COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
This graduate seminar surveys the extensive literature on international security. We will explore theories on war initiation, alliances, international institutions and order, and nuclear weapons. We will also examine how variables like trade, democracy, and psychology affect these conditions and dynamics. In addition, students will evaluate these theories based on their logic and empirical validity, as well as apply them to major policy challenges from history and to those facing the world currently.

The course presupposes that students are familiar with international relations concepts and theories. In addition, much of the cutting edge work in political science uses quantitative methods in part or in whole. Familiarity with these methods, even at an introductory level, is extremely helpful for this course.

This course is aimed at two types of students. The first are Ph.D. and MA students in Political Science who have completed POS 570: Field Seminar in International Relations (or are taking the course concurrently). The readings and discussion will provide you with a solid basis in international security in preparation for the comprehensive exam, which you should take within two and a half years of starting your graduate career. For these students, the course has the following goals:

1. To further students’ familiarity with the large academic literature on international security to help them prepare for the synthesis and analysis they will be required to carry out on the IR field exam.

2. To introduce students to a variety of frontier research problems that animate current work in the field, so they can see and evaluate examples of how research is actually conducted rather than just commenting on “the classics” or reading pure theory.

3. To initiate one or more of their own empirical research projects, to gain practical experience in elaborating a theoretical argument, drawing out testable implications, assembling and analyzing relevant evidence, and presenting the work in stages before colleagues.

The second group is terminal MPA students, with the following course goals:
1. To provide a solid understanding of scholarly inquiry and how to “bridge the gap” between political science to make effective policy.

2. For you to assess policy challenges through multiple theoretical lenses (creating an analytical “toolkit”). To apply this toolkit to assess current policy challenges.

**Course Requirements**
The formal requirements for the course include:

(1) *Attendance and active participation in discussion*: Students will be required to attend class, to do all the required readings for each week, and to take an active role in discussing the readings. I will evaluate participation as preparedness and input to discussion.

(2) *Issue Papers*: Each week two students (or more depending on the size of the class) will prepare brief papers (at least 3 pages, but ideally more) offering a guide to the key issues in that week’s readings. These students will lead discussion for the first half of each class. Issue papers will be distributed 36 hours prior to class. Students must be prepared to defend this paper in class.

One final requirement will depend on whether you are a Ph.D./MA student or an MPA student. For the former:

(3) *Two 5-7 pp. research proposals*, each consisting of:

   a. A description of the “puzzle” that you are trying to solve.
   b. A clear and succinct statement of a theoretical argument on an important question that you extract from the literature or develop yourself.
   c. A characterization of the population of cases to which the theoretical argument/hypotheses apply, and the description of a sample (or way of sampling) from this population.
   d. A preliminary assessment or “plausibility probe” based on brief examination of one or more cases from a sample, or a “quick” coding of variables for a simple descriptive analysis.

For MPA students:

(5) *Two 5-7 pp. policy memos* of a current policy challenge. Topics should be selected in consultation with the instructor.

For both the research proposals and policy memos, the first is due sometime within the first half of the semester (by March 4). The second is due before the end of the semester (by May 8).
Books

- David Baldwin, *Economic Statecraft*

Readings and Schedule

Week 1 (January 21, 2015): *Methods in Security*

1. Making causal inferences
   - Andrew Bennett and Alexander George, Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 2005), Chps. 1, 7, 12, and appendix.

2. Rational choice?

3. Levels of Analysis

• Arnold Wolfers, *Discord and Collaboration Essays on International Politics*, ch. 10.

**Week 2 (January 28, 2015): **Realism

*Issue Paper: Isabella*

• Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, (New York: Random House, 1979). Read the entire book if you have not already. Review chs. 6-8 carefully for this seminar.

**Recent Debates on the Relevance of Realism for Contemporary Strategy**

**Week 3 (February 4, 2015): **Why Do Wars Happen?

*Issue Paper: Yihao*

1. Game Theoretic Accounts

2. World War I

**Week 4 (February 11, 2015): Hegemonic Theories**

**Issue Paper: Cecilia**

1. **Power Transition Theory**

2. **Gilpin's Hegemonic Transition Theory**

3. **Preventive War**

4. **Long Cycle Theory**

**Week 5 (February 18, 2015): Do wars spillover? How do they end?**

**Issue Paper: None.** Please note we will have a shorter class this week due to ISA.

1. **Externalities**
2. War Termination

Week 6 (February 25, 2015): Security Institutions
Issue Paper: Isabella

   - Paul Schroeder (1976)
   - Celeste Wallander and Robert Keohane (1999)
   - John Ikenberry. After Victory. Chpts. 1-2 and a case study chapter.

Week 7 (March 4, 2015): Democratic Peace Theory
Issue Paper: Yihao

1. For

2. Against

Week 8: March 11, 2015: Institutions, Military Effectiveness, and Decision Making
Issue Paper: None

• Domestic Institutions and Military Power

• Domestic Politics and Foreign policy decision making

March 18, 2015: No Class

Week 9 (March 25, 2015): Psychological Accounts for Conflict and Leadership
Issue Paper: Yihao

1. Psychological


2. Leaders

  [http://economics.mit.edu/files/3055](http://economics.mit.edu/files/3055)

Week 10 (April 1, 2015): Economics and Power

Issue Paper: Cecilia

1. Classic Texts

- Albert O. Hirschman, National Power and the Structure of Foreign Trade, pp. 3-39.
- David Baldwin, Economic Statecraft, chs. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7.

2. Extensions

Week 11 (April 8, 2015): **Religion and Conflict**  
*Issue Paper: Joshua*

[http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/chaney/files/paper_0_0.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/chaney/files/paper_0_0.pdf)

Week 12 (April 15, 2015): **Nuclear Proliferation**  
*Issue Paper: Isabella*


1. **Demand side**

2. **Supply side**
• Matthew Fuhrmann, “Talk a Walk on the Supply Side: The Determinants of Civilian Nuclear Cooperation,” Journal of Conflict Resolution

3. Regulation

4. New Directions

Week 13 (April 22, 2015): Insurgency and Terrorism
Issue Paper: Joshua

• Mao Tse-tung, On Guerilla Warfare, Chs. 2 and 6.

Week 14 (April 29, 2015): Environmental Security and Migration
Issue Paper: Cecilia
• “The Geriatric Peace.”

Week 15 (May 6, 2015): Technology and Security
Issue Paper: Joshua