Handout of the Second Week: PS 103 Intro IR

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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:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Realism</th>
<th>Liberalism</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Levels of analysis</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominant factor</td>
<td>Power</td>
<td>Interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State goals</td>
<td>Survival</td>
<td>Wealth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State view on gains</td>
<td>Relative gains</td>
<td>Absolute gains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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