

International Conflict in the Twenty-First Century

Political Science 486M

Spring 2016 TR 8:30-9:55 Student Wing 310

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Office Hours: TR 1-2:30 LNG 77 and by appointment

Course Description

This course offers students an introduction to understanding international conflicts that have occurred in the first decades of the 21st Century. Students will examine theories of conflict and empirical examples from this period, as well as how the political and economic characteristics of the international system have changed since the 20th Century. Since these changes have influenced patterns of conflict throughout the globe, students will be exposed to a wide variety of international disputes and conflicts, providing a global perspective to both the course and their own intellectual development. These examples will include conflicts involving the United States, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as conflicts without a direct U.S. presence, including interstate disputes in disparate geographic locations such as South-East Asia and Western Africa.

This Course Satisfies the G(Global Interdependencies), N (Social Sciences) and W (Writing) General Education Requirements, as well as the Upper-level Requirement for the International Relations Concentration.

Course Readings

The required readings for this class include both books and articles. The various books required for the course are available at the campus bookstore as well as online. If available, a library copy of the books will be held at the Reserve Desk in Bartle Library (those books held on reserve are marked with **R** in the section on course assignments). All journal articles assigned are available through the Binghamton University library webpage.

Edelstein, David. 2008. Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation. Cornell University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8014-7624-2

Ikenberry, John. 2001. After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 978-0-691-05091 **R**

Reveron, Derek and Kathleen Mahoney-Norris. 2011. Human Security in a Borderless World. Westview Press. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4522-2

Singer, Peter. 2009. Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century. Penguin Press. ISBN:1-59420-198-6 **R**

Course Objectives and Components

1) Participation: This class is a senior seminar, and students are expected to fully comprehend each week's readings and actively participate in class. The course readings and discussions are divided into multiple distinct sections, typically within one week. Students will be expected to have completed all of the readings prior to the beginning of each section, and be able to engage with the material on a substantive level during in-class discussion. In addition, each student will be expected to act as discussion leader for one week of class, writing a series of discussion questions/topics and acting as moderator during that period of time. This level of participation is intended to provide students with experience in graduate-level discourse on academic topics, as well as to encourage discussion leaders to think critically about their selected topic and moderate between opposing viewpoints.

30 Percent of overall grade

2) Response Papers: You will be required to turn in a total of two (2) four to five page papers (11 or 12 point font, double-spaced) over the course of the class in response to the readings assigned that week. I recommend that you focus on responding to one to two of the readings assigned during a week, although I expect your responses to show awareness of the various topics covered throughout the week and earlier in the class. The weeks each student will submit response papers will be decided in the first week of class, based on number of students and individual interests. They will be due before Midnight on Friday of the week the readings were assigned. **You are required to turn these papers in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** These papers *are not* exclusively summaries of the articles or descriptions of the arguments, but will instead provide analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments, and suggest a related extension to the topic (examples would include theoretical or empirical suggestions on how to improve these analyses, or ideas for further research). I will return comments on these papers via private e-mail Monday of the next week.

20 Percent of overall grade

3) In-Class Debate: In addition to in-class participation and formal written responses, you will also participate in an in-class Debate on March 24th. The topic of the debate will be announced during the semester, based in part on the content and questions raised during the course of the first months of class. Roles in the debate will be assigned during the semester, but will include two opposing sides of debaters as well as a group of moderators. Debaters will be expected to research substantive information relating to their topic, and orally present their arguments clearly and professionally. In addition to their oral presentations, Debaters will be required to submit a one (1) page summary of their research and sources. Moderators will be required to maintain the decorum and organization of the debate, as well as write a three (3) to four (4) page description of their conclusions and evaluations of the validity and accuracy of the debaters' presentations. This assignment is intended to provide students with experience in presenting prepared research to a group of their peers and to evaluate the oral arguments of their peers, both of which are vital skills in both academia and policy-related fields.

10 Percent of overall Grade

4) Research Paper Proposal: By March 22nd, you will turn in a brief (one page double spaced) Proposal for your Research Paper. This Proposal should detail a question you wish to investigate relating to Interstate Conflict in the 21st Century, as well as a brief explanation for how you plan to research and determine an answer to your question. This will be extremely useful to you in preparing for your Final Paper. **You will be required to turn the Final Paper Proposal in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment**

on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format. I will return comments on these papers via private e-mail during the next week.

5 Percent of overall grade

5) Research Paper: Your final paper is due before Midnight on the final day of Class (May 10th). The paper is required to be between fifteen (15) and twenty (20) pages long, at least 11 point font, double spaced, and conform to university standards of grammar, citation, and other compositional requirements. **You will be required to turn the Final Paper in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** The Final Paper must present a research question relating to the broad field of Interstate Conflict in the 21st Century, discuss relevant literature, and answer this question in some empirically viable way. Case studies, formal modeling, and statistical analysis are all valid forms of empirical testing, although the techniques behind formal modeling and statistical analysis will not be taught in this class, and I do not encourage students to attempt these if they have not had prior training and experience. Students are strongly encouraged to use Binghamton University's digital book and journal collections, as well as other academically valid sources obtained outside of University facilities, in collecting literature and answering their question. A vital step to completing this research project is writing a serious and well-thought out Final Paper Proposal. Discussing your paper with me in person during office hours is strongly encouraged.

35 Percent of overall grade

Please Note: Due to the often-times sensitive and emotional content matter of a class on conflict, I strongly encourage students to be aware of and sensitive towards each other's personal experiences and opinions on the subject. If at any time you feel uncomfortable with the direct of the discussion, either inform the class or send me a private message. Any statements or actions that occur in class that violate the Student Conduct Code will result in the appropriate response from myself and the University.

Grading

Letter Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 93 and above	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	F = 59.9 and below
A- = 90-92.9	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	
B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77 – 79.9	D = 60-69.9	

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity and will be held to the code of conduct established in the Binghamton University Rules of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy. Ignorance of the relevant rules pertaining to academic honesty is not a justifiable excuse. If you have not, please review these rules through Binghamton.edu if you have any questions, and complete the library's tutorial on Academic Honesty that is available through the Library tab on your Blackboard home page.

Disability Related Equal Access Accommodation Statement

Students wishing to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 to schedule an appointment with the Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in UU – 119.

Assignments

January 26 - Introduction to Course

Review Syllabus on Blackboard

January 28 - Rationalist Explanations for War

Bean, Richard. 1973. "War and the Birth of the State." *Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 33 (1): 203-221.

Powell, R. 2006. "War as a commitment problem." *International Organization*, Vol. 60 (1):169-203.

Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 1 (1): pp. 27-43.

February 2 and 4- Non-Rationalist Explanations for War

Chiozza, G. and Goemans, H. E. 2004. "International conflict and the tenure of leaders: Is war still ex post inefficient?" *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 48 (3):604-619.

Goemans, H. and Fey, M. 2009. "Risky but Rational: War as an Institutionally Induced Gamble." *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 71(01):35-54.

Kaufmann, Chaim. 2004. "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War," *International Security*, Vol. 29, (1): pp. 5-48.

Mueller, John. 1971. "Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 65 (2): 358-375.

February 9 and 11 - The End of the Cold War/ Post Cold War Geopolitics

Bueno de Mesquita, B., Morrow, J. D., Siverson, R. M., and Smith, A. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93 (4): 791-807.

R Ikenberry, John. 2001. After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order After Major Wars. Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3, 7-8.

Lo, Nigel, Barry Hashimoto, and Dan Reiter. 2008. "Ensuring Peace: Foreign-Imposed Regime Change and Postwar Peace Duration, 1914-2001." *International Organization*, Vol. 62 (4): 717-736.

February 16 and 18 - American Conflict in the 21st Century

Arreguin-Toft, Ivan. 2001. "How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict," *International Security*, Vol. 24 (1): pp. 93-128.

Gelpi, Christopher and Peter Feaver. 2002. "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick? Veterans in the Political Elite and the American Use of Force." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 96 (4): 779-793.

Sobek, David and Alex Braithwaite. 2005. "Victim of Success: American Dominance and Terrorism." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, Vol. 22: 135-149.

Edelstein, David. 2008. Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation. Cornell University Press. Introduction, Chapters 1-2.

February 23 and 25 - The Afghanistan and Iraq Wars

Byman, Daniel. 2006. "Remaking Alliances for the War on Terrorism." *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 29 (5): 767-811.

Department of the Army. 2006. Field Manual 3-24: Counterinsurgency. Preface and Introduction, Chapters 1-2, 4-5.

Lyll, Jason and Isaiah Wilson III. 2009. "Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes Outcomes in CounterInsurgency Wars." *International Organization*, Vol. 63 (1): 67-106.

Edelstein, David. 2008. Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation. Cornell University Press. Chapter 3.

March 1 and 3 - Non-American Conflict in the 21st Century I

Clark, D. H., Fordham, B. O., and Nordstrom, T. 2011. "Preying on the Misfortune of Others: When do States Exploit Their Opponents' Domestic Troubles?" *Journal of Politics*, 73(1):248-264.

Debs, A. and Goemans, H. E. 2010. "Regime Type, the Fate of Leaders, and War." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 104 (3):430-445.

Miller, Ross and Ozlem Elgun. 2011. "Diversion and Political Survival in Latin America." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 55 (2): 192-219.

Pickering, J. and Kisangani, E. F. 2010. "Diversionary Despots? Comparing Autocracies' Propensities to Use and to Benefit From Military Force." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 54(2):477-493.

March 8 and 10- Non-American Conflict in the 21st Century II

Abbink, Jon. 2003. "Ethiopia—Eritrea: Proxy Wars and Prospects of Peace in the Horn of Africa" *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, Vol. 21 (3): 407-425.

Deibert, Ronald, Rafal Rohozinski, and Masashi Crete-Nishihata. 2012. "Cyclones in Cyberspace: Information Shaping and Denial in the 2008 Russia-Georgia War." *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 43 (1): 3-24.

Salehyan, Idean. 2010. "The Delegation of War to Rebel Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54(3): 493-515.

Schultz, Kenneth. 2010. "The Enforcement Problem in Coercive Bargaining: Interstate Conflict Over Rebel Support in Civil Wars." *International Organization*, Vol. 64 (2): 281-312.

Edelstein, David. 2008. Occupational Hazards: Success and Failure in Military Occupation. Cornell University Press. Chapter 4

March 15 and 17 (ISA) - Class Cancelled

Watch one of the below options

Youtube Option: PBS Documentary Genocide: Worse Than War

Location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7cZuhqSzzc>

Netflix Documentary: Junger and Hetherington. 2010. Restrepo.

<http://www.netflix.com/watch/70129360?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2Cf35e791df045c24a45ad6e2a15271071c391dce9%3Ae603644381bb00e0de5e3d7d7c372138ef7066ca>

**March 22 - Debate Preparation
Research Proposal Due**

March 24 - In-Class Debate

March 28 and 31 - Spring Recess: No Classes

April 5 and 7 - New Technology and Conflict

R Singer, Peter. 2009. Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century. Penguin Press. Chapters 1-6; 11-13; 15-16.

April 12 and 14 - Low Violence Conflict

Filippov, Mikhail. 2009. "Diversionary Role of the Georgia-Russia Conflict: International Constraints and Domestic Appeal." *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 61 (10): 1825-1847.

Pakdeekong, Monticha. 2009 "Who Owns the Preah Vihear Temple- A Thai Position." *Journal of East Asia and International Law*. Vol. 2: 229.

Stephan, Maria and Erica Chenoweth. 2008. "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Political Conflict," *International Security*, Vol. 33, No. 1: 7-44.

Touch, Bora. 2009. "Who Owns the Preah Vihear Temple- A Cambodian Position." *Journal of East Asia and International Law*. Vol. 2: 205.

Williams, Tim. 2011 "The Curious Tale of Preah Vihear: The Process and Value of World Heritage Sites." *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*, Vol. 13 (1): 1-7.

April 19 and 21 - Economic Methods of Conflict

Byman, Daniel and Sarah Kreps. 2010. "Agents of Destruction? Applying Principal-Agent Analysis to State-Sponsored Terrorism." *International Studies Perspectives*, Vol. 11 (1): 1-18.

Fariss, C. 2010. "The Strategic Substitution of United States Foreign Aid." *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Vol. 6 (2):107-131.

Reveron, Derek and Kathleen Mahoney-Norris. Human Security in a Borderless World. Westview Press. Chapter 1-2.

April 26 and 28- Human and Environmental Costs of Conflict

Gleditsch, Nils. 1998. "Armed Conflict and the Environment: A Critique of the Literature." *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 35 (3): 381-400.

Hazem, Adam Ghobarah, Paul Huth, and Bruce Russett. 2003. "Civil Wars Kill and Main People—Long After the Shooting Stops," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, (2): 189-202.

Reveron, Derek and Kathleen Mahoney-Norris. Human Security in a Borderless World. Westview Press. Chapters 3-4, 6, 8.

May 3 and 5 - Violent Non-State Actors in the 21st Century

Elbadawi, Ibrahim; Nicholas Sambanis, 2002. "How much War Will We See? Explaining the Prevalence of Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46(3): 307-334.

Fearon, James and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* Vol. 97 (1): 75-90.

Huddy, Leonie, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber, and Gallya Lahav. 2005. "Threat, Anxiety, and Support of Antiterrorism Policies." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 49. (3): 593-608.

Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security*, Vol. 31 (1): 49-80.

May 10 - Final Paper Due Midnight