
POU 44032
Contemporary International Relations B

Contact Information

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Description

The objective of this undergraduate module is to help students critically evaluate current world affairs using concepts and theories from contemporary international relations research. The international system is a complex environment. Multiple actors, interests and institutions interact to produce outcomes that we read and hear about in the media every day. Students will acquire the necessary theoretical tools which will allow for a clearer understanding of the international system and will facilitate critical and informed evaluation of global events, the causes and consequences of conflicts between nations, as well as theories of international security. Existing empirical results will also be emphasized and particular attention will be paid to the relevance of the concepts introduced to contemporary geopolitical issues and conflicts.

Requirements and grading

Your grade for the entire course will be calculated as follows:

Simulation and Response Essay, 1000 words 40%, due on the Friday of teaching week 6

During week 4, in class, you will as part of a group be required to participate in a civil war simulation (specific instructions for the simulation will be uploaded to

blackboard).

The paper is an individual not group task. You are required to critically reflect on the simulation and subsequent in class discussion. For example, you could answer questions, among others, like: What did you learn? How did the simulation change your thinking about the readings? What do you think could be changed about the simulation and what difference would it make? There is no need to address all or any of these particular questions, the goal is to offer a personal reflection on the process and how it influenced your learning and thinking. However, the essay must demonstrate a critical engagement with relevant theories and concepts and frameworks.

Final Assignment (60%)

Submission

Please submit all your written work through Blackboard in the assessments folder.

Academic & Professional Ethics

Please do not plagiarize. Academic dishonesty is a serious matter, with serious consequences that can result in receiving no credit for an assignment, a failing grade for the module, and even expulsion from the programme. It is never permissible to turn in any work that contains others' ideas without proper acknowledgment. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the College Calendar (see <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar>). Useful information is available at <http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism>. If you are paraphrasing, cite the source. If you are quoting, use quotation marks and appropriate citation. Remember that academic integrity is a reflection of one's character. In addition, we strongly recommend that you visit <http://www.plagiarism.org/> for more information on what *is* and *is not* plagiarism. Lastly, students are required to only submit "new work" in each module, which means work that has not been submitted previously in any other university module. Students who wish to use previously submitted work as part of a new project will need the approval of the lecturer.

Syllabus Modification Rights

We reserve the right to reasonably alter the elements of the syllabus at any time. More often than not this will mean adjusting the reading list to keep pace with the course schedule, although we may add reading assignments as well.

Readings

Additional readings and background:

- Frieden, J. A., Lake, D. A., & Schultz, K. A. (2016). World politics: interests, interactions, institutions. New York: WW Norton. 3rd Edition. Abbrev: (*FLS*)

Weekly readings are also required and are listed below.

Course Outline

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Schedule: Michaelmas Term (Prof. Dillon Savage)

Week 1. Introductory Session

Required Readings:

- Bear F Braumoeller. *Only the dead: the persistence of war in the modern age*. Oxford University Press, 2019, pp 3-72

Week 2. Bargaining, Signaling, and Interstate Conflict

Required Readings:

- James D Fearon. Rationalist explanations for war. *International Organization*, 49(03):379–414, 1995.
- Jessica Chen Weiss. Authoritarian signaling, mass audiences, and nationalist protest in china. *International Organization*, 67(1):1–35, 2013.

Suggested Readings:

- Erik Gartzke. War is in the error term. *International Organization*, 53(03):567–587, 1999.
- Robert Powell. War as a commitment problem. *International Organization*, 60(01):169–203, 2006. (a bit technical)
- Robert Powell. *In the shadow of power: States and strategies in international politics*. Princeton University Press, 1999. Ch. 3, pp. 82–114 (technical reading)
- James D Fearon. Bargaining over objects that influence future bargaining power. In *annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August*, pages 28–31, 1996.
- Daryl G Press. The credibility of power: Assessing threats during the “appeasement” crises of the 1930s. *International Security*, 29(3):136–169, 2005
- Dan Reiter. Exploring the bargaining model of war. *Perspective on Politics*, 1(01):27–43, 2003.
- Alastair Smith and Allan C Stam. Bargaining and the nature of war. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48(6):783–813, 2004.

Week 3. Civil War onset

Required Readings:

- Barbara F Walter. The critical barrier to civil war settlement. *International organization*, 51(03):335–364, 1997
- Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham. Actor fragmentation and civil war bargaining: How internal divisions generate civil conflict. *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(3):659–672, 2013

Suggested Readings:

- Barbara F Walter. Bargaining failures and civil war. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 12:243–261, 2009

Week 4. Civil War Processes: Violence and Governance

Required Readings:

- Stathis N Kalyvas. *The logic of violence in civil war*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Rachel Sweet. Concealing conflict markets: How rebels and firms use state institutions to launder wartime trade. *International Organization*, 75(4):1109–1132, 2021.
- Megan A Stewart. Civil war as state-making: Strategic governance in civil war. *International Organization*, 72(1):205–226, 2018.

Suggested Readings:

- Abbey Steele. Seeking safety: Avoiding displacement and choosing destinations in civil wars. *Journal of Peace Research*, 46(3):419–429, 2009.
- Ken Menkhaus. Governance without government in somalia: Spoilers, state building, and the politics of coping. *International security*, 31(3):74–106, 2007.
- Reyko Huang. Rebel diplomacy in civil war. *International Security*, 40(4):89–126, 2016.
- Eli Berman and Aila M Matanock. The empiricists' insurgency. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18:443–464, 2015.
- Ana Arjona. Wartime institutions: a research agenda. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58(8):1360–1389, 2014.

- Megan A Stewart and Yu-Ming Liou. Do good borders make good rebels? territorial control and civilian casualties. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(1):284–301, 2017.
- Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy M Weinstein. Handling and manhandling civilians in civil war. *American Political Science Review*, 100(3):429–447, 2006.

Week 5. Domestic Politics and War

Required Readings:

- Joslyn N Barnhart, Robert F Trager, Elizabeth N Saunders, and Allan Dafoe. The suffragist peace. *International Organization*, 74(4):633–670, 2020.
- Jessica L Weeks. Strongmen and straw men: Authoritarian regimes and the initiation of international conflict. *American Political Science Review*, 106(2):326–347, 2012.

Suggested Readings:

- James Lee Ray. Does democracy cause peace? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1(1):27–46, 1998
- Thomas C Schelling. *Arms and Influence: With a New Preface and Afterword*. Yale University Press, 2008. ch. 2 (pp. 35–91)
- Sebastian Rosato. The flawed logic of democratic peace theory. *American Political Science Review*, 97(04):585–602, 2003.
- Bruce Bueno De Mesquita. *Principles of international politics*. CQ press, 2013. Chapter 6, pp 206–238.

Week 6. Asymmetric conflict and outcomes

Required Readings:

- Ivan Arreguin-Toft. How the weak win wars: A theory of asymmetric conflict. *International Security*, 26(1):93–128, 2001.
- Jonathan D Caverley. The myth of military myopia: democracy, small wars, and vietnam. *International Security*, 34(3):119–157, 2010
- Stephen Biddle. *Military power: Explaining victory and defeat in modern battle*. Princeton University Press, 2010. pp. 28–77.

Suggested Readings:

- Nigel Lo, Barry Hashimoto, and Dan Reiter. Ensuring peace: Foreign-imposed regime change and postwar peace duration, 1914–2001. *International Organization*, 62(04):717–736, 2008.
- Dan Reiter and Allan C Stam. *Democracies at war*. Princeton University Press, 2002. pp. 10–38.
- US Army Counter-insurgency handbook, chapter 2.
<http://usacac.army.mil/cac/repository/materials/coin-fm3-24.pdf> *
- Branislav L Slantchev. How initiators end their wars: The duration of warfare and the terms of peace. *American Journal of Political Science*, 48(4):813–829, 2004

Week 7. Reading Week**Week 8. International Systems Change**Required:

1. Spruyt, H. (1994). Institutional selection in international relations: state anarchy as order. *International Organization*, 48(4), 527-557.
2. Branch, J. (2011). Mapping the sovereign state: Technology, authority, and systemic change. *International Organization*, 65(1), 1-36.

Suggested:

- Philpott, D. (2000). The religious roots of modern international relations. *World Politics*, 52(2), 206-245.
- Teschke, B. (2003). *The myth of 1648: class, geopolitics, and the making of modern international relations*. Verso..
- Osiander, A. (2001). Sovereignty, international relations, and the Westphalian myth. *International organization*, 55(2), 251-287.
- Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (1998). “International norm dynamics and political change.” *International organization*, 52(04), 887-917.

Week 9. Laws of WarRequired Readings:

- James D Morrow. When do states follow the laws of war? *American Political Science Review*, 101(3):559–572, 2007.
- Tanisha M Fazal. The demise of peace treaties in interstate war. *International Organization*, 67(4):695–724, 2013.

Suggested Readings:

- Tanisha M Fazal. Why states no longer declare war. *Security Studies*, 21(4):557–593, 2012.
- Eric A Posner. A theory of the laws of war. *The University of Chicago Law Review*, 70(1):297–317, 2003. pp. 10–38.
- Giovanni Mantilla. Forum isolation: Social opprobrium and the origins of the international law of internal conflict. *International Organization*, 72(2):317–349, 2018

Week 10. International Hierarchy and orderRequired Readings:

- Jason C Sharman. International hierarchies and contemporary imperial governance: A tale of three kingdoms. *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(2):189–207, 2013
- David C Kang. International order in historical east asia: tribute and hierarchy beyond sinocentrism and eurocentrism. *International Organization*, 74(1):65–93, 2020.

Suggested Readings:**Week 11. Terrorism**Required Readings:

- Andrea Michelle Morris. Who wants to be a suicide bomber? evidence from islamic state recruits. *International studies quarterly*, 64(2):306–315, 2020

- Erica Chenoweth. Terrorism and democracy. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 16:355–378, 2013

Suggested Readings:

- Andrew Kydd and Barbara F Walter. Sabotaging the peace: The politics of extremist violence. *International Organization*, 56(02):263–296, 2002
- Max Abrahms. Why terrorism does not work. *International Security*, 31(2):42–78, 2006
- Assaf Moghadam. Motives for martyrdom: Al-qaida, salafi jihad, and the spread of suicide attacks. *International Security*, 33(3):46–78, 2009.
- Robert A Pape. The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 97(03):343–361, 2003

Week 12. Alliances

Required Readings:

- Keren Yarhi-Milo, Alexander Lanoszka, and Zack Cooper. To arm or to ally? the patron’s dilemma and the strategic logic of arms transfers and alliances. *International Security*, 41(2):90–139, 2016
- James D Morrow. Arms versus allies: trade-offs in the search for security. *International Organization*, 47(02):207–233, 1993.

Suggested Readings:

- Thomas J Christensen and Jack Snyder. Chain gangs and passed bucks: Predicting alliance patterns in multipolarity. *International Organization*, 44(02):137–168, 1990.
- Brett Ashley Leeds. Alliance reliability in times of war: Explaining state decisions to violate treaties. *International Organization*, 57(04):801–827, 2003.
- James D Morrow. Alliances: Why write them down? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 3(1):63–83, 2000.