

Pol S 357
POL S 357: International Security Policy
SPRING 2019

Instructor: Dr. Mark Nieman

Time and Location: TR 2:10-3:30am, Ross Hall 0120

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Office Hours: Schedule through <https://nieman.youcanbook.me>, Ross Hall 537

Overview and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to examine international states' security policies. This class is not a historical examination of specific wars; rather, it focuses on scientific explanations of militarized conflict and security policy. This means that rather than treating every war as a unique event, we investigate what characteristics make war more likely and which promote peace. We begin by examining traditional explanations for war, such as balance-of-power and territorial claims, and explore under what conditions these explanations hold and when they do not. We will also consider individual, institutional, and rational explanations for war and peace. Next, we look at the strategies and tools that international states use to pursue their strategic interests, such as alliances, non-invasion troop deployments, and covert actions.

Upon course completion, students should be familiar with many of the factors that increase and decrease the likelihood of military conflict between states. Students should be able to apply these factors when examining real world scenarios, such as studying historical examples of war or assessing the prospects of future peace or conflict around the world in contemporary cases.

Learning Outcomes

- Understand theory construction (abstraction and generalizations);
- Learn basic IR theories of war and their causal mechanisms;
- Identify appropriate samples and how to measure concepts;
- Be comfortable with and able to interpret statistical output;
- Apply empirical results to current cases and make predictions;
- Critically read and evaluate scholarly work.

Requirements

Weekly Quizzes: 130 points (65%)

There are thirteen quizzes (each worth 10pts) over the readings and lecture; one each week starting in week 2. Each week's quiz is to be taken on Canvas and completed by the start of class the following week. For example, the quiz covering material for the week of Jan 21 is due by the start of class Tuesday, January 29. Quizzes are composed of between five and ten multiple choice questions. Students who wish to do well on the quizzes should read the assigned material and attend the lectures and discussion sections.

Research Poster: 60 points (30%)

Students are expected to take what they have learned in class and apply it in the form of a poster project. Students can a) identify a shortcoming in one of the articles discussed in class and build on this work by addressing its shortcoming, b) take the theory of one of the articles in class and apply and evaluate it for a new set of cases, or c) create an original project based on one of the topics covered in class that better suits their interests (e.g., the student is interested in whether states that resolved outstanding territorial disputes are more likely to democratize). The poster must: 1) clearly identify your research question, 2) briefly discuss the current state of the discipline (i.e. literature review of the article/topic you selected), 3) propose how you are advancing our knowledge on the topic (i.e. your thesis), 4) discuss and present your evidence, and 5) conclude by re-evaluating the literature in light of your evidence. The criterion for grading is the quality of your analysis and your use and presentation of evidence (i.e. points 3 and 4 are most important). To help facilitate this, **students are required to turn in a research proposal for a poster to Canvas by February 29.** The poster is worth 58 points, while the turning in a topic is worth 2 points.

Participation: 10 points (5%)

As an upper division class, all students are expected to have read that week's assigned articles, be prepared to describe an article's theory and findings, and be ready to critically discuss them. To encourage this, attendance and short in-class assignments may be given at the instructor's digression. Constructive discussion will also be factored in.

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	≤ 59

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this class; all assigned scholarly articles are available on www.scholar.google.com. To find articles using Google Scholar, search using the author's name and article title from any computer on campus. If you are off-campus, sign into Google Scholar through the library's website and then search using the author's name and article title.

I encourage you to keep up-to-date on current events by reading articles relating to foreign policy and international relations in a major news media source. Some good sources are The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and the Economist. Each has substantial coverage of international events, and you can subscribe to either at a very reasonable student rate. Many newspapers provide free or reduced prices for students. Lastly, many news organizations provide news online, free of charge (i.e., www.news.google.com).

Administrative Issues

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism, any form of cheating, or other conduct proscribed by the Student Handbook, will result in an "F" grade for the course and be referred to the Dean of Students.

Accommodations: Please discuss any special needs with the teaching staff at the start of the semester, for example to request reasonable accommodations if an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should provide a completed Student Academic Accommodation Request form from the Disability Resources office (Student Services Building 1076, phone 515-294-7220). The Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance may be able to provide additional assistance.

Harassment and Discrimination: Any concerns about prohibited discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a veteran should be brought to the instructor, Student Assistance (515-294-1020 or dso-sas@iastate.edu), or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance (515-294-7612).

I reserve the right to modify the syllabus to reflect the pace of the course.

Course Outline

Part I: Causes of War

Week 1 (Jan. 14): Introduction, Scientific Primer, and Conflict Data

Sarkees, Meredith Reid, Frank Whelon Waymon, and J. David Singer. 2003. Inter-State, Intra-state, and Extra-state Wars: A Comprehensive Look at Their Distribution over Time, 1816-1997. *International Studies Quarterly*. 47(1): 49-70.

Optional: Hoover Green, Amelia. How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps. **Available on Canvas.**

Optional: Rubric Worksheet for note-taking. **Available on Canvas.**

Week 2 (Jan. 21): Balance of Power

Gilpin, Robert. 1988. The Theory of Hegemonic War. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. 18(4): 591-613.

Levy, Jack S. and William R. Thompson. 2010. Balancing on Land and at Sea. *International Security* 35(1): 7-43.

Week 3 (Jan. 28): Territorial Issues

Hensel, Paul R., Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Thomas E. Sowers II, and Clayton L. Thyne. 2008. Bones of Contention: Comparing Territorial, Maritime, and River Issues. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 52(1): 117-143.

Senese, Paul and John A. Vasquez. 2003. Assessing the Steps to War. *British Journal of Political Science* 35(4): 607-633.

Week 4 (Feb 4): Rivalry

Werner, Suzanne. 1999. "The Precarious Nature of Peace: Resolving the Issues, Enforcing the Settlement, and Renegotiating the Terms." *American Journal of Political Science*. 43(3): 912-934.

Colaesi, Michael. 2004. When Doves Cry: International Rivalry, Unreciprocated Cooperation, and Leadership Turnover. *American Journal of Political Science* 48(3): 555-570.

Week 5 (Feb. 11): Domestic Institutions

Danilovic, Vesna and Joe Clare. 2007. The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited). *American Journal of Political Science* 51(2): 397-414.

Weeks, Jessica L. 2012. Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict. *American Political Science Review* 106(2): 326-347.

Week 6 (Feb. 18): Leader Incentives and Characteristics

Foster, Dennis M. 2006. State Power, Linkage Mechanisms, and Diversion against Nonrivals. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23(1): 1-21.

Horowitz, Michael C., Philip Potter, Todd S. Sechser, and Allan Stam. 2018. Sizing Up the Adversary: Leader Attributes and Coercion in International Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 62(10): 2180-2204.

Week 7 (Feb. 25): Rationalist Explanations.

Fearon, James D. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.

Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman. 1989. The Road to War is Strewn with Peaceful Intentions. In *Models of Strategic Choice in Politics*, ed. Peter Ordeshook, 253-266. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. **Available on Canvas.**

Poster topic due by Friday at 5pm. Upload to Canvas.

Part II: Strategies and Tools

Week 8 (Mar. 4): Aims and Strategies

Sullivan, Patricia L. 2007. War Aims and War Outcomes: Why Powerful States Lose Limited Wars. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 51(3): 496-524.

Biddle, Stephen. 2001. Rebuilding the Foundations of Offense-Defense Theory. *The Journal of Politics* 63(3)741-774.

Week 9 (Mar. 11): Deterrence

Signorino, Curtis S. and Ahmer Tarar. 2006. A Unified Theory and Test of Extended Immediate Deterrence. *American Journal of Political Science* 50(3): 586-605.

Jo, Dong-Joon and Erik Gartzke. 2007. Determinants of Nuclear Weapons Proliferation. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 51(1): 167-194.

No class on Thursday; **poster topics are due by 5pm Friday.**

Week 10 (Mar. 18): Spring Break—No Class.

Week 11 (Mar. 25): Deterrence

Film: *Dr. Strangelove*

Schlosser, Eric. 2014. Almost Everything in “Dr. Strangelove” was True. *The Atlantic*. January 17: 1-8. **Available on Canvas.**

Week 12 (Apr. 1): Alliances

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.

Gibler, Douglas M. 2008. The Costs of Reneging: Reputation and Alliance Formation. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(3): 426-454.

Week 13 (Apr. 8): Reputation

Sartori, Anne E. 2002. The Might of the Pen: A Reputational Theory of Communication in International Disputes. *International Organization* 56(1): 121-149.

Mark Crescenzi, 2007. Reputation and Interstate Conflict. *American Journal of Political Science* 51(2):382-396.

Week 14 (Apr. 15): Signaling

McManus, Roseanne. 2018. Making It Personal: The Role of Leader-Specific Signals in Extended Deterrence. *Journal of Politics*. 80(3): 982-995.

Martinez Machain, Carla and T. Clifton Morgan. 2013. The Effect of US Troop Deployment on Host States' Foreign Policy. *Armed Forces & Society* 39(1): 102-123.

Week 15 (Apr. 22): Covert Actions

Carson, Austin and Keren Yarhi-Milo. 2017. Covert Communication: The Intelligibility and Credibility of Signaling in Secret. *Security Studies*. 26(1): 124-156.

Mir, Asfandyar and Dylan Moore. Forthcoming. Drones, Surveillance, and Violence: Theory and Evidence from a US Drone Program. *International Studies Quarterly*. **Available on Canvas.**

Week 16 (Apr. 29): Poster Presentations

All students must upload an electronic copy of their poster by Apr 30 by 2:10am.

Week 17 (May 6): Final Exam Week

No exam or quiz due.