

International Politics

During Teaching Weeks at Trinity College (excluding Reading Week)

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The module introduces students to issues of contemporary relevance in international relations. The module focuses on recent research in the field in areas of substantive importance. The goal of the module is to make students aware of productive areas of research and methodological approaches.

Requirements and Grading

Reading

All course participants are expected to come to class each week having completed all the assigned readings, having thought about them carefully, ready to contribute to discussion.

Response papers/research extensions (30%)

Three short response papers (each equal value).

These papers should outline an additional research question motivated by the readings and topic of that week. This can be as simple as an empirical extension of one of the papers. The papers should then provide a brief outline of how the question or hypothesis would be tested. Response papers should be at least one but no more than four double-spaced pages long

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Class Participation (20%)

Student participation in class discussion and debate on the readings is a central element of the seminar. Students are expected to have read all required readings and to have acquired detailed knowledge and developed informed critiques of the readings prior to the class meeting. The objective of class discussion will be to critically assess the readings and offer insights on what direction new research could and should proceed in the field. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their input in class discussion and debate. Those who are deemed to be falling behind in class participation may be asked to submit additional response papers.

Some questions to keep in mind while reading: What are the central theories discussed in the study? Are the assumptions of the theory consistent or do they contradict each other? If the study seeks to test a theory with evidence, what are the findings? How would you rate the quality of the test, e.g. do the data adequately measure the theoretical concepts; is the design strong enough to adequately test the theory? Are there cases that the author has overlooked? How would you go about re-designing the test to overcome any limitations? Can the study be extended to cover other issue areas; if so, which ones?

In general, students should keep in mind 3 questions: What is good about the work? What are the problems? And how could it be done better?

Presentation

Each student will be required to provide a 5 minute presentation on one of the readings. These presentations are intended to stimulate discussion. To this end, the presentation should provide a brief overview of the reading, highlighting the main points. Students should emphasise potential questions for discussion and, critically, why these questions are of interest. There should be no or minimal summary of the readings. Grading will be based on the quality of content and presentation of the argument and the discussion questions. A sign up list for the presentations will be distributed in the first week of term.

Research Design

Students will be required to submit a long paper at the end of the term. The objective of the paper is to lay out a research design for a larger empirical project which seeks to explain variation in any outcome related to world politics. The paper must formulate a clear research question, connect a theory or theories covered in class to the outcome to be studied, derive a set of hypotheses which will be tested empirically, discuss how the test will be conducted (as well as how concepts will be measured and how the relevant data will be collected), and offer an informed discussion on the expected results of the test. The ultimate goal of the paper is to provide a solid foundation for the development of your dissertation.

Summary of Grading

20% Class Participation
30% Reaction Papers (three papers of equal value)
10% Presentation
40% Research Proposal

Week 1 Introduction: Order, Power, and Anarchy

Goddard, S.E. and Nexon, D.H., 2016. The dynamics of global power politics: A framework for analysis. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 1(1), pp.4-18.

Farrell, H. and Newman, A.L., 2019. Weaponized interdependence: How global economic networks shape state coercion. *International Security*, 44(1), pp.42-79.

Weiss, J.C. and Wallace, J.L., 2021. Domestic politics, China's rise, and the future of the liberal international order. *International Organization*, 75(2), pp.635-664.

Week 2 Hierarchy

MacDonald, P.K., 2018. Embedded authority: a relational network approach to hierarchy in world politics. *Review of International Studies*, 44(1), pp.128-150.

Colgan, J.D. and Miller, N.L., 2019. Rival hierarchies and the origins of nuclear technology sharing. *International Studies Quarterly*, 63(2), pp.310-321.

Musgrave, P. and Nexon, D.H., 2018. Defending hierarchy from the moon to the Indian Ocean: Symbolic capital and political dominance in early modern China and the cold war. *International Organization*, 72(3), pp.591-626.

Week 3 State-building and international relations

Abramson, S.F., 2017. The economic origins of the territorial state. *International Organization*, 71(1), pp.97-130.

Huang, C.H. and Kang, D.C., 2021. State Formation in Korea and Japan, 400–800 CE: Emulation and Learning, Not Bellicist Competition. *International Organization*, pp.1-31.

SHARMAN, JC, and AYŞE ZARAKOL. "Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders." *American Political Science Review* (2023): 1-13.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. "Tilly Goes to Church: The Religious and Medieval Roots of European State Fragmentation." *American Political Science Review* (2023): 1-20.

Week 4 Diplomacy

Goldsmith, B.E., Horiuchi, Y. and Matush, K., 2021. Does Public Diplomacy Sway Foreign Public Opinion? Identifying the Effect of High-Level Visits. *American Political Science Review*, pp.1-16.

Kitagawa, R. and Chu, J.A., 2021. The Impact of Political Apologies on Public Opinion. *World Politics*, 73(3), pp.441-481.

Huang, R., 2016. Rebel diplomacy in civil war. *International Security*, 40(4), pp.89-126.

Week 5 Technology

Gilli, A. and Gilli, M., 2018. Why China has not caught up yet: Military-technological superiority and the limits of imitation, reverse engineering, and cyber espionage. *International Security*, 43(3), pp.141-189.

Milner, H.V. and Solstad, S.U., 2021. Technological Change and the International System. *World Politics*, 73(3), pp.545-589.

Branch, J., 2017. Territorial Conflict in the Digital Age: Mapping Technologies and Negotiation. *International Studies Quarterly*, 61(3), pp.557-569.

Week 6 Secrecy

Carnegie, A. and Carson, A., 2020. *Secrets in global governance: Disclosure dilemmas and the challenge of international cooperation* (Vol. 154). Cambridge University Press (chapters 2 and 3)

Scharpf, A., GLÄßEL, C.H.R.I.S.T.I.A.N. and Edwards, P., 2023. International sports events and repression in autocracies: Evidence from the 1978 FIFA World Cup. *American Political Science Review*, 117(3), pp.909-926..

Green, B.R. and Long, A., 2019. Conceal or reveal? Managing clandestine military capabilities in peacetime competition. *International Security*, 44(3), pp.48-83.

Sweet, R., 2020. Concealing Conflict Markets: How Rebels and Firms Use State Institutions to Launder Wartime Trade. *International Organization*, pp.1-24

Week 7 reading week.

Week 8 Borders and Walls

Carter, D.B. and Poast, P., 2020. Barriers to trade: How border walls affect trade relations. *International Organization*, 74(1), pp.165-185.

Avdan, N. and Gelpi, C.F., 2017. Do good fences make good neighbors? Border barriers and the transnational flow of terrorist violence. *International Studies Quarterly*, 61(1), pp.14-27.

Linebarger, C. and Braithwaite, A., 2020. Do Walls Work? The Effectiveness of Border Barriers in Containing the Cross-Border Spread of Violent Militancy. *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(3), pp.487-498.

Nanes, M. and Bachus, T., 2021. Walls and Strategic Innovation in Violent Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 65(6), pp.1131-1158.

Week 9 Law and War

Fazal, T.M., 2013. The demise of peace treaties in interstate war. *International Organization*, 67(4), pp.695-724.

Mantilla, G., 2018. Forum isolation: social opprobrium and the origins of the international law of internal conflict. *International Organization*, 72(2), pp.317-349.

Jo, H. and Simmons, B.A., 2016. Can the International Criminal Court Deter Atrocity?. *International Organization*, 70(3), pp.443-475.

Week 10 Leaders

Escribà-Folch, A. and Krcmaric, D., 2017. Dictators in exile: Explaining the destinations of ex-rulers. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(2), pp.560-575.

Horowitz, M.C. and Stam, A.C., 2014. How prior military experience influences the future militarized behavior of leaders. *International Organization*, 68(3), pp.527-559.

Saunders, E.N., 2018. Leaders, advisers, and the political origins of elite support for war. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 62(10), pp.2118-2149.

Chaudhry, S., Karim, S. and Scroggs, M.K., 2020. How leaders' experiences and rebellion shape military recruitment during civil war. *Journal of Peace Research*, p.0022343320959381.

Week 11 Racism and ethnicity

McNamee, L. and Zhang, A., 2019. Demographic engineering and international conflict: Evidence from China and the Former USSR. *International Organization*, 73(2), pp.291-327.

Huff, C. and Schub, R., 2021. Segregation, Integration, and Death: Evidence from the Korean War. *International Organization*, 75(3), pp.858-879.

Baker, A. (2015). Race, paternalism, and foreign aid: Evidence from US public opinion. *American Political Science Review*, 109(1), 93-109

Week 12 Partisanship

Levendusky, M.S. and Horowitz, M.C., 2012. When backing down is the right decision: Partisanship, new information, and audience costs. *The Journal of Politics*, 74(2), pp.323-338.

Myrick, R., 2019. Do External Threats Unite or Divide? Security Crises, Rivalries, and Polarization in American Foreign Policy. *International Organization*, pp.1-38.

Kertzer, J.D., Brooks, D.J. and Brooks, S.G., 2021. Do Partisan Types Stop at the Water's Edge?. *The Journal of Politics*, 83(4), pp.000-000.

Tomz, M. and Weeks, J.L., 2020. Public opinion and foreign electoral intervention. *American Political Science Review*, 114(3), pp.856-873.