

RPOS 789 – International Security and Conflict

Professor: Bryan R. Early

Class Times: Wednesdays, 9:00-10:30AM

Room: Milne 300A

Email: bearly@albany.edu

Office Hours: Uptown, Humanities Building B16 – Tuesdays, 10:15-11:15 AM

Downtown, Milne Hall 300A – Thursdays, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Course Description

This class will provide an introductory primer on major topics of interest in the subfields of security studies and international conflict. The course will address topics such as security strategy, the uses of force in international politics, the causes of international conflict, how they are fought, and how they conclude.

Expectations

This is a reading intensive class and the seminars will be devoted to critically discussing the readings. Students are expected to attend every session having read the assigned reading and prepared to discuss the readings. This course will have ten meetings

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should:

- Understand the various types and uses of force in international relations
- Understand the principle reasons why international military conflicts are fought, how they are fought, and how they end
- Be able to understand the United States' national security strategy and the security strategies pursued by foreign countries
- Possess a fundamental understanding of military strategy, national security strategy, and grand strategy
- Have a fluent working knowledge of the major perspectives and concepts in the subfields of security studies and international conflict

Grading

Participation – 35%: Students will be heavily evaluated by the quality of their contributions to class discussions. Each student is expected to come to class with three questions from the readings that we will draw on during the seminar discussions.

Critical Summaries – 35%: Students are required to write seven two-page critical summaries of the week's readings. These summaries should distill the key contributions of each of the works and/or perspectives read for a given class and also provide critical commentary on them.

Research Question / Puzzle Assignment – 30%: Each student is responsible for developing a novel research question or puzzle related to the subject matter of the class. The research question assignment will require students to present a brief review of the relevant literature, provide a novel research question or puzzle, and explain why pursuing it is substantively and theoretically valuable.

Required Books

- Bartholomees, J. Boone., ed. 2010. *The U.S. Army War College Guide to National Security Issues, Volume I: Theory of War and Strategy*. Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College. Available online and Blackboard.
- Bartholomees, J. Boone., ed. 2010. *The U.S. Army War College Guide to National Security Issues, Volume II: National Security Policy and Strategy*. Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College. Available online and Blackboard.
- Iklé, Fred. 2005. *Every War Must End*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Williams, Paul. 2013. *Security Studies: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge.

Course Schedule

Week 1: (8/26) – Administrative Meeting

Week 2: (9/2) – Introduction to Security Studies Perspectives

- Williams, Paul. 2013. “Chapters 1-3, 5-9.” *Security Studies: An Introduction*

Week 3: (9/9) – National Interests and Strategy

National Interests

- Alan G. Stolberg. 2010. “Chapter 1: Crafting National Interests in the 21st Century.” In *National Security Policy and Strategy*.
- Booth, Ken and Nicholas Wheeler. 2013. “Uncertainty.” In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.

Strategy

- Colin Gray. 1999. “Why Strategy Is Difficult.” *Joint Forces Quarterly* (Summer): 80-86.

- Colin Gray. 1999. "The Dimensions of Strategy." *Modern Strategy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Grand Strategy

- Sean Kay. 2012. "Chapter 4: Great Powers and Grand Strategy." *Global Security in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Janeen M. Klinger. 2010. "Chapter 12: International Relations Theory and American Grand Strategy." In *National Security Policy and Strategy*.

Week 4: (9/16) – Power

On Power in General

- David Baldwin. 2002. "Power in International Relations." In Carlsnaes, Risse, and Simmons', eds., *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Press.

Diplomatic Power

- Reed J. Fendrick. 2010. "Chapter 12: Diplomacy as an Instrument of National Power." In *Theory of War and Strategy*.
- Joseph Nye. 1990. "Soft Power." *Foreign Policy* 80 (Autumn): 153-171.

Economic Power

- Clayton K. S. Chun. 2010. "Chapter 15: Economics: A Key Element of National Power." In *Theory of War and Strategy*.

Military Power

- Robert Art. 1980. "To What Ends Military Power?" *International Security* 4(4): 4-35.
- John F. Troxell. 2010. "Chapter 17: Military Power and the Use of Force." In *Theory of War and Strategy*.

Week 5: (9/23) – No Class

Week 6: (9/30) – Rational Choice, Strategic Interaction, and Game Theory

- Schelling, Thomas. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Zagare, Frank. 2013. "Chapter 4: Game Theory." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- Fearon, James. 1997. "Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands versus Sinking Costs." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41(1): 68-90.

Week 7: (10/7) – Coercion, Compellence, and Deterrence

- Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- David Baldwin. 1999. "The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice." *International Security* 24(3): 80-127.
- Lawrence Freedman and Srinath Raghavan. 2013. "Chapter 14: Coercion." In *SSI*.

Week 8 (10/14): Coercive Diplomacy

- Alexander George. 1991. "Excerpt." *Forceful Persuasion: An Alternative to War*. Washington, DC: U.S. Institute of Peace.

- Todd Sechser. 2010. "Goliath's Curse: Coercive Threats and Asymmetric Power." *International Organization* 64: 627-660.
- Daniel Byman and Matthew Waxman. 1999. "Defeating U.S. Coercion." *Survival* 41:2: 107-120.
- Kroenig, Matthew. 2013. "Nuclear Superiority and the Balance of Resolve: Explaining Nuclear Crisis Outcomes." *International Organization* 67(1): 141-171.
- Todd S. Sechser and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2013. "Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail." *International Organization* 67 (1): 173-195.
- Scholarly Exchange between Kroenig and Sechser and Fuhrmann, Parts I-IV: <http://duckofminerva.com/2013/03/debating-the-benefits-nuclear-superiority-for-crisis-bargaining-part-i.html>

Week 9: (10/21) – Rationalist Frameworks for Understanding International Conflict

- Williams, Paul. 2013. "Chapter 13: War." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- James Morrow. 1997. "Rational Choice Approach to International Conflict." In Nehemia Geva and Alex Mintz's, eds., *Decisionmaking on War and Peace: the Cognitive-Rational Debate*. New York: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Fearon, James. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577-592.
- Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.
- Gartzke, Erik. 1999. "War is in the Error Term." *International Organization* 53(3): 567-587.
- Damon Coletta and Erik Gartzke. 2003. "Testing War in the Error Term." *International Organization* 57: 445-448.

Week 10: (10/28) – Alternative Perspectives for Understanding International Conflict

- Kevin M. Woods and Mark E. Stout. 2010. "Saddam's Perceptions and Misperceptions: The Case of 'Desert Storm.'" *The Journal of Strategic Studies* 33(1): 5-41.
- Levy, Jack. 1996. "Loss Aversion, Framing, and Bargaining: The Implications of Prospect Theory for International Conflict." *International Political Science Review* 17(2): 179-195.
- Greg Cashman. 2000. "Chapter 4: Governmental Decision Making." *What Causes War: An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict*. New York: Lexington Books.
- Barnett, Michael. 2013. "Culture." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.

Week 11 (11/4): – International Institutions and International Security

- Fearon, James. 1998. "Bargaining, Enforcement, and International Cooperation." *International Organization* 52(2): 269-305.
- Fawcett, Loise. 2013. "Regional Institutions." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- Weiss, Thomas and Danielle Zach. 2013. "The United Nations." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- Richard Price. 1995. "A Genealogy of the Chemical Weapons Taboo." *International Organization* 49(1): 73-103.

- Sidu, Waheguru. 2013. "The Nuclear Disarmament and Non-proliferation Regime." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.

Week 12: (11/11) – The Correlates of War

- Bruce Russett and Harvey Starr. 2003. "From Democratic Peace to Kantian Peace: Democracy and Conflict in the International System." In Manus Midlarsky's, ed., *Handbook of War Studies II*. Anne Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Douglas Lemke and William Reed. 2001. "War and Rivalry among Great Powers." *American Journal of Political Science* 45(2): 457-469.
- John Duffield. 2013. "Chapter 23: Alliances." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- Paul Huth. 2000. "Territory: Why Are Territorial Disputes between States a Central Cause of International Conflict." In John A. Vasquez's, ed., *What Do We Know about War?* New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Buzan, Barry. 2013. "Polarity." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.

Week 13: (11/18) – Atrocities, International Law, and International Conflict

Atrocities and War Crimes

- Jones, Adam. 2013. "Genocide and Crimes against Humanity." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.
- Downes, Alexander. 2006. "Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Causes of Civilian Victimization in War." *International Security* 30(4): 152-195.

Laws of War

- Crimes of War. 2011. "Summary of Crimes: International Criminal Court." Available at: <http://www.crimesofwar.org/a-z-guide/summary-of-crimes-international-criminal-court/>
- United Nations. 1985. *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*. Available at: <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/cat.html>
- Morrow, James. "When Do States Follow the Laws of War?" *American Political Science Review* 101(3): 559–72.

Week 14: (11/25) – No Class

Week 15: (12/2) – How International Conflicts End

- Iklé, Fred. 2005. *Every War Must End*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Chun, Clayton. 2010. "Chapter 26: Painting Yourself into a Corner: Conflict Termination, Unconditional Surrender, and the Case of Japan." In *National Security Policy and Strategy*.
- Pugh, Michael. 2013. "Peace Operations." In *Security Studies: An Introduction*.

Week 16: (12/9) – Present Puzzles