

# Handout of the Second Week: PS 103 Intro IR

Dalton Lin  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of Political Science

May 10, 2009

## Question of the week:

- what are the levels of analysis and what's their purpose?
- what is realism in IR? What are realist assumptions?
- what is power? How are we going to measure it?
- What are realist propositions?
- what are prisoners' dilemma and the assurance game? What's the difference between them?
- What are liberalist propositions?
- What are the differences between realism and liberalism?

## Realist Assumptions

- The international system is **anarchy**
- States are the most important actors (**state-centered**)
- States are **unitary** and **rational** actors
- States seek survival through pursuing **security** (defensive realism) or **power** (offensive realism)

## Realist Propositions

- States face **security dilemma**
- Distribution of Power** determines outcome; **relative power**, instead of absolute power, matters
- Balance of power recur**
- Strength **deters** challengers, or peace through strength

## Liberal Assumptions

- Individuals and groups are the most important actors
- States are representative institutions aggregating individual and group interests
- States seek objectives preferred by powerful domestic groups (most of the time, not only security but also wealth)

## Liberalist Proposition

- War is inefficient
- Interdependence peace
- Democratic peace
- IOs promote peace

## Comparison of realism and liberalism:

	Realism	Liberalism
Levels of analysis	Structure	Unit
Dominant factor	Power	Interests
State goals	Survival	Wealth
State view on gains	Relative gains	Absolute gains

**Key concepts**(the list is by no means exhaustive):

### Chapter 1

Collective goods problem  
 Domiance  
 Reciprocity  
 Identity  
 Nation-state  
 IGO (examples?)  
 NGO  
 Levels of analysis  
 Globalization  
 Cold War  
 Containment

### Chapter 2

Anarchy  
 Sovereignty  
 Security dilemma  
 Power  
 Tangible vs. non-tangible capabilities (or material vs. non-material power)  
 Fungible elements of power  
 Balance of power  
 Bandwagoning  
 Distribution of Power  
 Relative power  
 Polarity: concentration of power  
 Hegemony and hegemon  
 Hegemonic stability theory  
 Deterrence  
 Compellence  
 Arms race  
 Zero-sum games

### Chapter 3

Democratic peace  
 Liberal institutionalism = neoliberalism  
 International regime  
 Collective security