

Political Science 750: International Relations I

Mark J.C. Crescenzi

Class Meeting Time: Mondays 2:30-5:20, GL 526A

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-12:00,
Thursdays 11:00-12:00

Objectives of the Seminar

The objectives of this course are: (1) to understand the scope and breadth of the theoretical literature that has defined the study of international relations; (2) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the theoretical paradigms represented in that literature; (3) to define specific research questions and issues that must be addressed by future research; and (4) to prepare students for preliminary examinations in international relations.

It is, of course, impossible to provide a comprehensive review of the entire field of international relations in a single semester. The readings and discussions in this course seek to strike a balance between traditional works that define the evolution of the field and contemporary works that highlight the development of our knowledge and possible directions for future research. Some of the materials in this course rely on technical tools (such as econometrics or formal theory). Students are not expected to be familiar with these tools prior to enrolling in the course, but will become familiar with them during the semester.

Course Requirements

Response Papers (25% of final grade) In order to encourage active thinking about the readings and discussion in class, students will write five brief commentaries (3-4 pages, single-spaced) on the readings for a particular week. Students should seek in these notes to engage one or more themes in the works, discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and suggest future research questions facing that area of the literature. Students will sign up for their weeks at the first class meeting of the seminar. The papers will be circulated electronically to the entire class, and will be due at 9:00 a.m. on the relevant class day. You can email the entire class through the blackboard website.

Class Participation (20% of the final grade): Students will be expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in a robust, informed discussion of the readings and the problems for the field of international relations raised by the readings.

Literature or Book Review (25% of the final grade): The readings on this syllabus can only serve as a starting point from which students will engage additional important literature. Students will therefore write a literature or book review on a topic of interest to them that relates to one of the subjects addressed by this course. A book review will generally focus intensively on one or two related books; a literature review will examine the development of a theme or problem through time and a larger number of readings. Either type of analysis should be 4,000-5,000 words. Students should consult with me before selecting a review topic.

Written Final Examination (30% of the final grade): Students will take a one-day examination that will be patterned on the preliminary examinations that graduate students must pass before they may advance to the dissertation stage of the PhD program.

Papers and Citations: It is important that students cite the material that they have relied upon in writing these papers. If you have questions about when you need to provide citation for a source, please see the UNC [guide on avoiding plagiarism](#). If you have questions about how to provide citation on your sources, please see the UNC Libraries' [guide on citation formats](#). Use any citation format that you prefer, what is important is that you give credit to the sources you used.

Required Books

The following books are required. They are available for purchase through various online sources, including ebook formats in some cases.

- Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse and Beth Simmons, eds. 2013. [Handbook of International Relations](#), Second Edition. (Handbook)
- Harrison Wagner, 2007. [War and the State: the Theory of International Politics](#).
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph Siverson, and James Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*

All other readings are available online through the [UNC Library](#). Students can obtain the readings by clicking on the links below.

Topics and Schedule

January 12: Introductions

- Dina Zinnes. 1980. ["Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher." *International Studies Quarterly* 23\(3\):315-42](#)
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, ["Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View, in Symposium: Methodological Foundations of the Study of International Conflict, *International Studies Quarterly*, >Vol. 29, No. 2. \(Jun., 1985\),.pp. 121-136](#)

January 19: MLK Holiday, no class meeting

January 26: Because you have to start somewhere

- Thucydides. 431 B.C.E. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*, [Book 1](#) (skim).
- Robert Dahl, ["The Concept of Power." *Behavioral Science* 2 \(2\) :201-215](#)
- David Baldwin, 2013. *Power and International Relations* [Handbook](#), Chapter 11.
- Brian Schmidt, 2013. *On the History and Historiography of International Relations*

[Handbook](#), Chapter 1.

- Colin Wight, 2013. *Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations* [Handbook](#), Chapter 2.

Feb 2: NeoRealist vs Neoliberal Perspectives

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, pp. 79-128, 161-193.
- Stephen Walt, 1985. [Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power](#) *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Spring, 1985), pp. 3-43
- David Axelrod and Robert Keohane, 1985. [Achieving Cooperation under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions](#) *World Politics* 38(1):226-254
- David Lake, 2007. [Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics](#) *International Security* 32 (1): 47-79

February 9: Constructivism and Feminism

- Emanuel Adler, 2013. *Constructivism and International Relations* [Handbook](#), Chapter 5.
- Alexander Wendt, [Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics](#). *International Organization* 46:391-425
- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, 2001. [The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics](#). *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1): 391-416.
- Laura Sjoberg and J. Ann Tickner, 2013. *Feminist Perspectives on International Relations* [Handbook](#), Chapter 7.
- Laura Sjoberg, 2012. [Gender, structure, and war: what Waltz couldn't see](#) *International Theory* 4(1): 1-38

February 16: Rationalist Perspectives

- James Fearon, 1995. [Rationalist Explanations for War](#). *International Organization*
- Duncan Snidal, 2013. *Rational Choice and International Relations* [Handbook](#), Chapter 4.
- Robert Powell, 2006 [War as a Commitment Problem](#) *International Organization* 60(1):169-203
- Kenneth A. Schultz, 2010 [The Enforcement Problem in Coercive Bargaining: Interstate Conflict over Rebel Support in Civil Wars](#) *International organization* 64(2):281-312

February 23: Bargaining and War

- Robert Powell, 2002. [Bargaining Theory and International Conflict](#). *Annual Review of*

- Harrison Wagner, 2007. [War and the State: the Theory of International Politics](#).
- James D. Fearon, 2010. [Comments on R. Harrison Wagner's War and the State: The Theory of International Politics](#) *International Theory* 2(2):333-342

March 3-6 (need to schedule alternate class meeting): Trust, Reputation, and Learning

- Robert Jervis, 1988. [War and Misperception](#) *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4):675-700.
- Janice Gross Stein, 2013. *Psychological Explanations of International Decision Making and Collective Behavior* [Handbook](#), Chapter 8.
- Jonathan Mercer, 1997. [Reputation and Rational Deterrence Theory](#) *Security Studies* 7(1):100-113
- Andrew Kydd, 2000. [Trust, Reassurance and Cooperation](#) *International Organization*, 54(2): 325-57.
- Mark Crescenzi, 2007. [Reputation and Interstate Conflict](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 51(2):382-396.

March 9: Spring Break

March 16: Democracy, Economics and The Liberal Peace

- Jack Levy. 2013. *Interstate War and Peace* [Handbook](#) Chapter 23.
- Kenneth Schultz. 1999. [Do Democratic Political Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War](#) *International Organization* 53:233-266
- Johann Park and Michael Colaresi. 2014. [Safe Across the Border: The Continued Significance of the Democratic Peace When Controlling for Stable Borders](#) *International Studies Quarterly*, 58(1): 118-125.
- Allan Dafoe, John Oneal and Bruce Russett. 2013. [The Democratic Peace: Weighing the Evidence and Cautious Inference](#) *International Studies Quarterly* 57: 201-214.
- Mark Crescenzi, 2003. [Economic Exit, Interdependence, and Conflict](#) *Journal of Politics* 65(3):809-832
- Timothy Peterson. 2013. [Dyadic Trade, Exit Costs, and Conflict](#) 58(4) 564-591
- Navin Bapat and Bo Ram Kwon. 2015. [When are sanctions effective? A bargaining and enforcement framework](#) *International Organization* forthcoming

March 23: Institutions

- Lisa Martin and Beth Simmons. 2013. *International Organizations and Institutions Handbook* Chapter 13.
- Hans Schmitz and Kathryn Sikkink. 2013. *International Human Rights Handbook* Chapter 33.
- Page Fortna, 2003. [Scraps of Paper? Agreements and the Durability of Peace](#) *International Organization* 57(2):337-372
- B. Ashley Leeds, Michaela Mattes and Jeremy S. Vogel. 2009. [Interests, Institutions, and the Reliability of International Commitments](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2): 461-476

March 30: Terrorism

- Ethan Bueno de Mesquita. 2013. *Terrorism and Counterterrorism Handbook* Chapter 25.
- Jeremy Weinstein. 2005. [Resources and the Information Problem in Rebel Recruitment](#). *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(4): 598-624.
- Erica Chenoweth. 2013. [Terrorism and Democracy](#). *Annual Review of Political Science* 16:355-378.
- Ethan Bueno de Mesquita. 2005. [The Quality of Terror](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 515-530
- Navin Bapat. 2012. [Understanding State Sponsorship of Militant Groups](#) *British Journal of Political Science* 42(1): 1-29
- David Lake. 2002. Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty First Century. *Dialogue International Organization* 1(1): 15-29.

April 6: Integrating Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, James Morrow, Alistair Smith, and Randolph Siverson. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*

April 13: Civil War

- Nicholas Sambanis, 2004. [What Is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition](#) *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6):814-858
- Barbara Walter, 2013. *Civil Wars, Conflict Resolution, and Bargaining Theory Handbook* Chapter 26.
- David Cunningham, Kristian Gleditsch, and Idean Salehyan 2009. [It Takes Two: A Dyadic Analysis of Civil War Duration and Outcome](#) *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(4): 570-597
- Elaine Denny and Barbara Walter, 2014. [Ethnicity and civil war](#) *Journal of Peace Research* 51(2): 199-212

April 20: Intervention and Conflict Resolution

- Stephen Gent, 2007 [Strange Bedfellows: The Strategic Dynamics of Major Power Military Intervention](#) *Journal of Politics* 69(4):1089-1102
- Stephen Gent, 2008. [Going in When it Counts: Military Intervention and the Outcome of Civil Conflicts](#) *International Studies Quarterly* 52(4):713-735
- Andrew Kydd, 2010. [Rationalist Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Resolution](#) *Annual Review of Political Science* 13:101-121
- Andrew Owsiak, 2014. [Conflict Management Trajectories in Militarized Interstate Disputes: A Conceptual Framework and Theoretical Foundations](#) *International Studies Review* 16(1): 50-78.

April 27 or May 5 (flexible) Final Exam