

## POLI 7947 Seminar in International Conflict Spring 2014

Classroom: 210 Stubbs Hall  
Class hours: Tuesday 3:00 to 5:50  
Office hours: T/TH 10:30-11:30 am

Professor: Dr. Joe Clare  
Department of Political Science  
Louisiana State University  
Office: 206 Stubbs Hall  
Phone: (225) 578-2551  
E-mail: jclare@lsu.edu

### Course Description

This seminar provides a survey of different approaches to the study of international conflict. We will discuss major theories that link conflict to power distributions, alliances, deterrence and bargaining, domestic regime type (the democratic peace), domestic instability, and economic interdependence. Some recent issues, such as ending wars (mediation and peacekeeping) and ethnopolitical conflicts, will also be covered in the context of rigorous systematic research. Besides the substantive focus on theoretical varieties in explaining conflicts, we will also tackle methodological issues such as measurement, selection bias, units and levels of analysis, and similar problems that often arise in the systematic study of international conflict. The readings include a selection of classic seminal writings as well as more recent studies in the area.

### Reading Materials

All required readings for the course consist of selected book chapters and journal articles. If not available through the LSU library's electronic journal holdings (<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/epubs/ejournals.html>), they can be accessed on the Moodle page for this course. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all materials.

### Course Requirements

Final grades will be based on three components: class participation (20%), two short papers (30%), and a seminar paper (50%).

- **Class participation:** Students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week according to the topic covered. For this part of the grade, students will be expected to perform consistently well both when participating on a voluntary basis as well as when called upon to discuss the readings. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.
- **Two short papers:** Beyond regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, each student is expected to make two brief (10-15 minute) in-class presentations on the weekly topics, based on a short (approximately 6 pages double-spaced) paper to be e-mailed to me by 4 p.m. one day before the scheduled class for that topic. It is a student's responsibility to make sure her/his paper reaches me by this deadline (by 4 p.m. sharp on Monday before the scheduled class). I will not accept any late papers except in case of major illness or similar emergency. The grade for the short paper/presentation will automatically default into F (15% of the final grade) if it does not reach me by the deadline. These papers and presentations should highlight the principle points of all the week's readings, critically

evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each reading (and of their theoretical contributions), and briefly provide guidance for future research in this area (such as identifying a related question that has been left unanswered or answered incompletely by the readings, or by proposing an extension of the week's reading to a new question or area). They should not be simple summaries of the readings or annotated bibliographies; suggestions on how to analytically and critically evaluate the readings will be detailed in an additional handout. These presentations are meant to help focus the class discussion on the week's topic, readings, and future directions; as a result, each presentation will be followed by a period of general class reaction and discussion. Each short paper/presentation will count for 15% of the overall course grade, for a total of 30%.

- **Seminar paper:** Each student is required to write a conference-style paper, minus the actual quantitative analysis, on a selected topic from this course in international conflict. The paper must not exceed 20 double-spaced pages and should conform to the APSA style manual. It must include all elements of an academic paper, including: a research question/puzzle that motivates the study, an analytical review of the relevant literature, a theoretical argument, testable hypotheses, a research design (discussion of the unit of analysis, variables, measurement, data, a briefly explained method), and a concluding discussion in terms of how the study adds to and addresses any puzzles within the extant literature. The literature review should go significantly beyond the required readings for this course, it should not be a simple summary of the extant research, but rather analytically integrate, assess, and evaluate the previous research. Although both a hard copy and electronic version of the paper is preferable, an electronic version is required and must reach me by e-mail by the deadline: 10 a.m. on April 29. The seminar paper will count toward 50% of the final grade.

### **Excused Absences, Deadline Extensions, and Make-Ups**

This is a graduate-level seminar, and students are expected to attend all classes. If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled presentation or other graded procedure, the student must notify me or the department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. The student is responsible for providing satisfactory documented evidence to the instructor within one week of his or her absence to substantiate the reason for the absence. Deadline extensions and make-ups will be given **ONLY** in documented cases of serious illness or family emergency. Otherwise, short review papers and the seminar paper will be graded F if not turned in to me by the specified deadlines. The same applies for the failure to present a short paper in class as scheduled.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

"Academic Misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without permission of the instructors, providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct, available at

<http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm> If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

### **Students with Disabilities Policy**

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office of Disability Services so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your Accommodation Letters, please meet with someone in that office to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible. For additional information, check the Office of Disability Services Faculty Handbook.

### **Equal Opportunity Statement**

LSU's PS 1 assures equal opportunity for all qualified persons without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran's status in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates. *This policy statement applies equally to the teaching and learning environment within all university recognized courses, curriculum and co-curriculum programs.*

### **Copyright Statement**

Unless otherwise noted, the handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, web pages, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

### **Scholarly Journals**

Students should be familiar with a few leading journals in the field:

*International Studies Quarterly*  
*Journal of Conflict Resolution*  
*International Organization*

in the conflict area, additionally:

*International Interactions*  
*Journal of Peace Research*  
*International Security*  
*Conflict Management and Peace Science*

and articles on international politics in more general journals in the discipline:

*American Political Science Review*  
*American Journal of Political Science*  
*Journal of Politics*

All these journals (and relevant articles in the leading general ones) should be perused regularly and, if unfamiliar with some of them, you should then consult and read relevant articles for the course in the recent issues as well.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

### Week 1: January 21

#### COURSE INTRODUCTION

### Week 2: January 28

#### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher: Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 24 (3): 315-42.

Dessler, David. 1991. "Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War." *International Studies Quarterly* 35 (3): 337-55.

Diehl, Paul F. 2006. "Just a Phase?: Integrating Conflict Dynamics Over Time." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23 (3): 199-210.

Geller, Daniel S. 2000. "Explaining War: Empirical Patterns and Theoretical Mechanisms." In *Handbook of War Studies II*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 407-49. \*MOODLE

### Week 3: February 4

#### RESEARCH DESIGN AND DATA

##### Research Design Issues

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sydney Verba. 1994. *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chs. 1, 3.5 (pp. 1-33, 99-114). \*MOODLE

##### Brief Survey of Data Sources and Standard Variables

###### 1. Conflict Data

Hensel, Paul. 2010. "Review of Available Datasets." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell. \*MOODLE

--- Also skim through some of the datasets and accompanying documentation at:

<http://www.isadiscussion.com/view/0/datasets.html>

Ghosn, Faten, Glenn Palmer, and Stuart A. Bremer. 2004. "The MID3 Data Set, 1993-2001: Procedures, Coding Rules, and Description." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 21 (2): 133-54. \*MOODLE

--- Data and codebooks are available at <http://correlatesofwar.org/>

###### 2. Capabilities: COW Composite Indicator of National Capabilities (CINC)

Singer, J. David. 1987. "Reconstructing the Correlates of War Dataset on Material Capabilities of States, 1816-1985." *International Interactions* 14 (2): 115-32. \*MOODLE

##### Integrated Data Analysis

Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36 (2): 309-41.

**Week 4: February 11**

**STRUCTURAL AND DYADIC POWER BALANCES/SHIFTS**

**Overview:** Rasler, Karen and William R. Thompson. 2010. "Systemic Theories of Conflict." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

**\*MOODLE**

**Structural Power**

Waltz, Kenneth. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-28.

Wayman, Frank W. 1984. "Bipolarity and War: The Role of Capability Concentration and Alliance Patterns among Major Powers, 1816-1965." *Journal of Peace Research* 21 (1): 61-78

**Dyadic Power Relations**

Blainey, Jeffrey. 1988. "The Abacus of Power." In Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press, Ch. 8 (pp. 108-24). **\*MOODLE**

Lemke, Douglas, and Suzanne Werner. 1996. "Power Parity, Commitment to Change, and War." *International Studies Quarterly* 40(2): 235-60.

**The Indeterminacy of Power**

Reed, William, David H. Clark, Timothy Nordstrom and Wonjae Hwang. 2008. "War, Power, and Bargaining." *Journal of Politics* 70(4): 1203-1216.

**Week 5: February 18**

**ALLIANCES**

**Alliance Motivations**

Walt, Stephen M. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power." *International Security* 9 (4): 3-43.

Morrow, James J. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances." *American Journal of Political Science* 35 (4): 904-33.

Lai, Brian and Dan Reiter. 2000. "Democracy, Political Similarity, and International Alliances, 1816-1992." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (2): 203-227

**Alliance Reliability and Termination**

Leeds, Brett Ashley, Andrew G. Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2000. "Reevaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (5): 686-99.

Leeds, Brett Ashley, and Burcu Savun. 2007. "Terminating Alliances: Why Do States Abrogate Agreements?" *Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 1118-32.

**Week 6: February 25**

**DETERRENCE AND BARGAINING I**

**Overview:** Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2010. "Deterrence and Crisis Bargaining." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

**\*MOODLE**

Schelling, Thomas C. 1960. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 2 (pp. 35-91).

**\*MOODLE**

Danilovic, Vesna. 2002. *When the Stakes Are High: Deterrence and Conflict Among Major Powers*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Chapters 1 and 3 (pp. 3-25 & 47-70). **\*MOODLE**

Huth, Paul, and Bruce Russett. 1988. "Deterrence Failure and Crisis Escalation." *International Studies Quarterly* 32 (1): 29-45.

Danilovic, Vesna. 2001. "The Sources of Threat Credibility in Extended Deterrence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 341-69.

Fearon, James D. 2002. "Selection Effects and Deterrence." *International Interactions* 28: 5-29.  
**\*MOODLE**

**Week 7: March 4**

**NO CLASS (MARDI GRAS BREAK)**

**Week 8: March 11**

**DETERRENCE AND BARGAINING II**

**Overview:** Morrow, James D. 1999. "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics." In *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 77-114.

**\*MOODLE**

**Credibility, Signals, and Commitments**

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.

Fearon, James D. 1997. "Signaling Foreign Policy Interests: Tying Hands versus Sinking Costs." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41 (1): 68-90.

**Bargaining and War**

Wagner, R. Harrison. 2000. "Bargaining and War." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (3): 469-84.

Slantchev, Branislav L. 2003. "The Power to Hurt: Costly Conflict with Completely Informed States." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 123-33.

**Week 9: March 18**

**DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE I**

**Overview:** Chan, Steve. 2010. "Progress in the Democratic Peace Research Agenda." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

**\*MOODLE**

Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace, 1946- 1986." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 624-38.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation for the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-808.

Huth, Paul K. and Todd L. Allee. 2002. "Domestic Political Accountability and the Escalation and Settlement of International Disputes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(1): 754-790.

Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2007. "The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited)." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (2): 397-414.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. "A Kantian System? Democracy and Third Party Conflict Resolution." *American Journal of Political Science* 46(4): 749-759.

**Week 10: March 25**

**NO CLASS: INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**Week 11: April 1**

**DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE II**

**Democratic Peace: Audience Costs and Strategic Interaction**

Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88 (3): 577-92.

Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Domestic Institutions Constrain or Inform?: Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53 (2): 233-66.

Downes, Alexander and Todd Sechser 2012. "The Illusion of Democratic Credibility." *International Organization* 66 (3): 457-489.

**Extensions**

Peceny, Mark, Caroline C. Beer, Sanchez-Terry, Shannon. 2002. "Dictatorial Peace?" *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 15-26.

Clare, Joe. 2010. "Ideological Fractionalization and the International Conflict Behavior of Parliamentary Democracies." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (4): 965-987.

**WEEK 12: April 8**

**MAKING AND KEEPING PEACE**

Overview: Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and Patrick M. Regan. 2010. "Conflict Management." In *The International Studies Encyclopedia*, ed. Robert A. Denemark, London: Wiley Blackwell.

**\*MOODLE**

Favretto, Katja. 2009. "Should Peacemakers Take Sides? Major Power Mediation, Coercion, and Bias." *American Political Science Review* 103 (2): 248-63.

Rauchhaus, Robert W. 2006. "Asymmetric Information, Mediation, and Conflict Management." *World Politics* 58 (2): 207-41.

Werner, Suzanne, and Amy Yuen. 2005. "Making and Keeping Peace." *International Organization* 59 (2): 261-92.

Schultz, Kenneth. 2010. "The Enforcement Problem in Coercive Bargaining: Interstate Conflict over Rebel Support in Civil Wars." *International Organization* 64(2):281-312.

Fortna, Virginia Page. 2004. "Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects." *World Politics* 56 (4): 481-519.

**Week 13: April 15**

**NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)**

**Week 14: April 22**

**CIVIL WAR AND ETHNIC CONFLICT**

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 259-82.

Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 56: 563-595.

Walter, Barbara S. 2006. "Information, Uncertainty, and the Decision to Succeed." *International Organization* 60 (1): 105-35.

Cederman, Lars-Erik, Nils B. Weidmann, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2011. "Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison." *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 478-495.

**Week 15: April 29**

**STUDENT READING SELECTIONS**

Each student will select and present in class one article published in the past 2-3 years in the listed journals on p. 3 of this syllabus. The article needs to be related directly to one or more topics in this course and its selection justified on the grounds of its theoretical relevance and research contribution to the select body of literature covered in this course. I have to be notified about the article selection by **April 20** at the latest.

**Recall: An electronic version of the final paper is due by 10 a.m. on April 29. A hard copy need be brought in class on the same day.**

*~Have a Good Winter Break~*