

**POLI 7947 Seminar in International Conflict  
Fall 2011**

Classroom: 210 Stubbs Hall  
Class hours: Tuesday 1:40 to 4:30  
Office hours: Tue 9:00 - 10:00 am  
                  Thr 12:00 - 1:00 pm

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**Course Description**

This seminar provides a survey of different approaches to the study of international conflict. We will discuss major theories that link conflict to power distributions, alliances, deterrence and bargaining, domestic regime type (the democratic peace), domestic instability, and economic interdependence. Some recent issues, such as ending wars (mediation and peacekeeping) and ethnopolitical conflicts, will also be covered in the context of rigorous systematic research. Besides the substantive focus on theoretical varieties in explaining conflicts, we will also tackle methodological issues such as measurement, selection bias, units and levels of analysis, and similar problems that often arise in the systematic study of international conflict. The readings include a selection of classic seminal writings as well as more recent studies in the area.

**Reading Materials**

All required readings for the course consist of selected book chapters and journal articles. If not available through the LSU library's electronic journal holdings (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/epubs/ejournals.html>), they can be accessed on the Moodle page for this course. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all materials.

**Course Requirements**

Final grades will be based on three components: class participation (20%), two short papers (30%), and a seminar paper (50%).

- **Class participation:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week according to the topic covered. For this part of the grade, students will be expected to perform consistently well both when participating on a voluntary basis as well as when called upon to discuss the readings. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.
- **Two short papers:** Beyond regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, each student is expected to make two brief (10-15 minute) in-class presentations on the weekly topics, based on a short (approximately 6 pages double-spaced) paper to be e-mailed to me by 4 p.m. one day before the scheduled class for that topic. It is a student's responsibility to make sure her/his paper reaches me by this deadline (by 4 p.m. sharp on Monday before the scheduled class). I will not accept any late papers except in case of major illness or similar emergency. The grade for the short paper/presentation will automatically default into F (15% of the final grade) if it does not reach me by the deadline. These papers and presentations should highlight the principle points of all the week's readings, critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each reading (and of their theoretical contributions), and briefly provide guidance for future research in this area (such

as identifying a related question that has been left unanswered or answered incompletely by the readings, or by proposing an extension of the week's reading to a new question or area). They should not be simple summaries of the readings or annotated bibliographies; suggestions on how to analytically and critically evaluate the readings will be detailed in an additional handout. These presentations are meant to help focus the class discussion on the week's topic, readings, and future directions; as a result, each presentation will be followed by a period of general class reaction and discussion. Each short paper/presentation will count for 15% of the overall course grade, for a total of 30%.

- **Seminar paper:** Each student is required to write a conference-style paper, minus the actual quantitative analysis, on a selected topic from this course in international conflict. The paper must not exceed 20 double-spaced pages and should conform to the APSA style manual. It must include all elements of an academic paper, including: a research question/puzzle that motivates the study, an analytical review of the relevant literature, a theoretical argument, testable hypotheses, a research design (discussion of the unit of analysis, variables, measurement, data, a briefly explained method), and a concluding discussion in terms of how the study adds to and addresses any puzzles within the extant literature. The literature review should go significantly beyond the required readings for this course, it should not be a simple summary of the extant research, but rather analytically integrate, assess, and evaluate the previous research. Although both a hard copy and electronic version of the paper is preferable, an electronic version is required and must reach me by e-mail by the deadline: 10 a.m. on November 29. The seminar paper will count toward 50% of the final grade.

### **Excused Absences, Deadline Extensions, and Make-Ups**

This is a graduate-level seminar, and students are expected to attend all classes. If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled presentation or other graded procedure, the student must notify me or the department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. The student is responsible for providing satisfactory documented evidence to the instructor within one week of his or her absence to substantiate the reason for the absence. Deadline extensions and make-ups will be given **ONLY** in documented cases of serious illness or family emergency. Otherwise, short review papers and the seminar paper will be graded F if not turned in to me by the specified deadlines. The same applies for the failure to present a short paper in class as scheduled.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

“Academic Misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct, available at <http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm> If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

### **Students with Disabilities Policy**

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such

accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.

### **Equal Opportunity Statement**

LSU's PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran's status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. *This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.*

### **Copyright Statement**

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

### **Scholarly Journals**

Students should be familiar with a few leading journals in the field:

*International Studies Quarterly*

*Journal of Conflict Resolution*

*International Organization*

in the conflict area, additionally:

*International Interactions*

*Journal of Peace Research*

*International Security*

*Conflict Management and Peace Science*

and articles on international politics in more general journals in the discipline:

*American Political Science Review*

*American Journal of Political Science*

*Journal of Politics*

All these journals (and relevant articles in the leading general ones) should be perused regularly and, if unfamiliar with some of them, you should then consult and read relevant articles for the course in the recent issues as well.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

### Week 1: August 23

#### COURSE INTRODUCTION

### Week 2: August 30

#### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher: Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 24 (3): 315-42.

Geller, Daniel S. 2000. "Explaining War: Empirical Patterns and Theoretical Mechanisms." In *Handbook of War Studies II*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 407-49.

**\*MOODLE**

Dessler, David. 1991. "Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War." *International Studies Quarterly* 35 (3): 337-55.

Diehl, Paul F. 2006. "Just a Phase?: Integrating Conflict Dynamics Over Time." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23 (3): 199-210.

Sarkees, Meredith, Frank Wayman, 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.

### Week 3: September 6

#### RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA

##### Research Design Issues

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sydney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1, 3.5 (pp. 1-33, 99-114).

**\*MOODLE**

##### Brief Survey of Data Sources and Standard Variables

###### 1. Conflict Data

Ghosn, Faten, Glenn Palmer, and Stuart A. Bremer. 2004. "The MID3 Data Set, 1993-2001: Procedures, Coding Rules, and Description." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 21 (2): 133-54.

**\*MOODLE**

--- Data and codebooks are available at <http://correlatesofwar.org/>

Lemke, Douglas, and William Reed. 2001. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (1): 126-45.

###### 2. Capabilities: COW Composite Indicator of National Capabilities (CINC)

Singer, J. David. 1987. "Reconstructing the Correlates of War Dataset on Material Capabilities of States, 1816-1985." *International Interactions* 14 (2): 115-32. **\*MOODLE**

###### 3. Domestic Regime Type: Polity

Jagers, Keith, and Ted Robert Gurr. 1995. "Tracking Democracy's Third Wave with the Polity III Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 32 (4): 468-82.

##### Integrated Data Analysis

Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36 (2): 309-41.

**Week 4: September 13**

**STRUCTURAL AND DYADIC POWER BALANCES/SHIFTS**

**Overview:** Rasler, Karen and William R. Thompson. 2010. "Systemic Theories of Conflict." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

\*MOODLE

**Structural Power**

Waltz, Kenneth. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-28.

Wayman, Frank W. 1984. "Bipolarity and War: The Role of Capability Concentration and Alliance Patterns among Major Powers, 1816-1965." *Journal of Peace Research* 21 (1): 61-78

**Dyadic Power Relations**

Blainey, Jeffrey. 1988. "The Abacus of Power." In Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press, Ch. 8 (pp. 108-24). \*MOODLE

Kim, Woosang, and James D. Morrow. 1992. "When Do Power Shifts Lead to War?" *American Journal of Political Science* 36 (4): 896-922.

Lemke, Douglas, and Suzanne Werner. 1996. "Power Parity, Commitment to Change, and War." *International Studies Quarterly* 40(2): 235-60.

**Week 5: September 20**

**ALLIANCES**

**Alliance Motivations**

Walt, Stephen M. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power." *International Security* 9 (4): 3-43.

Morrow, James J. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances." *American Journal of Political Science* 35 (4): 904-33.

Lai, Brian and Dan Reiter. 2000. "Democracy, Political Similarity, and International Alliances, 1816-1992." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (2): 203-227

**Alliance Reliability and Termination**

Leeds, Brett Ashley, Andrew G. Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2000. "Reevaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (5): 686-99.

Gibler, Douglas M. 2008. "The Costs of Reneging: Reputation and Alliance Formation." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52 (3): 426-54.

Leeds, Brett Ashley, and Burcu Savun. 2007. "Terminating Alliances: Why Do States Abrogate Agreements?" *Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 1118-32.

**Week 6: September 27**

**TERRITORIAL ISSUES AND THE "STEPS TO WAR"**

**Overview:** Tir, Jaroslav, and John A. Vasquez. 2010. "Geography and Territory." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell. \*MOODLE

Vasquez, John A. 1995. "Why Do Neighbors Fight?: Proximity, Interaction, and Territoriality." *Journal of Peace Research* 32 (3): 277-93.

Hensel, Paul R. 2001. "Contentious Issues and World Politics: The Management of Territorial Claims in the Americas, 1816-1992." *International Studies Quarterly* 45 (1): 81-109.

Starr, Harvey, and G. Dale Thomas. 2005. "The Nature of borders and International Conflict: Revisiting Hypotheses on Territory." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (1): 123-139.

Senese, Paul D., and John A. Vasquez. 2008. *The Steps to War: An Empirical Study*. Chs. 2 and 8.  
\*MOODLE

### Week 7: October 4

#### DETERRENCE AND BARGAINING I

**Overview:** Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2010. "Deterrence and Crisis Bargaining." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.  
\*MOODLE

#### Classical Deterrence Theory

Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 2 (pp. 35-91).  
\*MOODLE

Zagare, Frank C. 2004. "Reconciling Rationality with Deterrence: A Re-examination of the Logical Foundations of Deterrence Theory." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 16 (2): 107-141.

#### Conceptual Issues and Empirical Evidence

Huth, Paul, and Bruce Russett. 1988. "Deterrence Failure and Crisis Escalation." *International Studies Quarterly* 32 (1): 29-45.

Danilovic, Vesna. 2001. "The Sources of Threat Credibility in Extended Deterrence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 341-69.

Fearon, James D. 2002. "Selection Effects and Deterrence." *International Interactions* 28: 5-29.  
\*MOODLE

### Week 8: October 11

#### DETERRENCE AND BARGAINING II

**Overview:** Morrow, James D. 1999. "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics." In *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 77-114. \*MOODLE

#### Credibility, Signals, and Commitments

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

Fearon, James D. 1997. "Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands versus Sinking Costs." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41 (1): 68-90.

#### Bargaining and War

Wagner, R. Harrison. 2000. "Bargaining and War." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (3): 469-84.

Slantchev, Branislav L. 2003. "The Power to Hurt: Costly Conflict with Completely Informed States." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 123-33.

### Week 9: October 18

#### DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE I

**Overview:** Chan, Steve. 2010. "Progress in the Democratic Peace Research Agenda." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.  
\*MOODLE

**Foundations**

Doyle, Michael. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80 (4): 1151-69.

**Democratic Peace: Structure/Institutions versus Norms**

Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 624-38.

Rousseau, David L., Christopher Gelpi, Dan Reiter, and Paul K. Huth. 1996. "Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace, 1918-88." *American Political Science Review* 90 (3): 512-33.

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

**Democratic Peace: Critiques**

Farber, Henry S., and Joanne Gowa. 1997. "Politics and Peace." *International Security* 20 (2): 123-146.

**Week 10: October 25****DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE II****Democratic Peace: Institutions, Audience Costs and Strategic Interaction**

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation for the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-808.

Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88 (3): 577-92.

Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Domestic Institutions Constrain or Inform?: Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53 (2): 233-66.

**Domestic Politics and Conflict Outcomes**

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Randolph M. Siverson. 1995. "War and the Survival of Political Leaders: A Comparative Study of Regime Types and Political Accountability." *American Political Science Review* 89 (4): 841-53.

**Extensions**

Ireland, Michael J., and Scott Sigmund Gartner. 2001. "Time to Fight: Government Type and Conflict Initiation in Parliamentary Systems." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (5): 547-68.

Clare, Joe. 2010. "Ideological Fractionalization and the International Conflict Behavior of Parliamentary Democracies." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (4): 965-987.

**Week 11: November 1****INTERDEPENDENCE AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT**

Barbieri, Katherine. 1996. "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or Source of Interstate Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 33 (1): 29-50.

Oneal, John R., and Bruce Russett. 1997. "The Classic Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." *International Studies Quarterly* 41 (2): 267-94.

Dorussen, Han. 2006. "Heterogeneous Trade Interests and Conflict: What You Trade Matters." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50 (1): 87-107.

Mansfield, Edward D., and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2000. "Trade Blocs, Trade Flows, and International Conflict." *International Organization* 54 (4): 775-808.

Keshk, Omar M.G., Brian M. Pollins, and Rafael Reuveny. 2004. "Trade Still Follows the Flag: The Primacy of Politics in a Simultaneous Model of Interdependence and Armed Conflict." *Journal of Politics* 66 (4): 1155-79.

### **Week 12: November 8**

#### **DIVERSIONARY THEORY AND PRESIDENTIAL USES OF FORCE**

- Gelpi, Christopher. 1997. "Democratic Diversions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41 (2): 255-82.
- Meernick, James, and Peter Waterman. 1996. "The Myth of the Diversionary Use of Force by American Presidents." *Political Research Quarterly* 49 (3): 573-90.
- Fordham, Benjamin O. 1998. "Partisanship, Macroeconomic Policy, and U.S. Uses of Force, 1949-1994." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42 (4): 418-39.
- Sobek, David. 2007. "Rally Around the *Podesta*: Testing Diversionary Theory Across Time." *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (1): 29-45.
- Tarar, Ahmer. 2006. "Diversionary Incentives and the Bargaining Approach to War." *International Studies Quarterly* 50 (1): 169-88.
- Tir, Jaroslav, and Michael Jasinski. 2008. "Domestic-Level Diversionary Theory of War: Targeting Ethnic Minorities." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52 (5): 641-64.

### **Week 13: November 15**

#### **MAKING AND KEEPING PEACE**

**Overview:** McLaughlin Mitchell, Sara, and Patrick M. Regan. 2010. "Conflict Management." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

#### **\*MOODLE**

- Favretto, Katja. 2009. "Should Peacemakers Take Sides? Major Power Mediation, Coercion, and Bias." *American Political Science Review* 103 (2): 248-63.
- Rauchhaus, Robert W. 2006. "Asymmetric Information, Mediation, and Conflict Management." *World Politics* 58 (2): 207-41.
- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. "Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects." *World Politics* 56 (4): 481-519.
- Greig, J. Michael, and Paul F. Diehl. 2005. "The Peacekeeping-Peacemaking Dilemma." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (4): 621-45.
- Werner, Suzanne, and Amy Yuen. 2005. "Making and Keeping Peace." *International Organization* 59 (2): 261-92.

### **Week 14: November 22**

#### **ETHNOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS**

- Gurr, Ted Robert. 1994. "Peoples Against States: Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Changing World System: 1994 Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 38 (3): 347-77.
- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 259-82.
- Walter, Barbara S. 2006. "Information, Uncertainty, and the Decision to Succeed." *International Organization* 60 (1): 105-35.
- Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'." *International Security* 25 (1): 42-70.
- Andreas, Peter. 2004. "The Clandestine Political Economy of War and Peace in Bosnia." *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (1): 29-52.

**Week 15: November 29**

**STUDENT READING SELECTIONS**

Each student will select and present in class one article published in the past 2-3 years in the listed journals on p. 3 of this syllabus. The article needs to be related directly to one or more topics in this course and its selection justified on the grounds of its theoretical relevance and research contribution to the select body of literature covered in this course. I have to be notified about the article selection by **November 15** at the latest.

**Recall: An electronic version of the final paper is due by 10 a.m. on November 29. A hard copy need be brought in class on the same day.**

*~Have a Good Winter Break~*