

Political Science 7940: Seminar in International Politics

Spring 2015

Class Meeting: Thursday 9:00-11:50

Class Location: 210 Stubbs

Instructor: David Sobek

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:00-10:00

Wednesday 9:00-10:00

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Office Location: 211 Stubbs

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Summary:

This class is the introduction to the study of international politics at the graduate level. It is important to keep in mind that this course does not present a comprehensive coverage of international politics (no course could do that), but it will introduce you to a number of the most important debates within the field and force you to develop a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

This course divides into three main topics: the original debates, the original debates today, and the new debates. Aside from giving you a broad coverage of the literature and ideas, this setup is meant to highlight the fact that scholarly debates are dialogues across time. People do not write articles and books in isolation from one another; rather, they are responses to the previous literature. This will become clearer when you are able to trace ideas across time and through the literature.

Because this course is a seminar, its main job is to expose you to the literature and prepare you for more advance courses. As such you will be required to read and assimilate a large amount of the literature in a short period of time. In addition to the readings, you will have a number of writing assignments meant to reinforce the readings and further your knowledge of the literature.

Ultimately, at the end of the course you should have a broad knowledge of international relations. In addition, you will have developed the skills needed to succeed in more advance courses. Thus, it is important for you to use this class not only as an introduction to international relations, but also, an introduction to graduate work.

Brief Overview of Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: 20% of final grade.

Two Reviews and presentations: each is 10% of final grade.

Final Paper Assignment: 25% of final grade.

Final Exam: 35% of final grade.

Reading assignments

Many of the readings for this course come from the books. Significant portions of the readings, however, come from articles that you will need to acquire. For each week the assignments are listed in a specific order meant to demonstrate the development of the literature. Please read them in the order that they are listed.

Required Books:

Angel, Norman. 2012 [1912]. *The Great Illusion - A Study of the Relation of Military Power To National Advantage*. New York: Bottom of the Hill Publishing. ISBN-10: 161203652X

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War, 3rd edition*. Free Press. ISBN-10: 072510550X

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1983. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN-10: 0300030916

Carr, E.H. 2000. *The Twenty Year Crisis 1919-1939*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-10: 0333963776

Gat, Azar. 2006. *War in Human Civilization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0199236631

Kant, Immanuel. 1957 [1795]. *Perpetual Peace*. New York: The Liberal Arts Press. ISBN-10: 0915145472

Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0691122482

Gilpin, Robert. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521273765

Hobson, John. 1965. *Imperialism*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. ISBN-10: 1596052503

Machiavelli. 1984. *The Prince*. Bantam Classics. ISBN-10: 0553212788

Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke. 1996. *Parity and War: Evaluations and Extensions of The War Ledger*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. ISBN-10: 0472066021

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. McGraw-Hill. ISBN-10: 1577666704

Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521469600

Optional Books:

Keohane, Robert, and Joseph Nye. 1977 (2000). *Power and Interdependence 4th edition*. Addison-Wesley. ISBN-10: 0205082912

Mansfield, Edward. 1995. *Power, Trade, and War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. ISBN-10: 0691044821

McNeill, William H. 1982. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. ISBN-10: 0226561585

Most, Benjamin and Harvey Starr. 1989. *Inquiry, Logic, and International Politics*. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press. ISBN-10: 0872496309

Rosecrance, Richard. 1986. *The Rise of the Trading State: Commerce and Conquest in the Modern World*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN-10: 046507037X

Schumpeter, Joseph. 1984. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. Harper Collins. ISBN-10: 189139651X

Watson, Adam. 1992. *The Evolution of International Society: A Comparative Historical Analysis*. Routledge. ISBN-10: 0415069998

Grading System:

Attendance and Participation (20%): Attendance and participation account for 20% of your final grade. It is vitally important for you to come to class prepared, i.e. having carefully read the assignments. Simply showing up for class is not sufficient. You will need to consistently contribute to class discussion in order to satisfy the participation aspect of this part of your grade.

2 Reviews and Presentations (10% each): Three times in the semester you will be required to read and discuss the optional readings. During these weeks you need to prepare a summary for each of the required and optional readings (roughly a half page singled-spaced for each article/about 1-2 pages for a book). You will also be expected to present the optional readings to the class (about 15-20 minutes). The written reviews need to be sent to the class and me by 5:00 PM the Wednesday before the class.

Paper Assignment (25%): During the semester you will be required to write one 10-12 page paper on one of the course topics. This paper is an in depth analysis of one question in the literature. You will be expected to comprehensively summarize the literature on that topic and highlight the important findings as well as the main questions left unanswered. This paper is due on the last day of class but can certainly be turned in sooner.

Final Exam (35%): At the end of the semester you will be given a final exam. The format of the exam will attempt to mimic the comprehensive exams that you will eventually have to take in graduate school. This is to be completed within a week of the final class.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Meta-Theoretical Debates

Required Readings

Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." *World Politics*. 14(1): 77-92.

Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. Chapters 1-4.

Lake, David A. 2011. "Why 'Isms' are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding Progress." *International Studies Quarterly*. 55(2): 465-481.

Sil, Rudra and Peter J. Katzenstein. 2011. "De-Centering, Not Discarding, the 'Isms': Some Friendly Amendments." *International Studies Quarterly*. 55(2): 481-487.

Nau, Henry R. 2011. "No Alternative to 'Isms'." *International Studies Quarterly*. 55(2): 487-493.

Optional Readings:

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

Additional Readings:

Kuhn, Thomas. 1996. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions 3rd edition*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

The Original Debates

Week 3: Violence in the International System

Required Readings:

Gat, Azar. 2006. *War in Human Civilization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Optional Readings:

McNeill, William H. 1982. *The Pursuit of Power*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Additional Readings:

Diamond, Jared. 2005. *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*. New York: W. W Norton.

McNeill, William H. 1992. *Plagues and Peoples*. New York: Peter Smith Publishers.

Week 4: Classical Realism

Required Readings:

Carr, E.H. 2000. *The Twenty Year Crisis 1919-1939*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Thucydides. The Melian Dialogue.

Machiavelli. 1984. *The Prince*. Bantam Classics.

Optional Readings:

Watson, Adam. 1992. *The Evolution of International Society*. London: Rutledge.

Additional Readings:

Morgenthau, Hans. 1985. *Politics Among Nations*. McGraw-Hill.

Week 5: Structural Realism

Required Readings:

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. McGraw-Hill.

Optional Readings:

Snidal, Duncan. 1991. "Relative Gains and the Pattern of International Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 85(3): 701-726.

Powell, Robert. 1991. "Absolute and Relative Gains in International Relations Theory." *American Political Science Review*. 85(4): 1303-20.

Reinhardt, Eric and Marc Bush. 1993. "Nice Strategies in a World of Relative Gains: The Problem Cooperation Under Anarchy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 37(3): 427-445.

Powell, Robert. 1994. "Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate." *International Organization* 48: 313-344.

Additional Readings:

Waltz, Kenneth. 2001. *Man, The State, and War*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Week 6: Realism and Change

Required Readings:

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

Park, Jong Hee. 2010. "Structural Change in U.S. Presidents' Use of Force." *American Journal of Political Science*. 54(3): 766-783.

Optional Readings:

Rosecrance, Richard. *The Rise of the Trading State: Commerce and Conquest in the Modern World*. New York: Basic Books.

Additional Readings:

Mearsheimer, John. 2003. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. W. W. Norton.

Week 7: Liberalism and Beyond

Required Readings:

Kant, Immanuel. 1957 [1795]. *Perpetual Peace*. New York: The Liberal Arts Press.

Angel, Norman. 2006 [1912]. *The Great Illusion - A Study of the Relation of Military Power To National Advantage*. New York: Obscure Press.

Optional Readings:

Hobson, John. 1965. *Imperialism*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Additional Readings:

Schumpeter, Joseph. 1984. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. Harper Collins.

Lenin, V.I. 1996. *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. Pluto Press.

Week 8: Neo-Liberalism

Required Readings:

Keohane, Robert. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Optional Readings:

Keohane, Robert, and Joseph Nye. 1977 (2000). *Power and Interdependence 3rd edition*. Addison-Wesley.

Goenner, Cullen F. 2010. "From Toys to Warships: Interdependence and the Effects of Disaggregated Trade on Militarized Disputes." *Journal of Peace Research*. 47(5):547-561.

Additional Readings:

Doyle, Michael. 1997. *Ways of War and Peace: Realism Liberalism, and Socialism*. W.W. Norton.

The Original Debates Today

Week 9: Power and War

Required Readings:

Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke. 1996. *Parity and War: Evaluations and Extensions of The War Ledger*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Optional Readings:

Mansfield, Edward. 1995. *Power, Trade, and War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Additional Readings:

James, Patrick. 2002. *International Relations and Scientific Progress: Structural Realism Reconsidered*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

Siverson, Randolph, and Harvey Starr. 1997. *The Diffusion of War: A Study of Opportunity and Willingness*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Organski, A.F.K., and Jacek Kugler. 1981. *The War Ledger*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Week 10: Democratic Peace Debates

Required Readings:

Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review*. 87(3): 624-638.

Farber, Henry S. and Joanne Gowa. 1997. "Common Interests or Common Politics? Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace." *The Journal of Politics*. 59(2): 393-417.

Gartzke, Erik. 1998. "Kant We All Just Get Along? Opportunity, Willingness, and the Origins of the Democratic Peace." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42(1): 1-27.

Oncal, John R. and Bruce M. Russett. 1999. "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992." *World Politics* 52(1): 1-37.

Gartzke, Erik. 2000. "Preferences and the Democratic Peace." *International Studies Quarterly*. 44(2): 119-213.

Sobek, David. 2003. "Regime Type, Preferences, and War: An Empirical Analysis of Renaissance Italy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 47(2): 204-225.

Optional Readings:

Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack Snyder. 1995. "Democratization and the Danger of War." *International Security*. 20:5-38.

Ward, Michael, and Kristian S. Gleditsch. 1998. "Democratizing for Peace." *American Political Science Review*. 92(1): 51-61.

Mansfield, Edward D, and Jack Snyder. 2002. "Incomplete Democratizations and the Outbreak of Military Disputes." *International Studies Quarterly*. 46: 529-549.

Sobek, David. 2005. "Machiavelli's Legacy: Domestic Politics and International Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly*. 49(2): 179-204.

Havard, Hegre, John R. Oneal, and Bruce Russett. 2010. "Trade Does Promote Peace: New Simultaneous Estimates of the Reciprocal Effects of Trade and Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research*. 47(6):763-775.

Additional Readings:

Weart, Spencer. 2000. *Never at War Why Democracies Will Not Fight One Another*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Week 11: Information and War

Required Readings:

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War, 3rd edition*. Free Press.

Optional Readings:

Huth, Paul D., Scott Bennett, and Christopher Gelpi. 1992. "System Uncertainty, Risk Propensity, and International Conflict Among the Great Powers." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 36(3): 478-517.

Powell, Robert. 1996. "Uncertainty, Shifting Power, and Appeasement." *American Political Science Review*. 90(4): 749-764.

Schultz, Kenneth. 1998. "Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises." *American Political Science Review*. 92(4): 829-44.

O'Neill, Barry. 2001. "Risk Aversion in International Relations Theory." *International Studies Quarterly*. 45(4): 617-40.

Reed, William. 2003. "Information and Economic Interdependence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 47(1): 54-72.

Additional Readings:

Jervis, Robert. *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

The New Debates

Week 12: Rational Choice 1

Required Readings:

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1983. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Optional Readings:

Putnam, Robert. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3): 427-460

Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577-592.

Schultz, Kenneth. 2001. "Looking For Audience Costs." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 45(1): 32-60.

Granato, Jim, Melody Lo, and M. C. Sunny Wong. 2010. "A Framework for Unifying Formal and Empirical Models." *American Journal of Political Science*. 54(3): 783-798.

Additional Readings:

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason Domestic and International Imperatives*.

Week 13: Rational Choice 2

Required Readings:

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

Gartzke, Erik. 1999. "War Is in the Error Term." *International Organization*. 53(3): 567-587.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review* 90(4):715-735.

Downs, George, and David Rocke. 1994. "Conflict, Agency, and Gambling for Resurrection: The Principle-Agent Problem Goes to War." *American Journal of Political Science*: 38(2): 362-380.

Tarar, Ahmer and Bahar Leventoglu. 2009. "Public Commitment in Crisis Bargaining." *International Studies Quarterly*. 53(3) 817-841.

Optional Readings:

Wagner, Harrison. 1994. "Peace, War, and the Balance of Power." *American Political Science Review*. 88: 593-607.

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.

Powell, Robert. 1996. "Stability and the Distribution of Power." *World Politics* 48: 239-267.

Gartzke, Erik, and Michael W. Simon. 1999. "'Hot Hand': A Critical Analysis of Enduring Rivalries." *Journal of Politics* 61(3): 777-798.

Additional Readings:

Milner, Helen. 1997. *Interests, Institutions, and Information*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 14: Social Constructivism

Required Readings:

Wendt, Alexander. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. Chapters 5-8

Optional Readings:

Dessler, David. 1989. "What's at Stake in the Agent Structure Debate?" *International Organization* 43: 441-73.

Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It." *International Organization* 46: 391-426.

Hopf, Ted. 1998. "The Promise of Constructivism in International Relations Theory." *International Security*. 23: 171-200.

Additional Readings:

Bull, Hedley. 1980. *The Anarchical Society*. New York: Columbia University Press.