U.S. PART OF THAT CONVERSATION
- (IN NO SMALL PART BECAUSE OF EUROPEAN/U.S. IMPERIALISM/COLONIALISM)
- PREPARING TO ENTER THE CONVERSATION MORE DELIBERATELY