

PSCI 4359
International Conflict
SPRING 2018

Instructor: Vito D’Orazio

Time and Location: T, Th 11:30-12:45pm, GR 2.530

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Office Hours: All office hours by appointment for Spring 2018.

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00-3:00pm GR 3.314

Course Goals and Overview

This course examines the scholarly research on international conflict with a particular emphasis on the causes of conflict and conditions for peace. Studying interstate conflict entails a deep understanding of the complexities of the international system, relations between particular sets of states, domestic politics including sub-state actors and institutions, and decision-making processes. It also entails a knowledge of appropriate research methodologies for assessing theory and for contributing to the progress of the field. As such, readings will be diverse, both theoretically and methodologically.

This course has three major goals: (1) to understand, analyze, and develop the ability to critique the major theories of international conflict; (2) to learn about recent or ongoing conflicts, including the factors and conditions that enabled and ultimately led to those conflicts; (3) to familiarize students with the types of research methodologies that are used in the study of international conflict.

These three learning objectives will be assessed throughout the course’s homework assignments and the three quizzes.

Course Requirements

You are required to complete a reading assignment before every class, with exceptions noted below. There will be eleven graded homework assignments and three quizzes.

Final Grade Composition

Eleven Homeworks	30% (3% each, 1 bonus)
Three Quizzes	60%
Attendance & Participation	10%

Quizzes (20% each)

A total of four quizzes will be offered. The final in-class quiz is required for all students to take. Of the remaining three, each student is required to take two.

Take-Home Quiz: Two quizzes are take-home essays. These quizzes will be available on eLearning after class, and are due by midnight of the same day. You will be provided with two essay questions, will pick one, and write a *one page* essay on it. Essays should include in-text citations of course readings. If you cite readings that are not required, include their citation in a reference list at the end of your essay. The reference list will not count towards your one page limit. A perfect essay will have a clearly stated thesis that is supported with facts and examples using the vocabulary of the class. It will demonstrate both analysis and synthesis of course materials.

In-Class Quiz: Two quizzes are in-class for the entire class period. These are a combination of multiple choice and short answer. The final in-class quiz will be on the last day of class, and it is a requirement for all students to take the final in-class quiz.

Attendance and participation (10%)

These are the easiest points you can get. Show up, be attentive, and participate to get full credit.

Short homework assignments (30%)

There will be eleven short homework assignments to be submitted through eLearning by midnight **the day before class**. For example, by midnight of January 15, complete the assignment for the Waltz chapters, and submit through eLearning. The assignment and instructions for completion will be posted to eLearning one week in advance.

Note that there are eleven homework assignments, but that you cannot receive more than 30 points toward your final grade. Thus, if you complete all eleven assignments and your scores sum to 31, 32, or 33, you still only receive 30 points toward your final grade.

Grade Scale

A+	≥ 97%	B	= 83-86%	C-	70-72%
A	= 93-96%	B-	= 80-82%	D	65-69%
A-	= 90-92%	C+	= 77-79%	F	≤ 64%
B+	= 87-89%	C	= 73-76%		

See <http://catalog.utdallas.edu/now/undergraduate/policies/academic> for additional information about university grading policies.

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Required Texts

- Waltz, K. N. (1959). *Man, the state, and war: A theoretical analysis*. Columbia University Press
 - Available at the campus bookstore, Off Campus Books, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or other retailers.
- Additional readings are available through the library and will be made available online. Students are not required to print materials.

Course Outline

Part I: Man, the State and War

Day 1: Introductions and Syllabus	January 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 1,2 	
Day 2: Waltz's First Image	January 11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 3 	
Day 3: Waltz's Second Image	January 16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 4 • Homework 1 	
Day 4: Implications of the Second Image	January 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 5 	
Day 5: Waltz's Third Image	January 23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 6 • Homework 2 	
Day 6: Conclusion	January 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltz: Ch 7,8 	

Part II: Great Powers, Security Dilemma, (Mis)perceptions

Day 7: Take-home Quiz, Polarity January 30

- Homework 3
- **Take-home Quiz**
- Wohlforth, W. C. (1999). The stability of a unipolar world. *International security*, 24(1):5–41

Day 8: Polarity February 1

- Monteiro, N. P. (2012). Unrest assured: Why unipolarity is not peaceful. *International security*, 36(3):9–40

Day 9: Power Transition February 6

- Lemke, D. and Werner, S. (1996). Power parity, commitment to change, and war. *International Studies Quarterly*, 40(2):235–260
- Homework 4

Day 10: Security Dilemma February 8

- Jervis, R. (1978). Cooperation under the security dilemma. *World Politics*, 30(2):167–214

Day 11: Offensive Advantages February 13

- Van Evera, S. (1984). The cult of the offensive and the origins of the first world war. *International Security*, 9(1):58–107
- Homework 5

Day 12: (Mis)perceptions February 15

- Jervis, R. (1988). War and misperception. *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 18(4):675–700

Day 13: (Mis)perceptions February 20

- Carson, A. (2016). Facing off and saving face: covert intervention and escalation management in the Korean war. *International Organization*, 70(1):103–131

Day 14: Quiz February 22

- **Quiz**

Part III: The “Peaces”

Day 15: Democratic Peace

February 27

- Doyle, M. W. (1986). Liberalism and world politics. *The American Political Science Review*, 80(4):1151–1169

Day 16: Democratic Peace

March 1

- Maoz, Z. and Russett, B. (1993). Normative and structural causes of the democratic peace. *American Political Science Review*, 87:624–638
- Homework 6

Day 17: Kantian Peace

March 6

- Oneal, J. R. and Russett, B. M. (1999). The kantian peace: The pacific benefits of democracy, interdependence, and international organizations, 1885-1992. *World Politics*, 52(1):1–37

Day 18: Capitalist Peace

March 8

- Gartzke, E. (2007). The capitalist peace. *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(1):166–191
- Homework 7

Day 19: Territory & Peace

March 20

- Gibler, D. M. (2007). Bordering on peace: Democracy, territorial issues, and conflict. *International Studies Quarterly*, 51(3):509–532

Day 20: Territory and Borders

March 22

- Simmons, B. A. (2005). Rules over real estate trade, territorial conflict, and international borders as institution. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(6):823–848
- Homework 8

Day 21: Territory and Borders

March 27

- Carter, D. B. and Goemans, H. (2011). The making of the territorial order: New borders and the emergence of interstate conflict. *International Organization*, 65(2):275–309

Day 22: Selectorate Theory

March 29

- Bueno de Mesquita, B., Morrow, J. D., Siverson, R. M., and Smith, A. (1999). An institutional explanation of the democratic peace. *American Political Science Review*, 93(4):791–807

Day 23: Take-home Quiz, Autocrats & Peace **April 3**

- **Take-home Quiz**
- Weeks, J. L. (2012). Strongmen and straw men: Authoritarian regimes and the initiation of international conflict. *American Political Science Review*, 106(02):326–347

Part IV: Audience Costs, Revolutions, and Leaders**Day 24: Audience Costs** **April 5**

- Fearon, J. D. (1994). Domestic political audiences and the escalation of international disputes. *American Political Science Review*, 88(3):577–592

Day 25: Audience Costs **April 10**

- Weeks, J. (2008). Autocratic audience costs: Regime type and signaling resolve. *International Organization*, 62(1):35–64
- Homework 9

Day 26: Audience Costs **April 12**

- Kertzer, J. D. and Brutger, R. (2016). Decomposing audience costs: bringing the audience back into audience cost theory. *American Journal of Political Science*, 60(1):234–249
- Homework 10

Day 27: Revolutions and Leaders **April 17**

- Colgan, J. D. (2013). Domestic revolutionary leaders and international conflict. *World Politics*, 65(4):656–690

Day 28: Revolutions and Leaders **April 19**

- Colgan, J. D. and Weeks, J. L. (2015). Revolution, personalist dictatorships, and international conflict. *International Organization*, 69(01):163–194
- Homework 11

Day 29: Leaders **April 24**

- Croco, S. E. (2011). The decider’s dilemma: Leader culpability, war outcomes, and domestic punishment. *American Political Science Review*, 105(03):457–477

Day 30: Quiz **April 26**

- **Quiz.** Required for all students.