

POLI 4048: International Conflict and Cooperation Fall 2016

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Classroom: 116 Stubbs Hall
Class Hours: T, TH 10:30-11:50
Office Hours: T/TH 9:00-10:00am
and by appointment

Course description

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major theoretical approaches in the systematic study of international conflict. The emphasis of this course is on theory, not current events. The semester begins with an introduction to the theoretical and methodological foundations of the international relations subfield, which includes an in-depth treatment of how to evaluate theoretical arguments. This introduction becomes the backdrop for our discussions of several relevant topics in the study of international conflict, such as the role of military power and alliances, the sources of threat credibility in deterrence and coercive bargaining, and other theories. We conclude the class with an examination of issues such as U.S. grand strategies, the problem of terrorism, the ethics of force, and peacekeeping and peacemaking. The goal is not only to familiarize you with the theoretical approaches to international conflict and cooperation, but also to develop the skills to analytically and critically approach the literature in this area.

Reading Materials

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

The final grade in this course will be based on three main components: (1) two in-class examinations, (2) Four in-class quizzes, and (3) class participation.

1. Two in-class midterm examinations
The exams will be a combination of short-answer identification/definition questions and materials and the class lectures.
2. Four in-class quizzes (20%)
The quizzes are multiple choice and the questions will be based on the class readings and lectures. The dates of the quizzes are not announced, so if you know in advance that you will be missing a class for a university excusable reason, let me know early.
3. Class participation (10%)
Class participation is based on active participation in class discussions. The students are expected to come to class having read the material and able to answer questions and/or engage in informed discussion. This can only be done if you conduct yourselves in a

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

in admission to, participation in, and treatment or employment in the programs and activities that the University operates.

Practical Advice on Reading and Taking notes

For your own benefit and not just for this course, I strongly encourage you to read about research, repeatedly showing that taking notes with a laptop or tablet and having an instructor tive and learning process. By contrast,

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/>

Also, while there is an obvious financial advantage to have the readings available in electronic form as it saves you money, it is strongly advisable to have them printed and read them in the print version. I encourage students to discuss the course materials with me outside the classroom as well (see the office hours), but I will require you to bring print copies of all readings with you on these occasions. This is why (and do print this article before reading it):

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/reading-paper-screens/>

Course Schedule and Readings

PART I: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS



CLASS INTRODUCTION



-θ THEORY AND EVALUATING THEORY

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2003.

B 27 (3): 30-58.

A 85 (5): 2-8.

B -0
ETHICS AND FORCE

B December 2004.

A 10 (1): 115-130.

B

B 1 (1): 5-25.

B

B
Documentary

B -2
PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEBUILDING