

POLS 318: Theories of IR

Final Project

Rotem Dvir

Texas A&M University

rdvir@tamu.edu

Department of Political Science
Spring 2021

POLS 318: Theories of IR

FINAL PAPER

- 1 Deadline: **May 3rd, midnight** - email / Canvas.
- 2 Main objective: explore an IR theory/topic we learned this semester, and illustrate it in real world events.
- 3 General Structure:
 - 1 **Introduction**: present your study, and main objective.
 - 2 **Literature & Theory**: use multiple sources to present the theory (assumptions, main arguments, implications/expectations for theory and policy).
 - 3 **Empirical test**: 3 historical cases to illustrate the theory.
 - 4 **Conclusions**: short summary of your research.

POLS 318: Theories of IR

FINAL PAPER

Writing tips - what to avoid from?

- "The US constitution defines..."
- "Since the dawn of human time..."
- "I believe / I think..."
- Drama writing - "the brave choice by president..."

Few general points

- Avoid passive voice.
- Glorify other scholars - "influential scholar..."
- Webster, Wikipedia as references.

POLS 318: Theories of IR

Mid-term lessons

- Double-check your work and proof-read it!!!
- No page-long paragraphs.
- Avoid from long quotes - use your own words.
- Theory: focus on what is relevant to your paper.
- Cases: find relevant cases (not from lectures)

References

- Cite in text → (Last name, date). [▶ InText](#)
- How to write a reference list. [▶ RefList](#)

POLS 318: Theories of IR

PRESENTATION:

- Submit with final paper.
- Format - Powerpoint, PDFs...
- Structure - similar to paper.
- 7-10 Slides: introduction, theory, empirical results, conclusions.

make judgments under uncertainty, and so on. As Simon (1985: 297) notes, “a large part of the ‘action’” of these models comes from these micro-level assumptions, many of which are the product of mathematical convenience or path dependence; there is nothing innate to rationalism that precludes it from embracing different sets of micro-level assumptions, just as there is nothing that inherently prevents it from placing a different methodological bet (Kertzer, 2016b). Indeed, the desire to empirically validate these canonical assumptions—

References

- Achen CH (2002) Toward a new political methodology: Microfoundations and ART. *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 423–450.
- Achen CH (2005) Let's put garbage-can regressions and garbage-can probits where they belong. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22: 327–339.
- Achen CH and Snidal D (1989) Rational deterrence theory and comparative case studies. *World Politics* 41(2): 143–169.