

**Political Science 5203: Proseminar in International Relations
Spring 2016**

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Class Time and Location:
W 4:30-7:10
MUR 340

Office Hours
TTH: 9:00-12:00

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the field of international relations (IR). In this class, we will discuss many of the theoretical approaches used within the field, including Realism/Neorealism, Liberalism/Neoliberal Institutionalism, and Constructivism. We will also discuss the ways that IR has developed over the years, recognize common themes within the literature, and learn to evaluate arguments. Lastly, we will consider a wide range of methodological approaches - formal mathematical modeling, quantitative analyses, and case studies. After taking the course, you should be familiar with some of the scientific literature in IR. This class should also provide a framework that allows you to develop your own research agenda and interests.

Because this is a graduate seminar, classes are geared around intensive discussion of the readings. Consequently, it is important that you critically engage both the theoretical and empirical aspects of the readings. In addition, a graduate course implies that you have an interest in the field above that of undergraduates – that being said, the work and the expectations are increased. Your preparedness for class, participation, and work should reflect more than just a basic consumption of the material.

Required Readings:

Kilcullen, David. 2009. *The Accidental Guerrilla*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schelling, Thomas. 2008. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press

Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Articles in the course outline are available on JSTOR, Google Scholar, etc. Readings that are not available through these sources or are not part of assigned books, are posted to our D2L page at oc.okstate.edu. These will be marked with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus below. I also reserve the right to change reading (articles, not books) at my discretion. If that does occur, I will provide ample warning.

Course Requirements and Grading:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Grade Weight</u>	<u>Due Date(s)</u>
Participation	25%	-
Discussion Paper & Leadership	25% (5% per paper)	Various

Research Proposal	25%	Various
Final Exam	25%	Friday, May 6 th

Participation: This comprises two elements.

- First, is regular attendance and participation, with an emphasis on the quality of participation.
- Second, if you are not writing a discussion paper, you will be asked to provide three questions to be discussed by the class. The papers and questions should be posted to the D2L dropbox by 9:00am on the day of our class meeting. Follow the points below regarding discussion papers for an idea of how to structure your questions. This will comprise 25% of your final grade.

Discussion Papers and Leadership: You will each write 5 discussion papers (3-4 pages). These papers will be a critical review of the week's readings. *Discussion papers should not be a simple summary of what you have read. Instead, they should be a critical response to the work.* Approaches can include:

- 1) criticisms and suggestions for improvement in the theory, methods, or conclusions of specific papers
- 2) extensions or research questions that come from the readings
- 3) theoretical or methodological inconsistencies between articles from the same week or from previous weeks.

When you write a discussion paper, you will also be asked to lead discussion for that week. This means discussing main ideas and points of contention. *This is not to be a recitation of what you have read but a way to provoke discussion amongst your fellow classmates.* Your ability to distill the readings, raise issues, and engender debate will form the basis of the grade. If there is no discussion, I will direct it and I will call upon people. If my intervention is required, your grade will be negatively affected.

Documents that may help (including one that I used in grad school) will be posted to D2L. Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of what you can write about. If you have any questions about what you wish to write, please let me know.

Research Proposal: You will write a 15 page empirical research proposal on a topic of your choice that relates to the literature discussed in class. This project will be due on the 22nd of April. The purpose of this proposal is to provide you with the experience of producing graduate level research as well as to (potentially) provide the basis for your future academic research and interests. Each proposal has to follow the pattern of all standard political science work:

1. A statement of the research question.
2. A review of pertinent and existing literature connected to the research question.
3. Your theoretical argument.
4. A set of hypotheses that logically follow from the theoretical argument.
5. A discussion of how you would set about evaluating your hypotheses, the data set you would use, and the variables you will consider.
6. A conclusion about your work's relevance to the existing literature on the topic and, more broadly, to the study of international security.

In order to help you, I have established several dates by which I would like to see certain elements of your research proposal. I will not grade the individual components, merely comment. These will be due prior to class. This is to allow you plenty of time to complete the project and for me to provide you with feedback: -

- February 17th: A one to two page proposal detailing your research topic and question. Academic journals (or the works cited by the authors read) are good places to start looking for ideas.
- March 11th: An annotated bibliography with at least 10 sources
- April 8th: A 10 page first draft. In this, I would like some elements of the components stated above (research question, literature review, theory, and hypotheses). At this point, a discussion of methods and a conclusion is not needed.
- April 22nd: Project due by 5:00pm (D2L Dropbox). In your paper, you should address questions and comments that I have raised.

Final Exam: A comprehensive take-home final will be made available during our last class period, and will be due the following week. The test will be take home, open book, and open note. All work is to be done by you and you alone. A finished exam will be uploaded to the course dropbox on D2L. The comprehensive exam will comprise 25% of your final grade. More details about the final will be forthcoming at a later point in the semester.

Grades:

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale:

Point Range	Final Course Letter Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89.99	B
70 - 79.99	C
60 - 69.99	D
59.99 or below	F

University Guidelines:

Please see the attached document regarding university policies and procedures.

Note:

Unless there is an extenuating circumstance, late work will not be accepted.

Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns. Problems and concerns about grades are easier to solve early in the semester than late.

Course Outline:

Week 1 (January 13, 2016) – Introduction

Week 2 (January 20, 2016) – The Epistemology of International Relations

- Braumoeller, Bear and Anne Sartori. 2004. "The Promise and Perils of Statistics in International Relations," in Sprinz, Detlef and Yael Wolinsky-Nahmias (eds.) *Models, Numbers, and Cases: Methods for Studying International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Pgs. 129-151.*
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View. *International Studies Quarterly* 29(2): 121-136.
- Frieden, Jeffrey A. and David A. Lake. 2005. International Relations as a Social Science: Rigor and Relevance. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 600: 136-156.
- Moore, Will H. 2001. Evaluating Theory in Political Science. Unpublished Manuscript. FSU.*
- Zinnes, Dina. 1980. Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher. *International Studies Quarterly* 24(3): 315-342.

Week 3 (January 27, 2016) – Realism and Neorealism

- Mearsheimer, John J. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: Norton. Chapters 1-2.*
- Morgenthau, Hans. 1948. *Politics Among Nations*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. Chapters 1-3.*
- Thucydides. 431 BC. The Melian Dialogue, in *The History of the Peloponnesian War*.*
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Chapter 6.*

Week 4 (February 3, 2016) – Liberalism and Neoliberal Institutionalism

- Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books. Chapters 1 & 4.*
- Doyle, Michael W. 1986. Liberalism and World Politics. *American Political Science Review* 80(4): 1151-1169
- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. *International Organization* 51(4): 513-553.
- Oye, Kenneth. 1985. Explaining Cooperation Under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies. *World Politics* 38(1): 1-24.

Week 5 (February 10, 2016) – The Constructivist Challenge

- Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917.

- Gelpi, Christopher. 1997. Crime and Punishment: The Role of Norms in Crisis Bargaining. *American Political Science Review* 91(2): 339-360
- Risse, Thomas. 2000. Let's Argue: Communicative Action in World Politics. *International Organization* 54(1): 1-39.
- Ruggie, John. 1998. What Makes the World Hang Together? Neo-utilitarianism and the Social Constructivist Challenge. *International Organization* 52(4): 855-885.
- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46(2): 391-425.

Week 6 (February 17, 2016) – Levels of Analysis

- Waltz, Kenneth. 1959. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Week 7 (February 24, 2016) – The Role of the State

- Fearon, James. 1994. Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes. *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577-592.
- Leeds, Brett Ashley and Burcu Savun. 2007. Terminating Alliances: Why Do States Abrogate Agreements? *Journal of Politics* 69(4): 1118-1132.
- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986. *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 624-38.
- Putnam, Robert. 1988. Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games. *International Organization* 42(3): 427-61.
- Schultz, Kenneth. 1999. Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War. *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.

Week 8 (March 2, 2016) – The Role of the Dyad

- Bremer, Stuart. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(2): 309-341.
- Colaresi, Michael and William R. Thompson. 2002. Strategic Rivalries, Protracted Conflict, and Crisis Escalation. *Journal of Peace Research* 39(3): 263-287.
- Conrad, Justin and Mark Souva. 2011. Regime Similarity and Rivalry. *International Interactions* 37(1): 1-28.
- Rousseau, David L., Christopher Gelpi, Dan Reiter, and Paul Huth. 1996. Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 90(3): 512-533.

Week 9 (March 9, 2016) – The Role of the System

- Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. A Kantian System? Democracy and Third Party Conflict Resolution. *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4): 749-759.
- Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 1999. The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992. *World Politics* 52(1): 1-37
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1964. The Stability of a Bipolar World. *Daedalus* 93(3): 881-909.
- Wohlforth, William. 1999. The Stability of a Unipolar World. *International Security* 24(1): 5-41.

Week 10 (March 16, 2016) – Spring Break – No Class

Week 11 (March 23, 2016) – The Role of International Organizations

- Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization* 53(4): 699-732.
- Boehmer, Charles, Erik Gartzke, and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace? *World Politics* 57(1): 1-38.
- Hansen, Holley, Sara Mitchell, and Stephen Nemeth. 2008. IO Mediation of Interstate Conflicts: Moving Beyond the Global versus Regional Dichotomy. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(2): 295-325.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. The Rational Design of International Institutions. *International Organization* 55(4): 761-799.

Week 12 (March 30, 2016) – Power, Bargaining, and Conflict

- Schelling, Thomas. 2008. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Fearon, James D. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.

Week 13 (April 6, 2016) – The Difficulty of Cooperation

- Chayes, Abram, and Antonia Handler Chayes. 1993. "On Compliance." *International Organization* 47 (2): 175–206.
- Downs, George, David Rocke, and Peter Barsoom. 1996. Is the Good News about Compliance Good News about Cooperation? *International Organization* 50(3): 379-406.
- Fearon, James D. 1998. Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation. *International Organization* 52(2): 269-305.

- Simmons, Beth A. 2000. International Law and State Behavior: Commitment and Compliance in International Monetary Affairs. *American Political Science Review* 94(4): 819-835.

Week 14 (April 13, 2016) – International Political Economy

- Alt, James E. and Michael Gilligan. 1994. The Political Economy of Trading States: Factor Specificity, Collective Action Problems, and Domestic Political Institutions. *Journal of Political Philosophy* 2(2):165-192.
- Frieden, Jeffrey. 1991. Invested Interests. *International Organization* 45(4):425-451.
- Frieden, Jeffrey. Forthcoming. The Governance of International Finance. *Annual Review of Political Science*.*
- Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade. *American Political Science Review* 81(4): 1121-1137.

Week 15 (April 20, 2016) – New Threats I

- Kilcullen, David. 2009. *The Accidental Guerrilla*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 16 (April 27, 2016) – New Threats II

- Alakoc, Burcu Pinar. Forthcoming. Competing to Kill: Terrorist Organizations Versus Lone Wolf Terrorists. *Terrorism and Political Violence*.
- Asal, Victor. 2008. The Nature of the Beast: Organizational Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks. *Journal of Politics* 70(2): 437-449.
- Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.
- Lyall, Jason and Isaiah Wilson. 2009. Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars. *International Organization* 63(1): 67-106.