
INTL 5590
International Security
Dr. Kyle Haynes

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Office: HSPC 105
Office Hours: Mon. 10 - 12:30 & by appt.

Fall 2012
Classroom: HSPC 201
Tues 5:30 - 9:30 pm

1 Description

Catalog Description: This course offers a broad overview of the causes and consequences of international conflict. It examines age-old questions of war and peace, but also tackles more modern topics such as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, and drone warfare. It requires students to assess several of the field's most prominent theories of conflict, coercion, bargaining, and cooperation in terms of both historical and contemporary case studies.

Conflict and warfare have been remarkably constant phenomena throughout history. The nature of the political units involved and the types of violence employed have changed dramatically. But the threat and use of force to achieve national political goals has been a persistent feature of the international system. This course examines why conflict occurs, how it is prosecuted, and what can be done to prevent it, or at least ameliorate its effects. By the end of the course, students should have a far deeper understanding of the world around them, the sources of international conflict, and the ways in which conflict can be dampened.

2 Class Policies

- *Missing Class:* The course will be run almost entirely as a seminar, with student participation an absolutely vital component. With only nine class meetings, *any* unexcused absence will have a significant effect on your grade. If you will be missing class due to illness or family emergency, please let me know as promptly as possible, and be prepared to provide documentation attesting to the reason for your absence.
- *Cheating and Academic Dishonesty:* I take academic integrity *very* seriously. A student found cheating on an exam or assignment will be given a chance to explain the situation. In the event I find the explanation unsatisfactory, the student will be given absolutely no credit for the assignment. Depending on the magnitude of the assignment, this could be enough to guarantee an *F* in the course.

- *Special Needs*: I rely on the Academic Resource Center (Loretto Hall, Room 6, 314-246-7620) to document and coordinate the appropriate action for students requiring special accommodations as a result of a disability. If you have special needs, please come speak with me so we can determine the appropriate accommodations.

3 Assignments and Evaluation

There are no required books. All readings will consist of academic articles and will be made available on the class website. All readings listed in the syllabus are required.

Final course grades will be derived from four key components:

- *Class Participation (30%)*: Students must carefully read all of the assigned materials and come to class prepared to critically assess the relevant literature. A graduate course requires more than just the absorption of information. Informed and insightful critical analysis will be expected of all students during class meetings.
- *Reading Presentation (15%)*: Each student will be required to present, in class, a summary and analysis of a week's readings. This presentation will be used to guide class discussion.
- *Research Paper (40%)*: The course's main assignment will be an original research paper of approximately 15 pages (no less than 13, no more than 18) analyzing an international war, conflict, or dispute. Cases can be either historical or contemporary, but must be cleared with me. Students should have a topic chosen by October 30. Papers will be due *electronically* by 12:00 pm (noon) on **Thursday, December 13**.
- *Paper Presentation (15%)*: All students will present their research project in class on December 11. Length of presentations will depend upon final enrollment. There will be significant time reserved for comments, criticisms, and Q & A. Grades will be determined by the quality of the student's presentation, how effectively he/she responds to questions and criticism, and the insightfulness of his/her comments on other papers.

4 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. ...identify the major causes of war and peace and assess the ability of competing theories to explain both historical and contemporary international conflicts.
 - Primary assessment to be done through the reading presentation, which asks students to compare, contrast, and critically assess a set of competing explanations of international conflict.

- Secondary assessment to be done through the research paper, which asks students to evaluate the explanatory validity of at least one theory of international conflict with reference to a historical or contemporary conflict.
2. ...analyze the *strategic* nature of international conflict, including the dynamic cycles of action and reaction that frequently result in interstate violence.
 - Primary assessment to be done through class participation, as students will be pressed to explain how the strategic, interactive dynamics of international conflict operate in practice.
 - Secondary assessment to be done through the research paper, as many of the theories which students will be evaluating specify precise strategic interactions underlying conflict.
 3. ...formulate a coherent, logically consistent explanation of international conflict and communicate this argument both in speech and in writing.
 - Primary assessment to be done through both the research paper and research presentation, which requires students to describe the ways in which their cases depart from conventional understandings of conflict and specify a more valid explanation of the event.
 4. ...identify policies and strategies to prevent, resolve, or mitigate ongoing international conflicts and assess the feasibility and likely effectiveness of these strategies.
 - Primary assessment to be done through class participation, as course material will be consistently related to contemporary events and students will be asked what a given theory would advise as a means of mitigating this specific conflict.
 - Secondary assessment to be done through the research presentation, as students must defend the validity of their conclusions and policy recommendations with respect to contemporary conflicts outside the historical purview of the paper itself.

4.1 Assignments and Assessing Learning Outcomes

Table 1: “⊗” = Key Tool; “⊖” = Secondary Tool

Outcome	Participation	Reading Pres.	Research Paper	Research Pres.
Outcome 1		⊗	⊖	
Outcome 2	⊗		⊖	
Outcome 3			⊗	⊗
Outcome 4	⊗			⊖

5 Assigned Reading

Date	Topic	Readings
Oct 16	Bargaining & Negotiation	Frieden, Lake, & Schultz - <i>World Politics</i> Ch 3 Schelling - <i>Diplomacy of Violence</i> Levy - <i>An Introduction to Prospect Theory</i>
Oct 23	Security Dilemma & Int'l Institutions	Jervis - <i>Cooperation Under Security Dilemma</i> Keohane - <i>Demand for Int'l Regimes</i> Mearsheimer - <i>False Promise</i> pp 15-26
Oct 30	Democratic & Bureaucratic Politics	Frieden, Lake, & Schultz, pp 154-170 Rosato - <i>The Flawed Logic</i> Allison - <i>Conceptual Models</i>
Nov 6	Democracy & Conflict Selection	Fearon - <i>Domestic Audiences</i> pp. 577-582 Frieden, Lake & Schultz, pp 126-153 Brown & Marcum - <i>Avoiding Audience Costs</i> Reiter & Stam - <i>Democracy, War Initiation, & Victory</i>
Nov 13	Economics & Int'l Security	Keohane & Nye - <i>Power & Interdependence in the Information Age</i> Copeland - <i>Economic Interdependence & War</i> Pape - <i>Why Economic Sanctions Do Not Work</i>
Nov 20	Terrorism	Pape - <i>Strategic Logic</i> Abrahms - <i>Why Terrorism Does Not Work</i> Jervis - <i>Understanding the Bush Doctrine</i>
Nov 27	Unipolarity	Wohlforth - <i>Stability of a Unipolar World</i> Ikenberry - <i>Institutions, Strategic Restraint</i> MacDonald & Parent - <i>Graceful Decline?</i>
Dec 4	Nuclear Deterrence & Proliferation	Powell - <i>Nuclear Deterrence Theory</i> Sagan - <i>Perils of Proliferation</i> Edelman et al - <i>The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran</i> Debs & Monteiro - <i>Flawed Logic of Striking Iran</i> Kroenig - <i>Time to Attack Iran</i>
Dec 11	Paper Presentations	Provide Comments and Feedback!!