

POLI 4048 International Conflict

Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

Instructor: Joe Clare
Office Location: 206 Stubbs Hall
Office Phone: 578-2551
E-mail: jclare@lsu.edu

Classroom: 109 Tureaud Hall
Class Hours: T/TH 1:30-2:50
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Course description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major theoretical approaches in the systematic study of international conflict. The emphasis of this course is on theory, not current events. The semester begins with an introduction to the theoretical and methodological foundations of the international relations subfield, which includes an in-depth treatment of how to evaluate theoretical arguments. This introduction becomes the backdrop for our discussions of several relevant topics in the study of international conflict, such as the role of military power and alliances, the sources of threat credibility in deterrence and coercive bargaining, and other theories. We conclude the class with an examination of issues such as U.S. grand strategies, the problem of terrorism, the ethics of force, and peacekeeping and peacemaking. The goal is not only to familiarize you with the theoretical approaches to international conflict and cooperation, but also to develop the skills to analytically and critically approach the literature in this area.

Reading materials

There is no required textbook for this course. The required readings are articles and book chapters that are available as PDF files available on Moodle.

Course requirements and grading scheme

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) two online examinations, (2) Four in-class quizzes, and (3) class participation.

1. Two online examinations (70% total; 35% each)
 - The exams will be a combination of short-answer identification/definition questions and essay questions. Each exam will be worth a total of 35% of the student's final grade. Questions will be based on the student's comprehension of both the assigned reading materials and the class lectures.
2. Four in-class quizzes (20%)
 - The quizzes are multiple choice and the questions will be based on the class readings and lectures. The dates of the quizzes are not announced, so if you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a university excusable reason, let me know early.

3. Class participation (10%)

- Class participation is based on active participation in class discussions. The students are expected to come to class having read the material and able to answer questions and/or engage in informed discussion. This can only be done if you conduct yourselves in a professional manner and are tolerant of other students' ideas, even if they directly contradict your own personal views.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

97-100% (A+);	93-96.9% (A);	90-92.9% (A-);
87-89.9% (B+);	83-86.9% (B);	80-82.9% (B-);
77-79.9% (C+);	73-76.9% (C);	70-72.9% (C-);
67-69.9% (D+);	63-66.9% (D);	60-62.9% (D-);
< 60% (F)		

Summary of important dates:

October 27 – First Exam

December 7 – Final Exam

Deadline Extensions and Make-Up Exams

Deadline extensions and make-up exams will not be granted except in properly documented situations of serious illness or major family emergency. The request needs to be made in a timely manner and not later than the second day after the missed deadline or exam. Otherwise, the extension/make-up will not be granted. This course does not qualify for granting an Incomplete Grade; therefore, there is NO Incomplete Grade in this course.

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 the prior 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: <http://saa.lsu.edu/code-student-conduct>. 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.

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.

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.*

Practical Advice on Reading and Taking notes

For your own benefit and not just for this course, I strongly encourage you to read about research, repeatedly showing that taking notes with a laptop or tablet and having an instructor posting lecture notes do NOT benefit a student's cognitive and learning process. By contrast, "students who used longhand remembered more and had a deeper understanding of the material." "A Learning Secret: Don't Take Notes with a Laptop" (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

Also, while there is an obvious financial advantage to have the readings available in electronic form as it saves you money, it is strongly advisable to have them printed and read them in the print version. I encourage students to discuss the course materials with me outside the classroom as well (see the office hours), but I will require you to bring print copies of all readings with you on these occasions. This is why (and do print this article before reading it):

"The Reading Brain in the Digital Age: The Science of Paper versus Screens" (*The Scientific American*)

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

Course Schedule and Readings

January 18

CLASS INTRODUCTION

January 20-25

THEORY AND EVALUATING THEORY

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2003. *Principles of International Politics: Peoples Power, Preferences, and Perceptions*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

— Read Chapter 2 (pp. 51-81).

Wagner, R. Harrison. 2001. “Who’s Afraid of ‘Rational Choice Theory’?” Typescript: University of Texas-Austin.

January 27-February 1

(NEO)REALISM AND THE BALANCE OF POWER

Morgenthau, Hans Joachim. 2006. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

— Read Ch. 1: “A Realist Theory of International Politics”.

Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton.

— Read Ch. 2: “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power”

Waltz, Kenneth. 1988. “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory.” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.

February 3-8

ALLIANCES AND WAR

Snyder, Glenn H. 1984. “The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics.” *World Politics* 36 (4): 461-495.

February 10-15

POWER TRANSITION AND HEGEMONIC STABILITY

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

— Read Chapter 8: “The Abacus of Power”

Tammen, Ronald L. Et al. 2000. *Power Transitions: Strategies for the 21st Century*. New York: Chatham House.

— Read Chapter 1: “Power Transition Theory for the Twenty-First Century”

Allison, Graham. 2015. “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed For War?” *The Atlantic* (online).

— <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>

February 17-24

CRISIS BARGAINING

Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

—Read Chapter 1: “The Diplomacy of Violence”

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

March 1

NO CLASS: MARDI GRAS BREAK

March 3-8

STRATEGIC BARGAINING AND DETERRENCE

Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

—Read Chapter 2: “The Art of Commitment”

Danilovic, Vesna. 2002. *When the Stakes Are High: Deterrence and Conflict among Major Powers*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

—Read Chapter 1: “Introduction” and Chapter 3: “Deterrence and Conflict”

EXAM #1

Thursday, March 10

March 15-17

SPRING BREAK

March 22-April 5

DOMESTIC POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

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

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

—Read Chapter 2

March 31

NO CLASS: PROFESSOR WILL BE ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

April 7

GRAND STRATEGY

Art, Robert J. 1998/99. “Geopolitics Updated: The Strategy of Selective Engagement.” *International Security* 23 (3): 79-113.

Krauthammer, Charles. 2002/03. “The Unipolar Moment Revisited.” *National Interest* 70 (Winter): 5-17.

April 12-14

TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Rapoport, David C. 2004. “The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism.” In Cronin, A. K. & Ludes, J. M. (eds.) *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC.: Georgetown University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 46–73).

Cronin, Audrey Kurth. 2002/03. “Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism.” *International Security* 27 (3): 30-58.

Mueller, John. 2006. “Is There Still a Terrorist Threat?” *Foreign Affairs* 85 (5): 2-8.

April 19-26

ETHICS AND FORCE

Skidelsky, Robert. 2004. "The Just War Tradition." *Prospect*, December 2004.

Myers, Robert J. 1996. "Notes on the Just War Theory: Whose Justice, Which Wars?" *Ethics & International Affairs* 10 (1): 115-130.

Crawford, Neta C. 2003. "Just War Theory and the U.S. Counterterror War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1 (1): 5-25.

April 28-May 3

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING

Goulding, Marrack. 1993. "The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping." *International Affairs* 69 (3): 451-464.

Stedman, Stephen John. 1997. "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes." *International Security* 22 (2): 5-53.

May 5

WRAP-UP AND REVIEW

EXAM #2

Tuesday, May 10

3-5pm

~ Have a Good Winter Break ~