POLI 725
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-5:00pm, and by appointment.
Note: E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me.

INTRODUCTION
The purpose of this seminar is to review a wide range of the literature concerning the study of conflict in international relations, and particularly the theoretical material concerning war and international violence. While introducing students to theoretical and empirical material on international conflict and war and thus having a bibliographic function, the seminar will also provide an opportunity to design and do research in this area. The first part of the course, "International Conflict: What?" serves as a general multi-disciplinary introduction to social conflict including such basic conflict processes as escalation. The next section, "International Conflict: Why?" will be organized around Kenneth Waltz's three 'images' or levels of analysis: individual behavior, the internal characteristics of states, and the international system or environment.

Obviously, not all of the field can be covered, but most of the major areas will be touched upon, if not in class at least in the readings and/or your seminar paper. The readings and syllabus have been designed for the secondary purpose of providing the student with a beginning bibliography in the area of international conflict. As the course is designed to cover a wide range of material, so are the weekly reading assignments. Both broad review pieces, and selected articles and chapters of primary research or original presentations have been included. The weekly seminars will stress the discussion of broad themes and/or questions emerging from the readings, and integration of these themes as well critical review of the material.

Thus, POLI 725 has the following set of learning outcomes. Upon completion of the course the student should be able to: (1) identify the broad theoretical approaches to the study of social/international conflict across different levels of analysis; (2) have the basis for a bibliography in social/international conflict; (3) have a set of core questions that can serve as the basis for a dissertation topic in the area of international conflict; (3) know how to incorporate the theory and literature of international conflict into research design; (4) demonstrate the ability to synthesize and apply a broad literature on social/international conflict.

THE READING
As a seminar, your participation and attendance are requisite; one third of the seminar grade will be based upon class attendance and performance. Such performance will require a fairly large
amount of reading being completed before each weekly seminar meeting. Students in this course should be prepared to review a substantial amount of material each week and be prepared to discuss it intelligently in seminar. To aid you in reading a large amount of material for each week (sometimes seemingly diverse material), a set of questions which can be used to guide your reading will be posted on Blackboard. These questions, stolen from a graduate syllabus developed by Ole Holsti, are the sorts of questions you should be asking yourselves as you move through the reading (in your attempt to work through a long reading list in a short period of time). All the hard copy materials—books and “packets”—should be on reserve at Thomas Cooper Library. All of the required reading is also available electronically on Blackboard under Course Documents for POLI 725; (as well as some of the “Strongly Suggested” items). You may also look for yourselves to find a number of items in electronic form from such sources as the list of “e-journals” available through the Thomas Cooper Library.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Each week students will be expected to hand in a set of three questions about the week’s reading. These questions should be comparable to mid-term or final exam questions. Not only should they get you thinking about the week’s reading, they will be used in part to structure the seminar discussion. You need to write a question of final-exam quality (a broad, synthetic, and analytic question), and also provide an explanation of how and why you got to this question from the week’s readings. These questions are due to me by 1:00 on the Monday before class; (either brought to my office or placed in my mailbox on the third floor of Gambrell). I will make notations on each set questions, which will be returned to you after each seminar meeting. I will indicate if the work is not acceptable. As noted, one third of the grade will be based on class participation. This will include an evaluation of your contributions to seminar discussion as well as the quality of your weekly questions. Examples may be found on Blackboard under the “Course Information” link.

Another third of the grade will be based on the Final Examination: an open-book take-home essay exam to be given at the end of the semester. The exam will be distributed in class on December 3 and be due to me by 4:00 pm, Monday, December 9.

The final third of the grade will be based on a seminar paper. The seminar paper may take one of several forms:

(1) Students may write an in-depth research design for a substantial research project (such as a Masters thesis or doctoral dissertation). Such a design must follow the form of the sample provided in class (posted on Blackboard), or adhere to the general outlines and principles found in such standard research design texts as that of Earl Babbie, The Practice of Social Research (and as should be found in POLI 701).

(2) Students may submit a completed empirical research paper. Given the time constraints of designing and completing original empirical research within a semester, this type of paper must be considered carefully. The instructor can point out existing data sets, etc.

(3) Students may write a paper in which the student develops a theoretical framework (containing major components which are substantially original) for the study of international conflict. Thus, the paper should not be seen as simply a literature review or a critique of an existing theory or theoretical framework, but indicate substantial synthesis and creativity on the part of the student.
Option #4 is only for students who have not taken POLI 701 and/or who are not on a Ph.D. track. Students may write an Analytic Review Essay. These will broadly follow on the model of the book review essays found in the journal World Politics (at least regularly through 2000). In consultation with the instructor, students will select an area of interest (based on a general research question or research interest) and develop a set of materials to be read, summarized, synthesized and critiqued. Such essays typically involve the review of 5-7 books that cluster around a given theme or subject area. Your essays are analytic in that they do not simply summarize contents, but indicate common themes or conclusions, areas of agreement, areas of disagreement or contention, gaps in the coverage, and the overall impact that the books—individually and collectively—have on the understanding of some area of international conflict. Your paper should have the same set-up as the World Politics review articles.

More specific descriptions will be given in class, and at the individual meeting each student must have with the instructor, during which the type of paper will be decided upon as well as the topic. Generally, papers are expected to be in the range of 20-25 pages in length (double-spaced, normal fonts, normal margins). Paper topics must be approved by the instructor by October 8. Students should feel free to begin discussing their interests and paper ideas with the instructor as soon as possible.

Papers will be due in class on Tuesday, December 3. Papers not handed in by that date will receive an "F" unless accompanied by a legitimated excuse.

In summary, the course grade will consist of the following: 33% for class participation (including weekly questions), 33% for the take-home final examination, and 33% for the seminar paper. All assignments are expected to be submitted on the due dates. Weekly questions not in on time will receive a zero for that week. Unless accompanied by a legitimate, documented excuse, late papers and exams will also receive a zero grade. My policy is not to give incompletes.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

John Vasquez, ed., What Do We Know About War? 2nd ed (2012)
Kenneth N. Waltz, Man, the State and War (first published 1954)
Benjamin A. Most and Harvey Starr, Inquiry, Logic and International Politics (1989)

[all of these books are available in paperback]
COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Introductory/Organizational Meeting (Aug. 27)

PART I INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT: WHAT?

A. Introduction: The Nature of Social Conflict (Sept. 3) [P1]

Required Reading
Pruitt and Kim, chs. 1-4
Anatol Rapoport, FIGHTS, GAMES, DEBATES, "Introduction"
Kenneth Boulding, CONFLICT AND DEFENSE, ch. I

Strongly Recommended
Lewis Coser, FUNCTIONS OF SOCIAL CONFLICT (1956)

Of Relevance
Ted Gurr, ed., HANDBOOK OF POLITICAL CONFLICT (1980), "Introduction"
Morton Deutsch, THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT (1973), (especially chs.1-2)
Walter Isard, UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT & PEACE SCIENCE (1992)
Thomas Schelling, ARMS AND INFLUENCE (1966), ch. I
R.J. Rummel, UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT AND WAR, Vol. 4, WAR, POWER, PEACE (1979)
Robert North, H. Koch, and D.A. Zinnes, "The Integrative Functions of Conflict," J.CONFLICT RESOLUTION 4, 1960
B. Conflict Processes: Escalation and Action-Reaction (Sept. 10)

Required Reading
Pruitt and Kim, chs.5-9 (ch.10 recommended)
Kenneth Boulding, CONFLICT AND DEFENSE, ch.12
Fred Ikle, EVERY WAR MUST END, chs.1, 3
Cashman, ch.6
Vasquez, chs. by: Valeriano; Goertz and Diehl; Sample
Midlarsky, ch. by Goertz and Diehl

Strongly Recommended
Richard Smoke, WAR, CONTROLLING ESCALATION, ch.2

Of Relevance
Manus Midlarsky, HANDBOOK OF WAR STUDIES (1989), chs.5,8,9
Rummel, WAR, POWER, PEACE, Part IV, ”The Conflict Helix"
Richard Smoke, WAR, CONTROLLING ESCALATION (1977)
Quincy Wright, ”The Escalation of International Conflicts,” J.CONFLICT RESOLUTION 9, 1965
Glenn Snyder and Paul Diesing, CONFLICT AMONG NATIONS (1977)
(e especially Ch1)
Thomas Schelling, ARMS AND INFLUENCE, Ch. 1, ”The Diplomacy of Violence"
Lincoln P. Bloomfield and Allen Moulton, MANAGING INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, ch.7, ”The Anatomy of Conflict"

C. Some Basic Frameworks for Thinking About International Conflict/Violence and ”War” (Sept. 17)

Required Reading [P2]
Waltz, ch.1
Cashman, ch.1
Most and Starr, chs. 1,2, 4 (ch.3 recommended)
Daniel Geller and J.D. Singer, NATIONS AT WAR (1998), ”Introduction,” ch.1
John Vasquez and Brandon Valeriano, ”Classification of Interstate Wars,” JOURNAL OF POLITICS (2010)
Monty Marshall, THIRD WORLD WAR (1999), ch.2
K.J. Holsti, PEACE AND WAR: ARMED CONFLICTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORDER 1648-1989, ch.1 (ch.12 strongly recommended)
Strongly Recommended
Midlarsky, chs. by: Midlarsky; Cioffi-Revilla
Claudio Cioffi-Revilla and Harvey Starr, "Opportunity, Willingness and Political
Nathaniel Beck, Gary King, Langche Zeng, “Improving Quantitative Studies of
International Conflict: A Conjecture,” AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE
REVIEW 94, 2000
Vasquez, ch. by: Wallensteen

Of Relevance
Quincy Wright, "War," in the INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE SOCIAL
SCIENCES, Vol. 16, pp. 453-468
John Vasquez, THE WAR PUZZLE
Walter Isard, UNDERSTANDING CONFLICT AND THE SCIENCE OF PEACE (1992)
(1989)
John Mueller, RETREAT FROM DOOMSDAY: OBSELIENCE OF MAJOR WAR
(1989)

There are also a number of commentaries on the "pioneers" of peace research, their
approaches to the study of war, and their research projects. A sample of such
commentaries:
Robert North, "Wright on War," J.CONFLICT RESOLUTION 14, 1970
William Eckhardt, "Pioneers of Peace Research: Lewis F. Richardson,"
INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIONS 8, 1981
William Eckhardt, "Pioneers of Peace Research: Quincy Wright,"
INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIONS 8, 1981
J.D. Singer, "The 'Correlates of War' Project: Interim Report and Rationale,"
WORLD POLITICS 24, 1972
John Vasquez, "The Steps to War: Toward a Scientific Explanation of the
Correlates of War Findings," WORLD POLITICS 40, 1987
Anatol Rapoport, "Lewis F. Richardson's Mathematical Theory of War,"
J.CONFLICT RESOLUTION 1, 1957
PART II INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND WAR: WHY?

A. The ‘First Image’: Individuals, Human Behavior, and Decision Making

(1) Rationality and Conflict (Sept. 24)

Required Reading [P3]
Waltz, chs. II, III
Charles Lave and James March, AN INTRODUCTION TO MODELS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, chs. 4, 5
Cashman, ch. 7
Michael Nicholson, RATIONALITY AND THE ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, chs. 3, 4, 6
Midlarsky, chs. by: Morrow; Levy
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, THE WAR TRAP, ch. 2

Strongly Recommended
Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman, WAR AND REASON (1992)
Bueno de Mesquita, “War and Rationality,” in M. Midlarsky, HANDBOOK OF WAR STUDIES III
Zeev Maoz, PARADOXES OF WAR (1990)

Of Relevance
Robert Powell, IN THE SHADOW OF POWER (1999)
Boulding, CONFLICT AND DEFENSE (1962)
Levy, “Prospect Theory, Rational Choice, and International Relations,” INTERNATIONAL STUDIES QUARTERLY 41, 1997

(2) Limitations on Rationality: Cognition, Perception and Information Processing (Oct. 1)

Required Reading [P4]
Cashman, chs. 3, 4
Anatol Rapoport, FIGHTS, GAMES, AND DEBATES, Part III
Jack Levy, ”Misperception and the Causes of War,” WORLD POLITICS 36, 1983
Michael Nicholson, RATIONALITY AND THE ANALYSIS OF INT. CONFLICT, ch. 7
Strongly Recommended
Arthur Stein, "When Misperception Matters," WORLD POLITICS 34, 1982
Charles Hermann and Margaret Hermann, "An Attempt to Simulate the Outbreak of
World War I," in J. Rosenau, ed., INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND FOREIGN
POLICY, rev. ed.

Of Relevance
Nehemia Geva and Alex Mintz, eds., DECISION-MAKING ON WAR AND PEACE
(1997)
Robert Jervis, PERCEPTION AND MISPERCEPTION IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
(1976) (especially chs. 1, 2, 3)
Joseph H. De Rivera, THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF FOREIGN POLICY
(1968)
Ralph K. White, NOBODY WANTED WAR (1968) (especially chs. 7, 9, 10)
Ole Holsti, CRISIS, ESCALATION, WAR (1972)
Anatol Rapoport, THE ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE
Zeev Maoz, NATIONAL CHOICES AND INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES (1990)

(3) Limitations on Rationality: Evolution, Culture and Society (Oct. 8)

Required Reading [P5]
Cashman, ch. 2
Anatol Rapoport, THE ORIGINS OF VIOLENCE, chs. 1, 2, 4
Leslie Sponsel, "The Natural History of Peace: The Positive View of Human Nature and
O’Connell, RIDE OF THE SECOND HORSEMAN, chs. 7, 8
Joshua Goldstein, WAR AND GENDER (2001), pp. 34-57; ch. 4
Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 1993
Giacomo Chiozza, "Is There a Clash of Civilizations? Evidence from Patterns of
RESEARCH 29, 2002
Sean Bolks and Richard Stoll, "Examining Conflict Escalation Within the Civilizations
Context," CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND PEACE SCIENCE 20, 2003
Benjamin Barber, JIHAD vs. McWORLD (2001), "2001 Introduction"

Of Relevance
Quincy Wright, A STUDY OF WAR ( unabridged), chs. V, VI, VIII
Robert LeVine, "Anthropology and the Study of Conflict," J. CONFLICT RESOLUTION 5,
1961
Bruce Knauft, "The Human Evolution of Cooperative Interest," in Thomas Gregor, ed., A
NATURAL HISTORY OF PEACE (1996)
Margaret Mead, "Warfare is Only an Invention- Not a Biological Necessity," in C. Beitz
and T. Herman, eds., PEACE AND WAR
John Mueller, QUITE CATACLYSM, ch. 8 "War: Natural But Not Necessary"
Glynn Ellis, "Gauging the Magnitude of Civilization Conflict," CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT AND PEACE SCIENCE (2010)
The 'Second' Image: Internal Factors and Sources of International Conflict

(1) Domestic Conditions: Two-Level Games and the Nexus of Internal-External Conflict
(Two weeks: Oct.15 and Oct.22) [P6]

Required Reading
Waltz, chs.IV,V
Cashman, ch.5
Most and Starr, ch.5
Vasquez, ch. by: Rasler and Thompson
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, et al., THE LOGIC OF POLITICAL SURVIVAL (2003), ch.2
(with ch.3 highly recommended)
Robert Putnam, "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games,"
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION 42, 1988
Joe Hagan, "Domestic Political Systems and War Proneness." MERSHON
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES REVIEW October 1994
Harvey Starr, "Revolution and War: Rethinking the Linkage Between Internal and
Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, “Leader Survival, Revolutions, and the Nature of
Kristian Gleditsch, et. al, “Fighting at Home, Fighting Abroad: How Civil Wars Lead to
International Disputes.” J. OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION 52, 2008
David Lake and Donald Rothchild, eds., THE INTERNATIONAL SPREAD OF ETHNIC
CONFLICT (1998), chs. 1, 15
James Fearon and David D. Laitin, “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War,” AMERICAN
POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW 97, 2003

Strongly Recommended
Patrick Conge, FROM REVOLUTION TO WAR, ch.3, "The Path from Revolution to
War"
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman, WAR AND REASON, chs.1,2,9
Zeev Maoz, DOMESTIC SOURCES OF GLOBAL CHANGE (1996), ch.4
Ted Robert Gurr, MINORITIES AT RISK, chs.1-5, 10, 11

Of Relevance
David R. Davis and Will Moore, “Ethnicity Matters: Transnational Ethnic Alliances and
Foreign Policy Behavior,” INTERNATIONAL STUDIES Q.(1997)
Stephen Walt, REVOLUTION AND WAR (1996)
J.C. Davies, "Toward A Theory of Revolution," AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL
REV.(1962)
M. Midlarsky, HANDBOOK OF WAR STUDIES III (2009)
(2) Domestic Structure and Process: The Democratic/Kantian Peace
(Two weeks: Oct. 29 and Nov. 5) [P7]

Required Reading

General
Midlarsky, ch. by Russett and Starr
Vasquez, chs. by: Mitchell; Gibler
Bruce Russett, GRASPING THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE, chs.1,2
Spencer Weart, NEVER AT WAR (1998), ch.1
Bruce Russett and John Oneal, TRIANGULATING PEACE (2001), chs.1, 6 [ch.7 rec.]
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, et al., THE LOGIC OF POLITICAL SURVIVAL (2003), ch.6
David A. Lake, “Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War,” AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW 86, March 1992

Economics, Democracy, and War/Peace
Vasquez, ch. by: Mousseau
Vesna Danilovic and Joe Clare, “The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited),” AMERICAN J. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE 51, April 2007
Katherine Barbieri, “Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of Conflict?” J.PEACE RESEARCH, 33, 1996

Strongly Recommended
Mansfield and Pollins, eds., INTERDEPENDENCE AND INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, chs. By Mansfield and Pollins; Levy; Russett

Of Relevance
R.J. Rummel, DEATH BY GOVERNMENT


Bruce Russett, "Counterfactuals About War and Its Absence," in Philip Tetlock and Aaron Belkin, eds., COUNTERFACTUAL THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS IN WORLD POLITICS

C. The 'Third' Image: The Structure and Context of the International Environment

(1) System Characteristics and War: Anarchy and More (Nov. 12)

Required Reading [P8]
Waltz, Chs. VI, VII, VIII
Robert Art and Robert Jervis, eds, INTERNATIONAL POLITICS, 3rd ed., pp.7-50 (articles by Waltz, Milner, Oye), and pp.146-169 (article by Jervis)
Gary Goertz, CONTEXTS OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (1994), ch.2
Vasquez, chs. by: Hensel; Kang; Benson; Flint
Manus Midlarsky, HANDBOOK OF WAR STUDIES I (1989), ch. by Most, Starr and Siverson
Monty Marshall, THIRD WORLD WAR, ch.4

Strongly Recommended
Glenn Snyder, "'Prisoner's Dilemma' and 'Chicken' Models in International Politics," INTERNATIONAL STUDIES QUARTERLY 15, 1971
Robert Axelrod, THE EVOLUTION OF COOPERATION, chs. 1,2,3,8,9

Of Relevance
Glenn Snyder, "The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics," WORLD POLITICS 36, 1984
Thomas Schelling, ARMS AND INFLUENCE, Ch. 6
Lewis F. Richardson, ARMS AND INSECURITY (1960), Chs. 1, 5, 6, 7
Glenn Snyder and Paul Diesing, CONFLICT AMONG NATIONS
Kenneth Waltz, THEORY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (1979)
Hedley Bull, THE ANARCHICAL SOCIETY (1977)
Models of Polarity, Change, and Systemic War (Nov. 19)

Required Reading [P9]
Cashman, chs. 8, 9
Midlarsky, chs by: Kugler and Lemke; Rasler and Thompson; Doran; Wilkenfeld and Brecher
Most and Starr, ch. 6
Patrick James, "Structural Realism and the Causes of War," Mershon International Studies Review, October 1995
Robert Gilpin, War and Change in World Politics, Chs. 1, 4
Jacek Kugler and Douglas Lemke, eds., Parity and War (1996), ch. by Thompson

Strongly Recommended
Gilpin, War and Change, ch. 5
Kugler and Lemke, Parity and War, ch. by Vasquez

Of Relevance
Midlarsky, Handbook of War Studies I, chs. 3, 4, 7
Jack Levy, "Theories of General War," World Politics 37, 1985
Morton Kaplan, System and Process in International Politics (1957)

--No Class November 26--

PART III INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT: OVERVIEW AND SYNTHESIS

Toward a Theory of War (Dec. 3)

Required Reading [P10]
Cashman, ch. 10
Midlarsky, chs. by: Vasquez; Geller; Crenshaw
Vasquez, chs. by: Maoz; Levy; Vasquez
John Vasquez, The War Puzzle, Appendix
Paul Senese and John Vasquez, "Assessing the Steps to War," British J. of Political Science 35, 2005
Daniel Geller and J. David Singer, Nations at War, ch. 9
Boulding, Conflict and Defense, ch. 15
John Mueller, Retreat from Doomsday, chs. 10, 11
Monty Marshall, Third World War, ch. 7

12
Recommended
Bremer and Cusack, ch.7; (recommended: chs.8-15)
R.J. Rummel, WAR, POWER, PEACE, Ch. 16
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lalman, WAR AND REASON (1992)
Stuart Bremer, "Dangerous Dyads: Interstate War, 1816-1965," J.CONFLICT
RESOLUTION 36, 1992
Gil Merom, "Forecasting the Future of War: Foundations for an Algorithm," in Zeev Maoz
and Azar Gat, eds., WAR IN A CHANGING WORLD (2001) [P10]
Steve Chan, "Explaining War Termination: A Boolean Analysis of Causes," J.PEACE
RESEARCH (2003)