

Introduction to International Politics

Wesleyan University

Government 155-03, Fall 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:20 - 11:40

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Why does war occur between states? Why at other times do states choose to cooperate and at others to fight? Are certain states more cooperative than others? What factors shape state policy and behavior towards other states? These are the primary questions driving this course. We will seek answers in the major theories designed to help us understand international politics. We will begin by assessing how theories in general help us understand the world. We will then push and pull on the major theories of international politics by applying them to major events in international history, assessing the degree to which each individual theory provides a convincing outline of international behavior. We will then turn to the issues predominating current international politics. We will learn specific things about theories and about international history. Almost more importantly, we will develop two important skills – the abilities to think critically about the world around us and to devise nuanced understandings of highly complex events.

Seminar objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of theoretical approaches to thinking about international politics.
2. To develop historical knowledge of major international crises and conflicts.
3. To provide students an opportunity to individually apply the theoretical explanations to actual cases of conflict.
4. To assist students in analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of theoretical explanations by gauging how well they explain the real world.
5. To develop reading skills such that students read not only to master content but also to critique the approach and validity of the work.

The course will involve both lecture and discussion. Students will be expected to show up having read all required texts and to be ready to talk about them. Students should also stay abreast of current affairs during this course (and hopefully in the future!). Read the international section of the New York Times, listen to NPR, read The Economist – as long as you stay informed about what is going on in the world around you. We will be bringing these events into classroom discussion. One cannot assess the validity of theories in a vacuum – you need events to apply theories to.

Grades and Requirements:

Two exams: 50%
Analytical Writing Assignment: 25%
Participation in class discussion: 15%
Moodle Posts: 10%

The course will entail one midterm exam and one final exam. Unexcused absences for exams will result in an exam grade of “0”. Exams will be comprised of short and long essay questions.

The writing assignment will involve a 5 - 7 page essay applying the theories we learn in the first section of the class to a particular instance of international conflict. The essay will be written individually and will be due on November 1st. No late papers will be accepted.

Participation during class is important for a number of reasons. First, it allows you to demonstrate that you are engaged with the course and are processing its contents. Second, it helps you develop the important skill of feeling comfortable offering your opinion in front of many others. Third, it provides you practice at making verbal arguments in constructive and respectful ways.

Participation will be evaluated not solely on the amount that you talk but also on the quality of your comments and on the degree to which you respond to the comments of others. I will assign one Participation grade for the semester. If you are interested in how you are doing in in class, please stop by my office hours. I will be happy to discuss it with you.

In addition to in-class participation, 15 moodle posts will be required throughout the semester - seven before the midterm and 8 after. These posts should be posted at least **1 hour** before class time. Within your post, you can ask clarifying questions about the readings. You must also, however, include some point of analysis about the readings. What questions do the readings leave unanswered? Do the readings make assumptions with which you disagree? Do the logical conclusions of authors' arguments correspond with the world we see around us?

You can choose which class periods you would like to write about. The one scheduling requirement is that five are posted before fall break (starting October 21st) and five are posted in the second half of the course following fall break.

Class Conduct:

A few guidelines to ensure that class time will run smoothly and will adhere to basic notions of respect for others.

- Arrive on time so as not to disturb others and to ensure you don't miss the comments of others.
- It should go without saying, but – No texting, surfing, making or answering calls, or any other form of electronic disturbance during class. No laptops. Often times, we will be using them to access materials, but you should not be taking notes on them. And if you think professors do not notice the phone sneaking out of your pockets, we do!

Reading Materials:

We will be using the following book: Robert Art and Robert Jervis, *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, 13th Edition*.

It should be available at the bookstore. It is also of course available for purchase or for rental on Amazon. All other readings will be available on the course website. Please note that reading assignments are subject to change. Always consult the most recent syllabus and readings on the course website.

Course Outline

I. Introduction to the Study of International Relations

1. Tuesday, September 3rd: Course Introduction

- What questions will we be asking? How will we go about answering them?
- Review of Syllabus

2. Thursday, September 5th: Theories and Their Utility

- Bernstein, et al. (2000) "God Gave Physics the Easy Problems: Adapting Social Science to an Unpredictable World," *European Journal of International Relations*, vol. 6 no. 1, pp. 43 - 53.
- Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State and War, pp. 1-15.

II. Theoretical Perspectives: What Causes War?

3. Tuesday, September 10th: Anarchy, Realism and the Balance of Power

- Thucydides, “The Melian Dialogue,” (A&J), pp. 10 -15.
- Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics,” (A&J), pp. 48-69.

4. Thursday, September 12th: Strategies in an Anarchic World

- John Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, pp. 29-54.
- Robert Jervis, “Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma,” (A&J), pp. 104-124.
- Stephen Walt, “Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning,” (A&J), pp. 153-160.

5. Tuesday, September 17th: Liberalism: Institutions and Interdependence

- Kenneth Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics,” Moodle.
- Robert Keohane, “International Institutions,” (A&J), pp.181-188.
- Dale Copeland, “Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations,” (A&J), pp. 299 - 306.

6. Thursday, September 19th: Constructivism

- Wendt, Alexander, “Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of International Politics,” (A&J), pp. 65-72.
- Ted Hopf, “The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory,” *International Security*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Summer 1998), pp. 171-181.

7. Tuesday, September 24th: Domestic Level: The Democratic Peace

- Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs,” (A&J), pp. 125-138.
- Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, “Democratization and the Danger of War,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (May - June 1995), pp. 5-8 & 19-26.

- Christopher Layne, “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace,” *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2, Fall 1994, pp. 5-15 & 38-45.

8. Thursday, September 26th: Individual Level: Individuals, Bureaucracy and War

- Daniel Byman and Kenneth Pollack, “Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesmen Back In,” *International Security* Vol. 25, No. 4 (Spring 2001), pp. 107- 146.
- Michael Roskin, “From Pearl Harbor to Vietnam: Shifting Generational Paradigms and Foreign Policy,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 89, No. 3, Autumn, 1974, pp. 563-576.
- Daniel Kahneman and Jonathan Renshon, “Why Hawks Win,” *Foreign Policy* (January / February 2007).

9. Tuesday, October 1st: Hegemony and Authority / Negotiated Solutions and The Bargaining Model of War

- David Kang, “Hierarchy and Hegemony in International Politics,” (A & J), pp. 161-164.
- David Lake, “Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics,” [Url link on Moodle](#). pp. 1 - 14.
- James Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War,” (A & J), pp. 95 - 103.

III. Application of Theory

Readings for Analytical Writing Assignment, **due November 1st**:

Please read the following and write a 5 page paper which does the following.

Analyze the causes of the Cold War from the theoretical perspectives of realism and constructivism based on the readings below.

- Walker, Martin, *The Cold War: A History* , pp.8-58
- George Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 25, no. 4 (July 1947), pp. 566-582.

10. Thursday, October 3rd: World War I

Before starting the readings, please familiarize yourselves with the main events and leaders during the start of World War I. You can do this online at any number of sources or in more detail with the following sources:

- Hew Strahan, *The First World War*
- Luigi Albertini, *The Origins of the War of 1914*
- Christopher Clark, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914*

Then please read the following:

- Stephen Van Evera, “The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War,” *International Security*, vol. 9 , no. 1, Summer, pp. 58 - 71.
- Scott Sagan, “1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense and Instability,” *International Security*, vol. 11, no. 2 (Autumn 1986), pp. 151-171.

11. Tuesday, October 8th: World War II

As above, please familiarize yourselves with the main events leading up to World War II prior to reading the following:

- Scott Sagan, “The Origins of the Pacific War,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 18, no. 4, Spring, 893-922.
- Jeffrey Hughes, “The Origins of World War II in Europe: British Deterrence Failure and German Expansionism,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 18, no. 4 (Spring 1988), pp. 851 - 879.

12. Thursday, October 10th: No Class.

Begin your Cold War papers now!

13. Tuesday, October 15th: The Iraq War

- Curtis Martin, “Going to the United Nations: George W. Bush and Iraq,” GUIDS Pew Case Studies.
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/bushswar/> -
- Part I. Minutes 0 - 20:30, 49:30 - 1:06.

14. Thursday, October 17th: Mid-term Exam

IV. Contemporary Issues in International Politics

15. Thursday, October 24th: Coercive Diplomacy, Bargaining, Deterrence

- Robert Art, “The Four Functions of Force,” (A&J), pp. 195-202.

- Thomas Schelling, “The Diplomacy of Violence,” (A&J), pp. 203-217.
- Robert Art, “The Fungibility of Force,” (A&J), pp. 229-245.

16. Tuesday, October 29th: Case Study - Cuban Missile Crisis

- Bundy, McGeorge, Danger and Survival, pp. 391 - 415.
- Gabrielle Brussel, “The Cuban Missile Crisis: I.S. Deliberations and Negotiations at the Edge of the Precipice,” GUIDS Pew Case Studies, pp.1 - 27.
- “Memorandum of Conversation between Kennedy and Khrushchev,” FRUS, 1961 - 1964, vol. V, The Soviet Union, pp. 172 - 97, 206-25, 229-30.

17. Thursday, October 31st: Nuclear Proliferation

- Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, The Spread of Nuclear Weapons, Chs.1 & 2.
- Thomas Schelling, “A World Without Nuclear Weapons?” (A&J), pp. 269 - 273.

18. Tuesday, November 5th: Terrorism

- Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” Moodle.
- Bruce Hoffman, “What is Terrorism?” Moodle.
- Audrey Cronin, “Ending Terrorism” (A&J), pp. 402-415.

19. Thursday, November 7th: International Political Economy

- Robert Gilpin, “The Nature of Political Economy,” (A&J), pp. 282-298.
- Michael Hiscox, “The Domestic Sources of Foreign Economic Policies,” (A&J), pp. 282-291.
- Robert Wade, “Financial Regime Change?” (A&J), pp. 352-362.

20. Tuesday, November 12th: Globalization

- Jeffrey Frankel, “Globalization of the Economy” (A&J), pp. 314-329.
- Dani Rodrik, “A Sane Globalization” (A&J), pp. 358-367.

- Kenneth Waltz, "Globalization and Governance" (A&J), pp. 500-511.

21. Thursday, November 14th: Human Rights and Multilateral Interventions

- Rhoda Howard and Jack Donnelly, "Human Rights in World Politics," (A&J), pp. 414-426.
- Michael Barnett and Jack Snyder, "The Grand Strategies of Humanitarianism," (A& J). Moodle.
- Alexander Downes, "To the Shores of Tripoli Regime Change and Its Consequences," (A&J), pp. 434 - 441.

22. Tuesday, November 19th: The Environment and Conflict

- Garret Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," (A&J), pp. 480-485.
- David Victor, "International Cooperation on Climate Change: Numbers, Interests and Institutions," (A&J), pp. 507-515.
- Pope Francis, "The Papal Encyclical on the Environment," (A&J), pp. 486-491.

V. What Does the Future Hold?

23. Thursday, November 21st: The Direction of the Post-War World

- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?," *The National Interest* (Summer 1989).
- Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 22 - 35.
- Robert Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly*, (February 1994).

Tuesday, November 26th and Thursday, November 28th: No class.

24. Tuesday, December 3rd: The Rise of China and US Hegemony

- John Mearsheimer and Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Clash of the Titans," *Foreign Policy*, (Jan/ Feb 2005).
- Robert Art, "The United States and the Rise of China," (A&J), pp. 393-401.

- Barry Posen, “Emerging Multipolarity: Why Should We Care,” (A&J), pp. 532-540.
- John Ikenberry, “The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?” *Foreign Affairs* (January / February 2008).

25. Thursday, December 5th: Conclusions and Review