

POLI 4048 International Conflict

Course Syllabus

Spring 2022

Instructor: Joe Clare

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Classroom: 109 Tureaud Hall

Class Hours: T/TH 1:30-2:50

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

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

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

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

religion, sex, 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.*

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 g process. By contrast,

The Scientific American)

<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):

The Scientific

American)

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

Course Schedule and Readings

January 18

CLASS INTRODUCTION

January 20-25

THEORY AND EVALUATING THEORY

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2003. *Principles of International Politics: Peoples Power, Preferences, and Perceptions*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Read Chapter 2 (pp. 51-81).

University of Texas-Austin.

January 27-February 1

(NEO)REALISM AND THE BALANCE OF POWER

Morgenthau, Hans Joachim. 2006. *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 7th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Journal of Interdisciplinary

History 18 (4): 615-628.

February 3-8

ALLIANCES AND WAR

World Politics 36 (4): 461-

495.

February 10-15

POWER TRANSITION AND HEGEMONIC STABILITY

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press.

Tammen, Ronald L. Et al. 2000. *Power Transitions: Strategies for the 21st Century*. New York: Chatham House.

The

Atlantic (online).

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>

February 17-24

CRISIS BARGAINING

Schelling, Thomas. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven, C -2(-2(-22 0 0.016C(W*nBT/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 291.

March 1

ETHICS AND FORCE

Prospect, December 2004.