

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
HUMAN NATURE AND COGNITIVE THEORIES

Terms and concepts to know:

Human Nature	Instinct
"State of Nature"/ Leviathan	Competition/ Diffidence/ Glory
Personality/ Cognition	Independent Leader
Participatory leader	Operational reality
Elites	Perception/ misperception

Discussion and study questions:

1. How do individual level theories differ from both the state and system level theories? What are the benefits to studying international relations at the individual level as opposed to the system and state level?
2. Discuss some of the criticisms of human nature and cognitive theories. Are these criticisms as powerful as for the other levels of analysis?
3. How did Aristotle view war? Did he recognize the need for war?
4. Discuss the conditions of humankind in the state of nature as described by Hobbes. How did it differ from Aristotle's? Do you agree with his description?
5. According to Hobbes, why do individuals sacrifice their liberty to the Leviathan?
6. How did Freud explain the existence of war and what factor did he suggest was absent in the League of Nations that might prevent war?
7. What role does the "ego" identified by Lasswell play in shaping a nation's actions in the international system? Can you think of some examples in which a leader promoted symbolism to achieve particular international aims?
8. According to Hermann, what impact does training (or lack thereof) have on the foreign policy behavior of a leader? What do you think this means for George W. Bush?
9. What are the two propositions that Jervis identifies regarding his "perception" model?

Readings:

Genest. *Conflict and Cooperation*, chapters 8 and 9, pp. 487-546.

Video:

The Power of Nightmares, Part 2.