

Political Science 813: International Security
Fall 2010

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Office Hours:
Wed 9-12 (WA)
Or by Appointment

Time and Location:
Th 7:05-9:55
WA 230

Course Description:

This course emphasizes theoretical and empirical work on issues broadly characterized as international security. For our purposes, this means a particular focus on topics such as the causes and consequences of militarized conflict, alliance behavior, the role of international institutions, and cooperation. Our readings provide an array of viewpoints for why these behaviors and outcomes occur – ranging from the systemic (the interaction and distribution of power amongst all states) down to a state's own attributes. Along with this diversity of explanations, we also consider a wide variety of methodological approaches – formal mathematical modeling, quantitative analyses, and case studies. After taking the course, you should be familiar with some (and a few of the classics) of the scientific literature on international security. This class should also provide a framework that allows you to develop your own research agenda and interests.

This is a graduate seminar and as such, classes are geared around discussion of the readings. The scientific study of international processes rarely yields concrete results and findings that stand the test of time (think of the physical sciences). As a result, 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 undergrads – 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.

Readings:

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York: The Free Press.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alistair Smith, Randolph Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press

Gilpin, Robert. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Most, Benjamin and Harvey Starr. 1989. *Inquiry, Logic and International Politics*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.

Oneal, John and Bruce Russett. 2001. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Articles presented in the course outline are available on JSTOR. Readings that are not available via JSTOR will be posted by the instructor on k-state online. Readings that are neither articles nor part of assigned books are posted to k-state online. I also reserve the right to change reading (articles, not books) on my discretion.

Course Requirements:

Participation. Each student is expected to attend class, complete all required readings, and significantly contribute to discussion each week. One comment during the course of the seminar does not reflect a significant contribution. Individuals that wrote discussion papers and questions should take a large role in directing and shaping discussion. If there is no discussion, I will direct it and I will call upon people. Participation (and not merely attendance) is essential for your success in this class. This comprises 25% of your grade.

Discussion Papers and Questions. You will write 4 discussion papers (3 page maximum). Discussion papers should not be a simple recitation of what you have read. Instead, they should be a critical response to what you have just read. 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. A document that may help (one that I used in grad school) is posted to k-state online.

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 about, please let me know. In addition, students will also provide three questions to be discussed by the class. The papers and questions should be sent via email to the rest of the class and the instructor by 4:00pm on the Wednesday prior to our class meeting. Students not writing for the week should still read and be ready to discuss the points and the questions raised in the discussion papers. We will determine who is writing for each week in the first class meeting. This also comprises 35% of your grade.

Research Proposal. You will write a 10 page empirical research proposal on a topic of your choice that relates to international security and to the literature discussed in class. This project will be due on the 13th of December. 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. 6.) a

conclusion about your work's relevance to the existing literature on the topic and, more broadly, to the study of international security. This is 25% of your grade.

In order to help you, I have established several dates by which I would like to see certain elements of your research proposal. These are due prior to class. I will not grade the individual components (with the exception of the presentation). Instead, this is to allow you plenty of time to complete the project and for me to provide you with feedback:

- September 23rd: A one to two sentence statement of your general topic. Academic journals are good places to start looking for ideas.
- October 21st: A one to two sentence statement of your research question.
- November 4th: An annotated bibliography with at least 10 sources
- December 7th: Note - Tuesday before Class. A statement of your theoretical argument and your hypotheses. Provide a couple of paragraphs to explain your theory and a few sentences to explain the hypotheses. Email these to your classmates and to me by 5:00 pm
- December 9th: Presentation to the class (10 minutes)
- December 13th: Project due by 5:00pm (Email to me). In your paper, you should address questions and comments that were raised during the presentation.

Presentation. Each of you has 10 minutes to provide a presentation detailing your research question, its relevance to the literature, hypotheses, and proposed methodology. I will conduct the presentations to closely approximate what you would typically experience at a political science conference. The medium of your presentation is your choice (talk, powerpoint, etc...). Keep in mind that style can affect substance – keep presentations concise and to the point. We will discuss presentation etiquette during the class and I will post some presentation pointers (some learned through bitter experience) on k-state online. This is 15% of your grade.

Note:

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

University Policies:

Academic Honesty

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/honor/faculty/syllabusstate.htm>:

“Kansas State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning.

A component vital to the Honor & Integrity System is the inclusion of the [Honor Pledge](#) which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."

The default in this class is that ALL work will be accomplished individually, UNLESS my permission is given in advance of an assignment/quiz/exam/take-home exam/final. If you are in doubt, please ask

A grade of [XF](#) can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

For more information, visit the Honor & Integrity System home web page at:

<http://www.ksu.edu/honor>"

Classroom Conduct

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm>:

"All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class."

Disability Services

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm>:

"Any student with a disability who needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other academic assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services (dss@k-state.edu) and/or the instructor."

Course Outline

Week 1 (August 26, 2010) – Review Syllabus

Week 2 (September 2, 2010) – APSA Meeting - No Class

Week 3 (September 9, 2010) – International Security as Social Science I

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and James D. Morrow. 1999. Sorting Through the Wealth of Notions. *International Security* 24(2): 56–73.
- Walt, Stephen M. 1999. Rigor or Rigor Mortis? Rational Choice and Security Studies. *International Security* 23(4): 5–48.
- Kahler, Miles. 1998. Rationality in International Relations. *International Organization* 52(4): 919–41.

- Powell, Robert. 1999. The Modeling Enterprise and Security Studies. *International Security* 24(2): 97–106.

Week 4 (September 16, 2010) – International Security as Social Science II

- Most, Benjamin and Harvey Starr. 1989. *Inquiry, Logic and International Politics*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.
- Zinnes, Dina. 1980. Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher. *International Studies Quarterly* 24(3):315–42.

Week 5 (September 23, 2010) – Causes of War

- Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York: The Free Press.

Week 6 (September 30, 2010) – System Level Explanations I

- Levy, Jack. 1985. Theories of General War. *World Politics* 37(3): 344-374.
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1964. The Stability of a Bipolar World. *Daedalus* 93(Summer): 881-909.
- Wohlforth, William. 1999. The Stability of a Unipolar World. *International Security* 24(1): 5-41.
- Modelski, George and William Thompson. 1989. "Long Cycles and Global War," in Manus Midlarsky (ed.) *Handbook of War Studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Pp 23-54.

Week 7 (October 7, 2010) – System Level Explanations II

- Gilpin, Robert. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week 8 (October 14, 2010) – Domestic Level Explanations I

- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 87: 624-38.
- Dixon, William. 1994. Democracy and the Peaceful Settlement of International Conflict. *American Political Science Review* 88: 14-32.
- Rosato, Sebastian. 2003. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory. *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 585-602.
- Oneal, John and Bruce Russett. 2001. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. Page 35, Chapters 3 & 4.

Week 9 (October 21, 2010) – Domestic Level Explanations II – Regime Types

- Schultz, Kenneth. 1999. Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War. *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alistair Smith, Randolph Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapters 1-3, 6

Week 10 (October 28, 2010) – Bargaining, Information, and Resolve in Conflict I

- Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Week 11 (November 4, 2010) – Bargaining, Information, and Resolve in Conflict II

- Fearon, James D. 1994. Signaling versus the Balance of Power and Interests: An Empirical Test of a Crisis Bargaining Model. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38(2): 236-269.
- Fearon, James. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization*. 49(3): 379-414.
- Reed, William. 2003. Information, Power, and War. *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 633-641.
- Ramsay, Kris. 2004. Politics at the Water's Edge: Crisis Bargaining and Electoral Competition. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(4): 459-486.

Week 12 (November 11, 2010) – Veterans Day – No Class

Week 13 (November 18, 2010) – Alliances

- Sabrosky, Alan. 1980. "Interstate Alliances: Their Reliability and the Expansion of War," in J. David Singer (ed.), *The Correlates of War II: Testing Some Realpolitik Models*. New York: Free Press.
- Siverson, Randolph M. and Juliann Emmons. 1991. Birds of a Feather: Democratic Political Systems and Alliance Choices in the Twentieth Century. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 35: 285-306.
- Leeds, Brett Ashley, Andrew Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2000. Reevaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 44(5):686-699.
- Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes. *American Journal of Political Science*, 47(3): 427-439.

Week 14 (November 25, 2010) – Thanksgiving Break – No Class

Week 15 (December 2, 2010) – International Organizations

- Oneal, John and Bruce Russett. 2001. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. Chapter 5.
- Boehmer, Charles, Erik Gartzke, and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace? *World Politics* 57(1): 1-38.
- Barnett, Michael N. and Martha Finnemore. 1999. The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations. *International Organization*, 53(4): 699-732.

Week 16 (December 9, 2010) - Presentations