



Political Science 6194
Contemporary International Problems
Derby Hall 2078 – Wed 2:00-4:45

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Office Hours: Wed & Fri (11:00am – 12:00pm)

Course Description

In this seminar we will read and evaluate the central debates in the quantitative literature on international conflict over the past several decades. In particular, our readings will emphasize the development of research regarding the onset and escalation of militarized disputes and wars. We will focus our attention primarily on empirical works in this area, and will emphasize change and growth in quantitative research strategies. We will also consider whether the development of these strategies has generated cumulative knowledge about international conflict.

Learning Objectives

The primary objectives of this course are: 1) to develop an understanding of the historical development of the quantitative literature on international conflict, 2) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this literature, 2) to define specific questions and issues which must be addressed by future research, 3) to develop concrete research strategies for investigating these questions, and 4) to prepare graduate students for oral examinations in international relations.

Course Requirements: Student performance will be evaluated on the following basis:

- 1) Most of our time in class will be spent discussing and analyzing the weekly readings, so attendance at and participation in the discussions are essential. Students will also be asked to sign-up to lead the discussion on one set of readings. Class participation (and discussion leadership) will count for 20% of your final grade.

- 2) During the course of the semester each student must submit two short papers (3-5 double spaced, typed pages). Students will sign up in advance for the weeks that they wish to write short papers. Click here for a schedule of paper due dates and discussant duties. In these papers you are to analyze a particular reading or set of readings for your assigned week. However, you should not consider these papers to be book reports or summaries of the readings. Instead, in each paper the student

should analyze a particular theoretical or empirical issue in the readings, identify some weakness of the existing literature in this area, and present a concrete solution to the problem. If students focus on a single reading, they are encouraged to write the short paper as if it were a review of the article for a scholarly journal. These two short papers will account for 30% of your grade.

3) The final course requirement is a paper of approximately 20 pages, which will be DUE ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16 at 9:00 AM. The papers should be submitted by email. Please begin the name of the file with your last name.

Students may complete this assignment in one of two ways. First, students may complete a RESEARCH DESIGN paper. As with the short papers, students writing a research design will be expected to analyze an issue covered by this course, identify a weakness, and provide a solution to the problem. In this case, however, the issue must obviously be of greater magnitude and/or be discussed in greater detail than in the short papers. Moreover, the goal of this final project is to develop a research agenda that the student could actually execute if he or she chose to do so. Thus even if the student's ideas relate primarily to theoretical issues, he or she must specify some appropriate method for empirically testing his or her refined hypotheses.

Second students may complete a RESEARCH REPLICATION paper. Students who choose this project will download the dataset from an existing quantitative study of interstate conflict, replicate the central results reported in the study, and extend the analysis by: 1) estimating substantive effects of a key variable, and 2) making one change in the specification of the model.

The research design / replication paper will account for the final 50% of your grade.

Required Books:

None. All readings are available online through OSU Library databases.

Academic Misconduct Policy: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901.

Schedule of Readings - All listed readings are required. All readings other than **The Behavioral Origins of War** are available online through OSU library resources.

August 26: **Organization and Introductions**

SEPTEMBER 2 – APSA NO CLASS

September 9a: **A Scientific Understanding of War?**

J. David Singer. 1972. "The "Correlates of War" Project: Interim Report and Rationale." *World Politics* Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 243-270.

Dina Zinnes. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher." *International Studies Quarterly* 23(3): 315-42.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 1985. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View," in *Symposium: Methodological Foundations of the Study of International Conflict*, *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 29, No. 2. (Jun., 1985), pp. 121-136.

September 9b: **Data on International Conflict**

Charles S. Gochman and Zeev Maoz. 1984. *Militarized Interstate Disputes, 1816-1976: Procedures, Patterns, and Insights.* *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 28, No. 4, pp. 585-616.

J. Joseph Hewitt. 2003. "Dyadic Processes and International Crises." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 47, No. 5, pp. 669-692.

Nils Petter Gleditsch, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg and Håvard Strand. 2002. "Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* , Vol. 39, No. 5 (Sep., 2002) , pp. 615-637

September 16a: **System Structure and Conflict (Part I)**

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 1975. "Measuring Systemic Polarity." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 187-216.

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita and David Lalman. 1988. "Empirical Support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of International Conflict." *World Politics* Vol. 41, No. 1, pp. 1-20.

William R. Thompson. 1986. "Polarity, the Long Cycle, and Global Power Warfare." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 30, No. 4, pp. 587-615.

September 16b: **System Structure and Conflict (Part II)**

Paul Huth, Christopher Gelpi, and D. Scott Bennett, "The Escalation of Great Power Disputes: Testing Rational Deterrence Theory and Structural Realism," *American Political Science Review*, 87, 3, (1993): 609-623.

Edward D. Mansfield. 1993. "Concentration, Polarity, and the Distribution of Power." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 1. (Mar., 1993), pp. 105-128.

Ted Hopf. 1991. "Polarity, the Offense-Defense Balance, and War." *American Political Science Review* 85(2): 476-493.

Manus Midlarsky. 1993. "Polarity and International Stability." *American Political Science Review* 87(1): 171-180.

September 23a: **The Causes of Alliances**

Stephen M. Walt, "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Spring, 1985), pp. 3-43.

Randolph M. Siverson and Juliann Emmons. 1991. "Birds of a Feather: Democratic Political Systems and Alliance Choices in the Twentieth Century." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 35, No. 2, *Democracy and Foreign Policy: Community and Constraint* pp. 285-306.

Michael W. Simon and Erik Gartzke, 1996. "Political System Similarity and the Choice of Allies: Do Democracies Flock Together, or Do opposites Attract?" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 40, No. 4, pp. 617-635.

September 23b: **The Consequences of Alliances**

Jack S. Levy. 1981. "Alliance Formation and War Behavior: An Analysis of the Great Powers, 1495-1975." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 25, No. 4, pp. 581-613.

Alastair Smith. 1996. "To Intervene or Not to Intervene: A Biased Decision." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 40, No. 1, pp. 16-40.

Brett Ashley Leeds. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Disputes," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 47, No. 3, pp. 427-439.

September 30a: **Power Transitions and War**

Henk Houweling and Jan G. Siccama. 1988. "Power Transitions as a Cause of War." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 87-102.

Douglas Lemke and Suzanne Werner. 1996. "Power Parity, Commitment to Change, and War." *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 40, No. 2, pp. 235-260.

William Moul. 2003. "Power Parity, Preponderance, and War between Great Powers, 1816-1989." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 47, No. 4, pp. 468-489.

September 30b: **Arms Races and War**

Michael Wallace. 1982. "Armaments and Escalation," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 37-51.

Paul F. Diehl. 1983. "Arms Races and Escalation: A Closer Look." *Journal of Peace Research* 20 (3): 205-212

Susan G. Sample. 1997. "Arms Races and Dispute Escalation: Resolving the Debate." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 7-22.

Paul F. Diehl and Mark J. C. Crescenzi. 1998. "Reconfiguring the Arms Race-War Debate." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 111-118.

October 7a: **Culture and Conflict**

Marc Howard Ross, "Internal and External Conflict and Violence: Cross-Cultural Evidence and a New Analysis," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Dec., 1985), pp. 547-579.

Giacomo Chiozza. 2002. "Is There a Clash of Civilizations? Evidence from Patterns of International Conflict Involvement, 1946-97." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 39, No. 6, pp. 711-734.

Mary Caprioli. 2000. "Gendered Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 51-68.

October 7b: **Political Relevance (Contiguity and Major Power Status)**

Paul F. Diehl. 1985. "Contiguity and Military Escalation in Major Power Rivalries, 1816-1980." *The Journal of Politics* Vol. 47, No. 4, pp. 1203-1211.

John A. Vasquez. 1995. "Why Do Neighbors Fight? Proximity, Interaction, or Territoriality." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 277-293.

Douglas Lemke and William Reed. 2001. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 126-144.

Bear F. Braumoeller and Austin Carson. 2011. "Political Irrelevance, Democracy, and the Limits of Militarized Conflict." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 55, No. 2, pp. 292-320.

October 14a: **Crisis Bargaining Strategies**

Robert Axelrod. 1981. "The Emergence of Cooperation among Egoists." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 75, No. 2, pp. 306-31.

Russell J. Leng and J. David Singer. 1988. "Militarized Interstate Crises: The BCOW Typology and Its Applications." *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 32, No. 2, pp. 155-173.

Russell J. Leng. 1993. "Reciprocating Influence Strategies in Interstate Crisis Bargaining." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 3-41.

October 14b: **Expected Utility and War**

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita. 1980. "An Expected Utility Theory of International Conflict." *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 74, No. 4, pp. 917-931.

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita and David Lalman. 1986. "Reason and War." *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 80, No. 4, pp. 1113-1129.

D. Scott Bennett and Allan C. Stam. 2000. "A Universal Test of an Expected Utility Theory of War." *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 44, No. 3, pp. 451-480.

October 21a: **Conventional Deterrence (Part I)**

Paul Huth. 1988. "Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 82, No.2, pp. 423-443.

Richard Ned Lebow and Janice Gross Stein. 1989. "Deterrence: The Elusive Dependent Variable." *World Politics* Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 336-369.

Christopher H. Achen and Duncan Snidal. 1989. "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies." *World Politics* Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 143-169.

October 21b: **Conventional Deterrence (Part II)**

Paul Huth and Bruce Russett. "General Deterrence Between Enduring Rivals: Testing Three Competing Models." *The American Political Science Review* Vol. 87, No. 1 pp. 61-73.

James D. Fearon. 1994. "Signaling versus the Balance of Power and Interests: An Empirical Test of a Crisis Bargaining Model," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 38, No. 2, Arms, Alliances, and Cooperation: Formal Models and Empirical Tests, pp. 236-269.

Vesna Danilovic. 2001. "Conceptual and Selection Bias Issues in Deterrence." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 45, No. 1, pp. 97-125.

October 28a: **Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence**

Daniel S. Geller. 1990. "Nuclear Weapons, Deterrence, and Crisis Escalation." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 291-310.

Paul K. Huth. 1990. "The Extended Deterrent Value of Nuclear Weapons." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 34, No. 2, pp. 270-290.

Robert Rauchhaus. 2009. "Evaluating the Nuclear Peace Hypothesis: A Quantitative Approach." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 53, No. 2, A Strategic Approach to Nuclear Proliferation, pp. 258-277.

October 28b: **Regime Change and Conflict**

Zeev Maoz, "Joining the Club of Nations," *International Studies Quarterly*, 33, 2, (1989):199-231.

Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder. 1995. "Democratization and the Danger of War." *International Security*, Vol. 20, No. 1. (Summer, 1995), pp. 5-38.

Andrew J. Enterline. 1998. "Regime Changes and Interstate Conflict, 1816-1992." *Political Research Quarterly* Vol. 51, No. 2, pp. 385-409

November 4a: **Democracy and International Conflict (Part I)**

Bruce Russett and Zeev Maoz, "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace, 1946-1986," *American Political Science Review*, 87, 3, (1993):624-638.

Henry S. Farber and Joanne Gowa. 1995. "Politics and Peace." *International Security*. Vol. 20, No. 2 (Autumn, 1995), pp. 123-146.

Zeev Maoz. 1997. "The Controversy over the Democratic Peace: Rearguard Action or Cracks in the Wall?" *International Security* Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 162-198.

November 4b: **Democracy and International Conflict (Part II)**

Douglas Lemke and Willam Reed. 1996. "Regime Types and Status Quo Evaluations: Power Transition Theory and the Democratic Peace." *International Interactions* 22(2): 143-164.

Kenneth Schultz. 1999. "Do Democratic Political Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53:233-266.

Erik Gartzke. 2000. "Preferences and the Democratic Peace." *International Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 191-212

NOVEMBER 11 – VETERANS DAY NO CLASS

November 18a: **Interdependence and Conflict (Part I)**

- Katherine Barbieri. 1996. "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of Interstate Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 33(1):29-49.
- John Oneal and Bruce Russett. 1999. "Assessing the Liberal Peace with Alternative Specifications: Trade Still Reduces Conflict," *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 423-442.
- Erik Gartzke and Quan Li. 2003. "Measure for Measure: Concept Operationalization and the Trade Interdependence: Conflict Debate." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 40, No. 5, pp. 553-571.

November 18b: **Interdependence and Conflict (Part II)**

- Omar Keshk, Brian Pollins, and Rafael Reuveny. 2004. "Trade Still Follows the Flag: The Primacy of Politics in a Simultaneous Model of Interdependence and Armed Conflict." *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 66, No. 4 (2004): 1155 - 117.
- Havard Hegre, John Oneal and Bruce Russett. 2010. "Trade Does Promote Peace: New Simultaneous Estimates of the Reciprocal Effects of Trade and Peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(6): 463-474.
- Quan Li and David Sacko. 2002. "The (Ir)relevance of Militarized Interstate Disputes for International Trade." *International Studies Quarterly* 46(1):11-43.
- Christopher Gelpi and Joseph Grieco. 2008. "Democracy, Interdependence, and the Liberal Peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 45(1):17-36.

NOVEMBER 25 – THANKSGIVING BREAK NO CLASS

December 2a: **Institutions and International Conflict (Part I)**

- Charles Boehmer, Erik Gartzke and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. "Do intergovernmental organizations promote peace?" *World Politics* 57.1 (Oct 2004): p1-38.
- Jon Pevehouse and Bruce Russett. 2006. "Democratic Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace." *International Organization* 60(4):969-1000.
- Yoram Haftel. 2007. "Designing for Peace: Regional Integrational Arrangements, Institutional Variation, and Militarized Interstate Disputes." *International Organization* 61(1):213-237.

December 2b: **Institutions and International Conflict (Part II)**

- Christopher Gelpi. 1997. "Crime and Punishment: The Role of Norms in Crisis Bargaining," *American Political Science Review*, June (1997).
- Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Paul R. Hensel. 2007. "International Institutions and Compliance with Agreements." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 51, No. 4, pp. 721-737
- Paul Huth, Sarah Croco, and Benjamin Appel. 2011. "Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes?" *American Political Science Review* 105:415-436

December 9a: **The Offense-Defense Balance**

- Stephen Biddle. 2001. "Rebuilding the Foundations of Offense-Defense Theory." *The Journal of Politics* 63(3):741-774.

Karen Ruth Adams. 2003. "Attack and Conquer." *International Security* Vol. 28, No. 3 (Winter 2003/2004).

Yoav Gortzak, Yoram Z. Haftel and Kevin Sweeney. 2005. "Offense-Defense Theory: An Empirical Assessment." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 49, No. 1, pp. 67-89)

December 9b: Diversionary War

Charles Ostrom and Brian Job, "The President and the Political Use of Force," *American Political Science Review*, 80, 2, (1985):541-566.

Christopher Gelpi, "Democratic Diversions: Governmental Structure and the Externalization of Domestic Conflict," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, April (1997).

David Brule, Brian Marshall, and Brandon Prins. 2010. "Opportunities and Presidential Uses of Force: A Selection Model of Crisis Decision-Making." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 27(5):486-510.

December 16: Research Design / Replication Papers Due at 9:00am.