

Session 1: Introduction

SIS-102 • Summer Session 2010

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Logistics

- 👁 roster check
- 👁 Academic Integrity Code
- 👁 AUID/username/password; my.american.edu
 - 👁 e-mail forwarding (very important)
- 👁 transcript forms

About Me

- “PTJ” or “Professor Jackson”
- starting my 11th year at AU
- Director of General Education for the university since April 2007
- an IR theorist, particularly interested in culture, identity, and knowledge
- the science fiction class

About You

- 👁️ name you prefer to be called
- 👁️ hometown high school and year
- 👁️ what interests you about international diplomacy
- 👁️ why you're taking this course this summer
- 👁️ favorite book/movie

Brainstorming

- 🌀 Politics
- 🌀 International Relations
- 🌀 International Diplomacy
- 🌀 World Politics
- 🌀 Foreign Policy

Assumptions Matter

- our goal: think critically about world politics
- different assumptions “see” different things
 - state-centrism: world politics as official diplomacy
 - states and firms: world politics as trade and finance
- “right” and “wrong” not the issue here

Theory

- from a Greek word meaning "to see"
- several characteristics:
 - abstract
 - general
 - analytical
- sets the parameters for arguments

All seeing is
“theoretical.”

How could it not be?

Definitions

- ① politics: the allocation of values
 - ① distribution of valuable objects
 - ① definition of which objects to value
- ① world politics: pretty much everything that goes on in the world
- ① international relations: everything that affects the relations between states
 - ① no domestic politics
 - ① sometimes hard to draw the line conceptually

Definitions

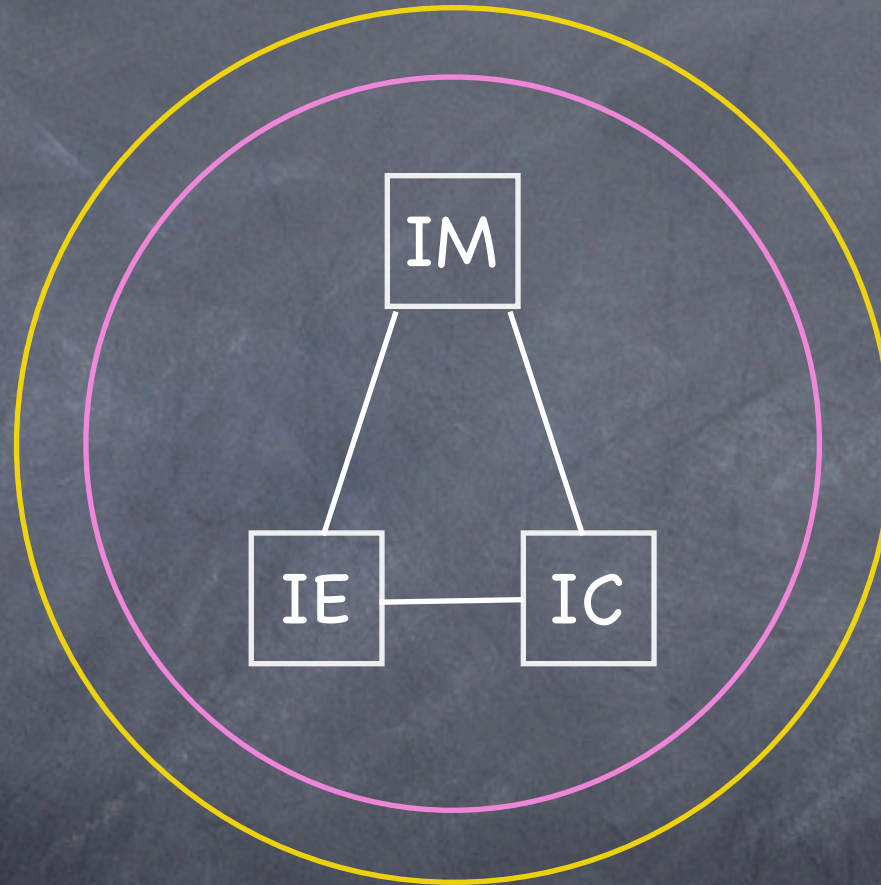
- “IR”: the scholarly study of international relations
- foreign policy: what a state does when it acts in international relations
 - “in the name of the state”
 - do only states get to have foreign policy?

Aspects of international relations

- ① international military: inter-state balance of power
 - ① e.g.: defense, nuclear weapons
- ① international economics: inter-state economic factors
 - ① e.g.: trade, currency markets
- ① international culture (or society): inter-state cultural and social factors
 - ① e.g.: norms, international law

Conceptual Map

world politics



the international system

international relations

Aspects of IR

- often called “schools” or “traditions”
- pick out different components of a situation as significant
- both positive and normative:
 - positive in that they aim to explain events
 - normative in that they aim to give advice for the future

Schools of thought

- realism: emphasizes the struggle for power between states; national security key
- liberalism: conflict and cooperation are both possible; rational bargaining is key
- constructivism: identity is central; state goals are constructed, not given (and can thus be reconstructed)

Schools and Aspects

	realism	liberalism	constructivism
IM	security	mutual benefit	security communities
IE	resources	wealth	governance
IC	dominance	exchange	norms/ rules