

# International Conflict

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## Course Description

Building up on the International Relations Pro-Seminar, this class introduces students to the study of international security within political science. The class covers an array of topics relating to international conflict, but it is not intended to be a complete survey of areas and scholarship. The foremost goal is to introduce students to the broad debates in research on international conflict, provide them with the skills needed to critically evaluate existing work, and enable them to design their own research in this area.

## Required Readings

The readings for this course will be drawn from several sources. The following books are required and are available at the bookstore.

- Reiter, Dan and Allan C. Stam. *Democracies at War*.
- Goemans, Hein. *War and Punishment*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Midlarsky, Magnus. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Zagare, Frank and Marc Kilgore. *Perfect Deterrence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Walter, Barbara. *Committing to Peace*.
- Lemke, Doug. *Regions of War, Regions of Peace*.
- Van Evera, Stephen. *Causes of War*.

## Course Goals

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a mastery of basic social science research skills. *(To be evaluated in the replication paper and the research paper)*
2. Trace the steps of conflict escalation from crisis stage to war termination. *(May be evaluated in either the research or replication paper)*
3. Delineate between theories of war at each level of analysis. *(May be evaluated in either the research or replication paper)*
4. Compare and contrast theories of inter-state and intra-state conflict. *(May be evaluated in either the research or replication paper)*
5. Identify and describe critical debates in the study of international security. *(To be evaluated in the research paper)*

## Evaluation

- **Class Participation** (25%) – Each week, students should come to class prepared to discuss the following question:
  - What is the research question?
  - What is the author’s theoretical argument?
  - What are the underlying assumptions? Are these appropriate – why or why not?
  - How does the author attempt to test his or her argument?
  - What conclusions does the author draw? Is the author’s evidence compelling?
  - Where does this work fit with the broader literature?

Each student in the course will be responsible for leading discussion of the major work during one week of the semester. Weeks will be assigned at the first meeting. A large portion of your participation grade will be dependent upon your performance during your leadership week.

- **Replication Paper** 30% – Each student must choose a quantitative article relevant to international conflict. Read the paper thoroughly, and then write a BRIEF (2-3 page) summary of the author(s)’ theory and empirical findings. Next, attempt to reproduce the findings.

First, you’ll need to create a dataset based on the description provided by the author. You will turn this dataset in with your paper, so make sure that it

is fairly user-friendly. After creating the data, try to recreate the findings. In your paper, explain where you obtained the data to replicate the project, how the variables are measured, and whether or not your results differed from the original manuscript. Be sure to describe any problems you had replicating the original author's results. If there were discrepancies, please discuss what you believe may have caused the difference. The paper should be 8-12 pages long (only 2-3 of which summarize the original work), and it will be due in class on October 26th. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

- **Research Design 35%** – For this longer paper, each student must frame a research question, summarize the relevant theoretical literature, lay out hypotheses to be tested, and present a research design to do so. For the purposes of this paper, executing the research design will not be necessary. This paper should be an effort at original research and should be at least 20 pages long. The goal should be to write a paper that you could eventually execute and present at a conference in the near future. This paper will be due during the exam period for this course – Saturday, December 9th, 4:30-7PM. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- **Additional Information:** Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet these course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructors office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office at 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

## Course Outline

### August 31: Course Introduction

- Wilkenfeld, Jonathan and Michael Brecher. 2000. "Interstate Crises and Violence," in Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.

### September 7: Systemic Explanations – Polarity & Long Cycles

- Rasler, Karen and William Thompson. 2000. "Global War and the Political Economy of Structural Change," in Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.
- Schweller, Randall. 1993. "Tripolarity and the Second World War," *International Studies Quarterly* 37(1).
- Mansfield, Edward. 1992. "The Concentrations of Capabilities and the Onset of War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36: 3-24.

- Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 1-2, 6, 9

### **September 14: Dyadic and Other Explanations for War**

- Kugler, Jacek and Doug Lemke. 2000. "The Power Transition Research Program," in Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.
- Goertz, Gary and Paul Diehl. 2000. "(Enduring) Rivalries," in Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.
- Lemke, Doug. *Regions of War, Regions of Peace*.

### **September 21: Rational Choice Approaches**

- Morrow, James. 2000. "The On-Going Game Theoretic Revolution," in Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan.
- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49: 379-414.
- Slantchev, Branislav. 2003. "The Power to Hurt: Costly Conflict Completely Informed States," *American Political Science Review* 97(1):123-33.
- Chiozza, Giacomo and Hein Goemans. 2004. "International Conflict and the Tenure of Leaders: Is War Still *Ex Post* Inefficient?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48(3): 604-619.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James Morrow, Randolph Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93(4): 791-807.

### **September 28: Preventive and Pre-emptive War**

- Van Evera, Stephen. *The Causes of War*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University.
- Dan Reiter, "Exploding the Powderkeg Myth: Preemptive Wars Almost Never Happen," *International Security* 20 (Fall 1995).

### **October 5: Diversionary War**

- Ostrom, Charles and Brian Job. 1986. "The President and the Political Use of Force," *American Political Science Review* 80(2): 541-566.
- Smith, Alastair. 1996. "Diversionary Foreign Policy in Democratic Systems," *International Studies Quarterly* 40: 133-153.

- Meernik, James and Peter Waterman. 1996. "The Myth of the Diversionary Use of Force by American Presidents," *Political Research Quarterly* 49(3): 573-90.
- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Brandon Prins. 2004. "Rivalry and Diversionary Uses of Force," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 937-61.
- If we can find it, Enterline, Andrew and Kristian Gleditch. 2000. "Threats, Opportunity, and Force: Repression and Diversion of Domestic Political Pressure, 1948-1982," *International Interactions* 26: 21-53.

### **October 12: Alliances**

- Morrow, James. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances." *American Journal of Political Science* 35: 904-933.
- Smith, Alastair. 1995. "Alliance Formation and War," *International Studies Quarterly* 39: 405-425.
- Bennett, Scott. 1997. "Testing Alternative Models of Alliance Duration, 1816-1984," *American Journal of Political Science* 41: 846-878.
- Leeds, B. Ashley, Andrew Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2000. "Re-evaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(5): 686-699.
- Gibler, Douglas M. and John A. Vasquez. 1998. "Uncovering Dangerous Alliances," *International Studies Quarterly* 42: 785-807.

### **October 19: Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence**

- Jervis, Robert. 1989. *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Ch. 1, 3, 5.
- Powell, Robert. 1987. "Crisis Bargaining, Escalation and MAD," *American Political Science Review* 81: 717-735.
- Zagare, Frank and D. Marc Kilgour. 2000. *Perfect Deterrence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

### **October 26: Regime Type and War**

- Reiter, Dan and Allan C. Stam. 2000. *Democracies at War*.
- Dixon, Bill. 1994. "Democracy and the Peaceful Settlement of International Conflict," *American Political Science Review* 88: 14-32.
- Fearon, James. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88:577-92.

- Schultz, Kenneth. 1999. "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War," *International Organization* 53: 233-66.

## **November 2: Economics and Conflict**

- Barbieri, Katherine. 1996 "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of International Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 33 (February 1996): 29-49.
- Oneal, John and Bruce Russett. 1997. "The Classic Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985," *International Studies Quarterly* 41: 267-294.
- Gowa, Joanne and Edward D. Mansfield. 1993. "Power Politics and International Trade," *American Political Science Review* 87(2): 408-420.
- Mansfield, Edward and Jon Pevehouse. 2000. "Trade Blocs, Trade Flows, and International Conflict," *International Organization* 54: 775-808.
- Crescenzi, Mark. 2003. "Economic Exit, Interdependence, and Conflict: An Empirical Analysis," *Journal of Politics* 65: 809-832.

## **November 9: War Termination and Consequences**

- Hein Goemans, *War and Punishment*.
- Bennett, D. Scott and Allan Stam. 1998. "The Declining Advantage of Democracy: A Combined Model of War Outcomes and Duration," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42: 344-366.
- Wagner, R. Harrison. 2000. "Bargaining and War," *American Journal of Political Science*. 44: 469-484.
- Suzanne Werner, "Negotiating the Terms of Settlement: War Aims and Bargaining Leverage," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42 (June 1998).

## **November 16: Civil Conflict**

- Fearon, James and David Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Inter-ethnic Cooperation," *American Political Science Review* 90: 715-735.
- Sambanis, Nick. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(3): 259-282.
- Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Conflict," *International Security* 20: 136-175.

- Davis, David R. and Will H. Moore. 1997. "Ethnicity Matters; Transnational Ethnic Alliances and Foreign Policy Behavior," *International Studies Quarterly* 41: 171-184.
- Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2002. "Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence," *International Organization* 55.
- Ghoborah, Hazem Adam, Paul Huth, and Bruce Russett. 2003. "Civil Wars Kill and Maim People – Long After the Shooting Stops." *American Political Science Review* 97(2): 189-202.

### **November 30: Intervention and Conflict Termination**

- Walter, Barbara. *Committing to Peace*.
- Fortna, Page. 2004. "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace after Civil Wars," *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2): 269-292.
- Regan, Pat. 1998. "Choosing to Intervene: Outside Intervention in Internal Conflicts," *Journal of Politics* 60: 754-779.
- Diehl, Paul F., Jennifer Reifschneider and Paul R. Hensel. 1996. "United Nations Intervention and Recurring Conflict," *International Organization* 50: 683-700.