
POL 631

Research Seminar: International Security
Dr. Kyle Haynes

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Office: BRNG 2234

Office Hours: Tues. 10 - 1, Wed. 12:30 - 1:30

Fall 2016

Classroom: BRNG B206

Mon 2:30 – 5:20

Course Overview

Course Description: This course examines cutting edge research on alliances, bargaining, war termination, mediation, nuclear weapons, civil war, reputation, signaling, and related topics. The course is designed to provide students with an overview of recently published work on international security while pushing students to identify and explore avenues for original research projects building on these literatures. To this end, students will regularly submit brief “research proposals” outlining a project that builds on the week’s readings. Students will also produce an original research paper over the course of the semester.

Required Reading

There are three required books for this course: Thomas Schelling’s *Arms and Influence*, Dan Reiter’s *How Wars End*, and Hein Goemans & Giacomo Chiozza’s *Leaders and International Conflict*. All other readings will be posted on the course blackboard site. All readings listed in the syllabus are mandatory.

Note – this syllabus only scratches the surface of the literatures on these topics. **Please come meet with me if you are interested in exploring a particular topic further.**

Assignments and Evaluation

Final course grades consist of four elements:

- *Class Participation (20%)*: This course will be run entirely as a seminar, with active student participation a crucial component. Students are expected to attend each class having carefully read the assigned material. Students should be prepared to critically evaluate the readings and ideas discussed in each class. Students will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of their participation.

- *Research Proposals (10% each, 30% total)*: Each student will be required to submit three “research proposals” that briefly sketch out a question and research design building on that week’s readings. These papers should be no longer than one single-spaced page. Ideally, they will specify a clear, interesting research question and map out a valid, feasible research design to answer that question. We will discuss the expectations for these papers in greater detail in class. These papers can be turned in for any week of the student’s choosing, but each student must submit three by the end of the term.
- *Research Paper (40%)*: Each student will produce a 15-20 page research paper throughout the course of the semester on a topic of their choosing. Ideally, these papers will form the kernel of a conference paper or peer-reviewed publication. Students should clear their topic with me by week 5 of the semester, and meet with me throughout the term to discuss their progress. In lieu of the normal class meeting, I will meet individually with each student to discuss these research projects during the week of Oct. 24-28. We will also have an in-class “paper workshop” where students will read and edit drafts of one another’s papers on Nov. 28.
- *Paper Presentations (10%)*: The final week of class will consist of a “mini-conference” in which each student will present their paper in a format mimicking an academic conference. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their presentation and ability to answer questions following their presentation.

Class Policies

- *Attendance*: You must attend each class meeting. If you have to miss class due to an illness or emergency, let me know ASAP. Previously scheduled travel, unless specifically cleared with me beforehand, does not constitute a valid excuse for missing class.
- *Classroom Conduct*: I expect all students to treat one another with respect. Offensive, aggressive, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language and conduct will not be tolerated. I expect all students in this class to engage in vigorous debate while remaining civil and respectful of the viewpoints and experiences of their classmates. Again, *violations of this policy will not be tolerated.*
- *Technology*: Phones are strictly prohibited in class. If you read articles digitally, I will allow laptops only in order to find specific passages in the text. But otherwise, your computer should be put away.
- *Cheating and Academic Dishonesty*: Any plagiarism or cheating in a graduate course will be taken very seriously. Serious academic dishonesty will, at the very least, result in you failing the assignment. Further disciplinary action, and possibly expulsion from the graduate program, will be considered for serious offenses.
- *Special Needs*: I am committed to making this course accessible to everyone. If you have any special needs or a disability requiring any additional accommodations, please contact me ASAP to discuss the appropriate arrangements. All such accommodations will be coordinated with the Disability Resource Center (drc@purdue.edu).

Course Schedule and Assignments

Day 1/Aug 22 - The Bargaining Model of War

- James Fearon: “Rationalist Explanations for War”
- Erik Gartzke: “War is in the Error Term”
- Jessica Chen Weiss: “Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China.”
- Alexandre Debs & Nuno Monteiro: “Known Unknowns: Power Shifts, Uncertainty, and War”

Day 2/Aug 29 - Alliances and Coalitions

- Stephen Walt: “Alliance formation and the Balance of World Power”
- James Morrow: “Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances”
- Scott Wolford: “Showing Restraint, Signaling Resolve: Coalitions, Cooperation, and Crisis Bargaining”
- Brett Ashley Leeds, Michaela Mattes, & Jeremy Vogel: “Interests, Institutions, and the Reliability of International Commitments”

Day 3/Sep 12 - Signaling (Note: Class will need to be rescheduled due to Labor Day)

- James Fearon: “Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands versus Sinking Costs”
- Thomas Schelling: *Arms and Influence* (excerpt)
- Andrew Kydd: “Trust, Reassurance, and Cooperation”
- Dustin Tingley & Barbara Walter: “Can Cheap Talk Deter? An Experimental Analysis”

Day 4/Sep 19 - Reputation

- Todd Sechser: “Goliath’s Curse: Coercive Threats and Asymmetric Power”
- Anne Sartori: “The Might of the Pen: A Reputational Theory of Communication in International Disputes”
- Scott Wolford: “The Turnover Trap: New Leaders, Reputation, and International Conflict”
- Joe Clare & Vesna Danilovic: “Multiple Audiences and Reputation Building in International Conflicts”

Day 5/Sep 26: War Termination

- Dan Reiter: *How Wars End* (chs 1-5)
- Hein Goemans: “Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War”

Day 6/Oct 3: Mediation and Peacekeeping

- Kyle Beardsley: “Agreement without Peace: International Mediation and Time Inconsistency Problems”
- Andrew Kydd: “When can Mediators Build Trust?”
- Virginia Page Fortna: “Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace”
- Suzanna Werner & Amy Yuen: “Making and Keeping Peace”

Day 7/Oct 10: Nuclear Weapons

- Etel Solingen: “The Political Economy of Nuclear Restraint”
- Alexandre Debs & Nuno Monteiro: “The Strategic Logic of Nuclear Proliferation”
- Matthew Kroenig: “Nuclear Superiority and the Balance of Resolve: Explaining Nuclear Crisis Outcomes”
- Todd Sechser & Matthew Fuhrmann: “Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail”

Day 9/Oct 17: The Democratic Peace

- Zeev Maoz & Bruce Russett: “Normative & Structural Causes of Democratic Peace”
- Henry Farber & Joanne Gowa: “Politics and Peace”
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, James Morrow, Randolph Siverson, & Alastair Smith: “An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace”
- Erik Gartzke: “The Capitalist Peace”

Day 10/Oct 24: Individual Meetings

- **Two-page research proposal is due via email.**
- We will NOT meet as a class. Each student must schedule a 1 on 1 meeting with me to discuss their research project.

Day 11/Oct 31: Audience Costs

- James Fearon: “Domestic Political Audiences & the Escalation of International Disputes”
- Michael Tomz: “Domestic Audience Costs: An Experimental Approach”
- Jessica Weeks: “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve”
- Jack Snyder & Erica Borghard: “The Cost of Empty Threats: A Penny, Not a Pound”

Day 12/Nov 7: Individual Leaders

- Hein Goemans & Giacomo Chiozza: *Leaders and International Conflict* (entire)

Day 13/Nov 14: Terrorism and Insurgency

- Robert Pape: “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”
- Max Abrahms: “Why Terrorism Does Not Work”
- Andrew Kydd & Barbara Walter: “Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence”
- Jason Lyall: “Do Democracies make Inferior Counterinsurgents? Reassessing Democracy’s Impact on War Outcomes and Duration”

Day 14/Nov 21: Civil and Ethnic Conflict

- Barry Posen: “The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict”
- Barbara Walter: “The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement”
- James Fearon & David Laitin: “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War”
- Idean Salehyan & Kristian Skrede Gleditsch: “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War”

Day 15/Nov 28: Paper Workshop

- Students will bring 2 copies of their research paper in draft form. Class will consist of small group workshops on each paper.

Day 16/Dec 5: Paper Presentations

- **Research papers are due at the start of class!**
- I will organize papers into themed panels, and each student will give a 10 minute presentation on their project, followed by questions from the audience. These presentations should prepare students to present their work at an academic conference.