

Seminar in World Politics

Political Science 650

Spring 2014

Wednesdays 9:40am – 12:40pm

Rockefeller Center Room 204

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Office hours: Tue. 10-11:30am
and by appointment

OVERVIEW

This course is a first-year seminar in world politics. It is designed to provide an introduction to the study of international politics with a focus on conflict. This focus is both narrow and broad. It is narrow because conflict, and in particular military interstate conflict, is just one aspect of international politics. The question “What causes war?” has motivated much of the international relations literature in the post-World War II era we will discuss in this course. At the same time, there is a large and diverse body of scholarship dealing with the world economy which we will not discuss in detail here. Interested students are encouraged to take PLSC 668 (Seminar in World Political Economy), which forms the companion piece to our course. Another topic we will not cover is civil war. Interested students should take PLSC 663K (Civil Wars & Their Consequences).

The focus of this seminar is broad because we will cover a wide range of topics and approaches. Yet we will still merely scratch the surface. By necessity survey seminars have to strike a balance between depth and breadth. The syllabus lists required readings for each topic we will discuss this semester. These readings are chosen to demonstrate a range of theoretical approaches to a particular empirical puzzle. The recommended readings are meant to provide points of departure for deeper explorations of each topic. If you would like pointers on additional readings, the instructor will be happy to provide them.

COURSE MATERIALS

Most of the course readings are journal articles which are available online and can be accessed through the BU library. Readings not readily available online will be posted in the “Course Documents” section of the Blackboard page for this course.

The following books are required for this course:

- Robert Axelrod. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York, NY: Basic Books.
- Adam Berinsky. 2009. *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq*. University of Chicago Press.
- Edward H. Carr. 1964. *Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*. Harper Perennial.
- Carl von Clausewitz. 1989 [1832]. *On War*. Indexed Edition, translated by Michael E. Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton University Press.
- Michael Colaresi, Karen Rasler, and William R. Thompson. 2008. *Strategic Rivalries in World Politics: Position, Space and Conflict Escalation*. Cambridge University Press.

- Patrick McDonald. 2009. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Daryl G. Press. 2007. *Calculating Credibility: How Leaders Assess Military Threats*. Cornell University Press.
- Elinor Ostrom. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.
- Bruce M. Russett and John R. Oneal. 2000. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- Thomas C. Schelling. 1990. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Paul D. Senese and John A. Vasquez. 2008. *The Steps to War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The most important requirement for students in this seminar is to read the assigned works for each class thoroughly before class and come to class prepared to discuss them. Active participation in course discussions is vitally important for the success of the seminar as well as for your final grade. As a consequence, full attendance is expected. In addition to attendance and participation, the requirements for this seminar are:

1.) Research design. Each student will generate a research design addressing a question in world politics. The goal is to set students on a solid path toward completion of a project that is (a) suitable for presentation at a professional conference (or our department's World Politics workshop) and that can (b) form the basis for an application for external funding (such as the NSF). Students do NOT have to execute their research design during the semester but the design should be fully developed by the end of classes.

The research design should sketch out an empirical puzzle and draw on relevant theoretical literature to formulate a research question, develop hypotheses, and outline a methodology for testing these hypotheses. Each of these steps will require time and careful thinking; students are strongly encouraged to start the process early in the semester and keep an open mind as they process readings for each week. Inevitably, generating the research design will require students to read beyond the assigned material.

We will discuss the elements of a research design in greater detail in class. Research designs are due on **Friday, May 16, 2014**.

2.) Short papers/Research questions. Each student will prepare four short papers (4-5 double-spaced pages in length) over the course of the semester. Each of these papers will sketch out an original research question drawn (loosely) from the week's reading. These papers are NOT intended to be summaries of the readings. Instead, your task is to identify a puzzle or develop a

research question, to explain why the question is interesting, and to propose a potential answer/explanation. Asking interesting questions is the foundation of what we do. Asking good questions is hard. Many graduate students worry about the “how” (datasets, statistical methods) before they worry about the “why” (What am I trying to explain and why should we care?). These short papers are an exercise in creativity. Approach them without thinking about how you will test the hypotheses that can be drawn from your explanation.

Short papers are due by 5pm on the **Tuesday** before each class and should be sent via email as a .pdf to the whole class. These papers will be added to the week’s required readings. All students are expected to be able to respond to the content of the week’s short papers. We will divide up the readings for the first weeks on the first day of class.

3.) Seminar leaders/Participation. In addition to short papers and regular participation in discussion, students are required to serve as seminar leaders (at least) once during the semester. Seminar leaders will provide a brief overview of the week’s readings and help facilitate discussion by generating 3-4 questions about the readings, which should be emailed to the instructor for copying by 9am on the day of the class.

GRADING

Semester grades for the class are assigned as follows:

Research design – 40%

Short papers (4, 10% each) – 40%

Participation/seminar leadership – 20%

The grading scale is as follows:

94-100 = A 90-93 = A- 87-89 = B+ 83-86 = B 80-82 = B- 77-79 = C+
73-76 = C 70-72 = C- 60-69 = D < 60 = F

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) provides a wide range of assistance to enrolled students with physical, learning or other disabilities. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities, Phone: 607-777-2686 voice/TTY), Fax 607-777-6893. E-mail: bjfairba@binghamton.edu.

ACADMIC HONESTY

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All work submitted in this course must be original work. Sources must be properly cited. You may use any citation style of your choice, as long as it is used consistently throughout the paper. I recommend the Style Manual for Political Scientists available directly at <http://www.apsa.org> and with useful comments and illustrations at http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocAPSA_PC.html.

Any and all instances of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade (F) for the course and may be reported to the Harpur College Academic Honesty Committee for possible further disciplinary measures. You can find out more about the Honesty Code in the bulletin: <http://bulletin.binghamton.edu> (Click on Academic Policies and Procedures - All Students).

PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE [subject to change]

January 29 – Organizational Meeting; What We Study.

- Waltz, Kenneth N. *Man, the State, and War*. 1959. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1. [Blackboard]
- Dahl, Robert A. 1957. The Concept of Power. *Behavioral Science* 2(3): 201-15.
- Collier, David, and Robert Adcock. 1999. Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices about Concepts. *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 537-65.
- Carl von Clausewitz. 1989 [1832]. On War. Indexed Edition, translated by Michael E. Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton University Press. Book 1: On the Nature of War. [Blackboard]

February 5 – Realism

- Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
- Edward H. Carr. 1964. *Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*. Harper Perennial. Chapters 4-5 [skim remaining]
- Legro, Jeffrey W., and Andrew Moravcsik. 1999. Is Anybody Still a Realist? *International Security* 24(2): 5-55.

Recommended reading:

- Morgenthau, Hans. 2005 [1948]. *Politics among Nations*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.
- Deutsch, Karl W., and J. David Singer. 1964. Multipolar Systems and International Stability. *World Politics* 16(3): 390-406.
- Keohane, Robert O., Ed. 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
- Mansfield, Edward D. 1992. The Concentration of Capabilities and the Onset of War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(1): 3-24.
- Braumoeller, Baer. 2008. Systemic Politics and the Origins of Great Power Conflict. *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 77-93.

February 12 – Liberalism

- Bruce M. Russett and John R. Oneal. 2000. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.
- William R. Thompson. 1996. Democracy and Peace: Putting the Cart before the Horse? *International Organization* 50(1): 141-74.
- Morrow, James D. 1999. How Could Trade Affect Conflict? *Journal of Peace Research* 36(4): 481-89.

February 19 – Strategic Action

- Thomas C. Schelling. 1990. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

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Recommended reading:

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Thomas C. Schelling 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. [especially Ch. 2: The Art of Commitment]
- George D. Downs and David M. Rocke. *Optimal Imperfection? Domestic Uncertainty and Institutions in International Relations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

February 26 – Strategic Action & Bargaining

- James D. Fearon. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
- Dan Reiter. 2003. Exploring the Bargaining Model of War. *Perspectives of Politics* 1(1): 27-43.
- Erik Gartzke. 1999. War is in the Error Term. *International Organization* 53(3): 567-87.
- Carl von Clausewitz. 1989 [1832]. *On War*. Indexed Edition, translated by Michael E. Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton University Press. Book 8: War Plans. **[Blackboard]**

Recommended reading:

- R. Harrison Wagner. 2000. Bargaining and War. *American Journal of Political Science* 44(3): 469-84.
- James D. Fearon. 1997. Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands vs. Sinking Costs. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41(1): 68-90.

March 5 – Hegemony, Cooperation & Conflict

- Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Stephen D. Krasner. 1976. State Power and the Structure of International Trade. *World Politics* 28(3): 317-47.

Recommended reading:

- Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions. *World Politics* 38(1): 226-54.
- Timothy J. McKeown. 1983. Hegemonic Stability Theory and 19th Century Tariff Levels in Europe. *International Organization* 37(1): 73-91.
- Robert Gilpin. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Ronald Tammen et al. 2000. *Power Transitions*. New York, NY: Chatham House.
- Daniel S. Geller. 1993. Power Differentials and War in Rival Dyads. *International Studies Quarterly* 37(2): 173-93.

March 12 – Cooperation

- Robert Axelrod. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York, NY: Basic Books.

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Recommended reading:

- George W. Downs, David M. Rocke, and Peter N. Barsoom. 1996. Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation? *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406.
- James D. Fearon. 1998. Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation. *International Organization* 52(2): 269-305.
- Glenn H. Snyder. 1984. The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics. *World Politics* 36(4): 461-95.
- Brett Ashley Leeds. 2003. Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes. *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 427-39.
- James D. Morrow. 1994. Alliances, Credibility, and Peacetime Costs. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38(2): 270-97.
- Alastair Smith. 1995. To Intervene or Not to Intervene: A Biased Decision. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40(1): 16-40.

March 19 – Collective Action

- Elinor Ostrom. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.

March 26 – Domestic Politics I

- Putnam, Robert D. Putnam. 1988. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games. *International Organization* 42(3): 427-60.
- James D. Fearon. 1994. Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes. *American Political Science Review* 88(3):577-592.
- Charles W. Ostrom and Brian Job. 1986. The president and the political use of force. *American Political Science Review* 80(2):541-566.
- Benjamin Fordham. 1998. Partisanship, Macroeconomic Policy, and U.S. Uses of Force, 1949-1994. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(4):418-439.
- David H. Clark. 1993. Can Strategic Interaction Divert Diversionary Behavior? A Model of U.S. Conflict Propensity. *Journal of Politics* 65(4):1013-1039.
- Brett Ashley Leeds. 1999. Domestic Political Institutions, Credible Commitments, and International Cooperation. *American Journal of Political Science* 43(4): 979-1002.

Recommended reading:

- Jessica L. Weeks. 2008. Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve. *International Organization* 62(1): 35-64.
- Kenneth A. Schultz. 1998. Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises. *American Political Science Review* 92(4):829-844.

April 2 – Domestic Politics II

- Adam Berinsky. 2009. *In Time of War: Understanding American Public Opinion from World War II to Iraq*. University of Chicago Press.

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Recommended reading:

- Alexandra Guisinger. 2009. Determining Trade Policy: Do Voters Hold Politicians Accountable? *International Organization* 63(3): 533-57.
- Michael R. Tomz and Jessica L. P. Weeks. 2013. Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 107(4):849-65.
- Benjamin O. Fordham and Katja B. Kleinberg. 2012. How Can Economic Interests Influence Support for Free Trade? *International Organization* 66(2): 311-28.

April 9 – Reputation

- Daryl G. Press. 2007. *Calculating Credibility: How Leaders Assess Military Threats*. Cornell University Press.

Recommended reading:

- Mark J. C. Crescenzi. 2007. Reputation and Interstate Conflict. *American Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 382-96.
- Jonathan Mercer. 1996. *Reputation and International Politics*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Jack S. Levy. 1994. Learning and Foreign Policy: Sweeping the Conceptual Minefield. *International Organization* 48(2): 279-312.

April 16 – Spring Break

April 23 – Economics & Conflict

- Patrick McDonald. 2009. *The Invisible Hand of Peace: Capitalism, the War Machine, and International Relations Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Jeffrey A. Frieden. 1994. International Investment and Colonial Control: A New Interpretation. *International Organization* 48(4): 559-93.

Recommended reading:

- Robert Gilpin. 2001. *Global Political Economy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Michael Hiscox. 2001. Class versus Industry Cleavages: Inter-Industry Factor Mobility and the Politics of Trade. *International Organization* 55(1): 1-46.
- Susanne Lohmann and Sharyn O'Halloran. 1994. Divided Government and US Trade Policy: Theory and Evidence. *International Organization* 48(4): 595-632.
- Edward D. Mansfield. 1992. The Concentration of Capabilities and International Trade. *International Organization* 46(3): 731-64.

April 30 – Rivalry

- Michael Colaresi, Karen Rasler, and William R. Thompson. 2008. *Strategic Rivalries in World Politics: Position, Space and Conflict Escalation*. Cambridge University Press.

Recommended reading:

- Russell J. Leng. 1988. Crisis Learning Games. *American Political Science Review* 82(1): 179-94.

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- Gary Goertz and Paul F. Diehl. 1993. Enduring Rivalries: Theoretical Constructs and Empirical Patterns. *International Studies Quarterly* 37(2): 147-71.
- Erik Gartzke and Michael W. Simon. 1999. Hot Hand: A Critical Analysis of Enduring Rivalries. *Journal of Politics* 61(3): 777-98.

May 7 – Geography

- Paul D. Senese and John A. Vasquez. 2008. *The Steps to War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Recommended reading:

- Paul F. Diehl. 1993. What Are They Fighting For? The Importance of Issues in International Conflict Research. *Journal of Peace Research* 29(3): 333-44.
- Kristian S. Gleditsch and Michael D. Ward. 2000. War and Peace in Space and Time: The Role of Democratization. *International Studies Quarterly* 44(1): 1-29.