

SEMINAR IN WORLD POLITICS
PLSC 650
Spring 2015

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Office: LNG-58
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays,
1:00-2:30, and by appointment

This course is a graduate-level introduction to the study of world politics (or international relations, if you prefer) within the discipline of political science. The course is organized around two broad and related questions that have preoccupied scholars in this field. First, what are the causes of war? This question had a special significance in the aftermath of the two world wars, when the study of world politics was taking shape as a field within political science. Second, what are the conditions for peaceful international cooperation? This question reaches beyond concerns about war and peace, encompassing efforts to achieve a variety of other purposes, such as the removal of barriers to international trade.

Two warnings are in order at the outset of a course like this one. First, there is a difference between the field of "World Politics" and the phenomenon of "world politics." This course is about the former. The phenomena grouped together under the rubric of world politics, including war, trade, and cooperation across international borders, have been important features of human life for millennia. By contrast, even though many of the ideas debated and tested by contemporary scholars are very old, the subfield of World Politics is a product of the twentieth century. We will spend most of our time discussing the theoretical issues that define the field rather than the substantive events that have shaped the contemporary world politics. Future generations of scholars (including you) may well decide that these issues are not as important for the substance of world politics as their prominence in the field suggests. Nevertheless, an awareness of the major issues that have defined the field is critically important even for those who are interested in steering it in new directions.

The second caveat is that, although the reading load for this course will be quite heavy, it only scratches the surface of the scholarly literature on the topics we will consider. Those of you continuing graduate studies in the field will have an opportunity to pursue some of these topics in much greater detail in subsequent research seminars and in your own research. The purpose of this course is to provide you with an introduction to the central issues in the field, not an exhaustive examination of the literature. Indeed, there are some important issues in the field that we will not discuss at all. The content of the course reflects the interests and biases of the instructor as well as those of the field. Although I strongly doubt that many scholars in the field would argue that any of the issues we will cover are not important, many of them would certainly teach this course quite differently.

Course Materials

We will be reading at least half of the following nine books this semester. All are available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

- Berinsky, Adam. 2009. *In Time of War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Braumoeller, Bear. 2013. *The Great Powers and the International System*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Colaresi, Michael P., Karen Rasler, and William R. Thompson. 2007. *Strategic Rivalries in World Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ikenberry, G. John. 2001. *After Victory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Kydd, Andrew. 2007. *Trust and Mistrust in International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Russett, Bruce M. and John R. Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York: W.W. Norton.
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *A Theory of International Politics*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

We will read shorter but still significant sections of the following three books. They are also for sale in the bookstore, but you may wish to read the relevant sections without purchasing the books, though they are classics in the field.

- Carr, Edward Hallett. 1964 [1939]. *The Twenty Years' Crisis*. Boston: Perennial.
- Hobson, J. A. 1965 [1902]. *Imperialism: A Study*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Niebuhr, Reinhold. 1960 [1932]. *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

In addition to these books, we will be reading a number of articles and book chapters. Most of these are available through databases the library maintains. In the few instances where this is not true, I will make PDF versions of these readings available through the Blackboard page established for this course.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation. Attendance and participation are critically important. Everyone should complete the assigned reading and be prepared to discuss it when we meet. Graduate seminars simply do not work if the participants are not prepared. Attendance and participation will count for 30% of your final grade.

Reaction papers. Over the course of the semester, each participant will write three papers assessing one or more of the readings assigned for that week. The paper should first identify the major research question the work (or works) addresses, then assess the argument and evidence offered to answer this question. If there are possibilities for future research on the topic, your paper could also discuss them. Each paper will count for 10% of your final grade, for a total of 30%.

Research design. Each student will write and revise a paper outlining a research design addressing a topic in the field. The paper should do the following: (1) set out a research question, explaining why it is important; (2) briefly discuss at least one theoretical argument that might

help answer this question; (3) draw one or more observable implications from the theoretical argument(s); (4) explain how you could test these implications; and (5) explain how you could gather the information needed for these empirical tests. Although the precise length of these papers is not particularly important, 3-6 pages is a good target zone. The first draft of this paper is due on April 15th. It will be returned with comments and suggestions the following week. The final draft is due at the last class meeting, May 6th. The research design will account for 20% of your final grade.

Final Essay. Each seminar participant will write a take-home final essay. The questions on which you can choose to write your essay will be given out at the end of class on May 6th, and will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11th. The essay will account for 20% of your final course grade.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 28. The Realist Tradition

Carr, Edward Hallett. 1964 [1939]. *The Twenty Years' Crisis*. Boston: Perennial. Chapters 4 and 5.

Morgenthau, Hans. 1993 [1948]. *Politics Among Nations*, Brief Edition. New York: McGraw Hill. Chapter 1.

Niebuhr, Reinhold. 1960 [1932]. *Moral Man and Immoral Society*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Introduction and chapter 4.

Walzer, Michael. 1977. *Just and Unjust Wars*. New York: Basic Books. Chapter 1.

February 4. Neorealism

Waltz, Kenneth. 1979. *A Theory of International Politics*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Rose, Gideon. 1998. "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy." *World Politics* 51(1): 144-72.

Legro, Jeffrey W., and Andrew Moravcsik. 1999. "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* 24(2): 5-55.

February 11. The Bargaining Model of War

Downes, Alexander B., and Todd S. Sechser. 2012. "The Illusion of Democratic Credibility." *International Organization* 66, 457-89.

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): 567-87.

Lake, David A. 2010/11. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War." *International Security* 35(3): 7-52.

February 18. No class meeting—International Studies Association annual meeting

March 25. Recent Systemic Theory

Braumoeller, Bear. 2013. *The Great Powers and the International System*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

March 4. Liberalism and the Democratic Peace

Russett, Bruce M. and John R. Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York: W.W. Norton.

March 11. Domestic Politics and International Conflict I

Cornford, Francis MacDonald. 1971 [1907.] *Thucydides Mythistoricus*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. 1-76.

Ellsberg, Daniel. 1972. "The Quagmire Myth and the Stalemate Machine." *Papers on the War*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Kehr, Eckart. 1977 [1927.] "Anglophobia and Weltpolitik." In Gordon Craig, ed., and Grete Heinz, tr. *Economic Interest, Militarism and Foreign Policy*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3): 427-60.

Ransom, Roger L. 1989. *Conflict and Compromise*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6.

March 18. Domestic Politics and International Conflict II

Berinsky, Adam. 2009. *In Time of War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Mueller, John. 1971. "Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam." *American Political Science Review* 65(2): 358-75.

March 25. Rivalry

Colaresi, Michael P., Karen Rasler, and William R. Thompson. 2007. *Strategic Rivalries in World Politics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

April 1. Imperialism

Hobson, J. A. 1965 [1902.] *Imperialism: A Study*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Part I, chapters 4 and 6; Part II, chapters 1, 3, and 7.

Gallagher, John A., and Ronald E. Robinson. 1953. "The Imperialism of Free Trade." *Economic History Review*, 2nd series, 6 (1): 1-15.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and Alastair Smith. 2009. "A Political Economy of Aid." *International Organization* 63(2): 309-40.

Galbraith, John S. 1960. "The 'Turbulent Frontier' as a Factor in British Expansion." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 2(2): 150-68.

Frieden, Jeffrey. 1994. "International Investment and Colonial Control: A New Interpretation," *International Organization* 48(4): 559-93.

April 8. No class meeting—University holiday

April 15. Hegemony and International Order

Ikenberry, G. John. 2001. *After Victory*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Krasner, Stephen D. 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." *World Politics* 28(3): 317-347.

Peceny, Mark. 1999. "Forcing Them to Be Free." *Political Research Quarterly* 52(3): 549-82.

April 22. Cooperation without a Hegemonic Leader

Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. New York: Basic Books.

Keohane, Robert O. 1984. *After Hegemony*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Part I.

April 29. Reputation

Kydd, Andrew. 2007. *Trust and Mistrust in International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

May 6. Institutions as Constraints on State Behavior

Olson, Mancur, and Richard Zeckhauser. 1966. "An Economic Theory of Alliances." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 48(3): 266-79.

Fearon, James D. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization* 52(2): 269-305.

Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46(2): 391-425.

Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Alliance Reliability in Times of War: Explaining State Decisions to Violate Treaties." *International Organization* 57(4): 801-27.