



**THE DYNAMICS OF CONFLICT:
WAR INITIATION, EVOLUTION, AND TERMINATION**

Dr. Carmela Lutmar

Course Number: 702.3193

Semester: Fall 2013

Class Time: Wednesdays, 12:00 – 15:00

Class Location: Rabin 7038

Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description:

This course examines the dynamics of interstate conflict—its inception, development, and termination—from a variety of perspectives: the international system and the society of states; the domestic arena and public opinion; and the identities, beliefs, and perceptions of decision-makers. We do that by undertaking a comprehensive review of the literature on theories in international relations. We examine the leading theories, their key variables, the causal paths connecting them, and the possible ways to test them. We also give some attention to the degree of empirical support for various theories and hypotheses. Our survey includes research utilizing comparative case studies, quantitative empirical methods, and formal modeling approaches. We also give some attention to methodological questions relating to epistemology and research design. Our primary focus, however, is on the logical coherence and analytical limitations of the theories and the kinds of research designs that might be useful in testing them.

Course Requirements:

- *Attendance:* Students are required to attend at least 80% of the class meetings
- *Class participation:* 20% of the final grade
- *Midterm:* 30%
- *Simulation:* 50%



Course Outline and Reading List

1. Realism, Neorealism: anarchy, security dilemma theory (the spiral model), Prisoner's Dilemma

"Symposium: The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Program."
Responses from Waltz, Walt, Elman, Schweller, Christensen. 1997. *APSR* 91(4): 899-936
Jervis, Robert. 1998. "Realism in the Study of World Politics." *IO* 52(4): 971-91.
Kenneth N. Waltz. 1989. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 615-28.

Recommended Readings

Morgenthau, Hans J. 1985. (Revised Kenneth W. Thompson). *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace* th Edition. NY: McGraw-Hill. Chapters 1-3, 8-10, 11-14 (First published in 1948)
Thucydides. *The Peloponnesian Wars* (Modern Library College Edition) Book I, all; Book II, 1-65; Book III, 36-84; Book V, 84-115; Book VII, 42-87
Doyle, Michael. 1996. *Ways of War and Peace: Realism, Liberalism, and Socialism* NY: W.W. Norton, Part One, pp. 41-204
Waltz, Kenneth N. 1959. *Man, the State, and War* NY: Columbia UP, especially chapters 6-7, pp. 159-223
Wolfers, Arnold. 1962. *Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP. Chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, 10
Keohane, Robert O. 1986. *Neorealism and Its Critics* NY: Columbia UP. Chapters 1-7 (1-203), and chapters 9-11 (255-346).
Waltz, Kenneth N. 1979. *Theory of International Politics* NY: McGraw-Hill. Read All
Waltz, Kenneth N. 1990. "Realist Thought and Neorealist Theory." *Journal of International Affairs* 44(1): 21-37
Gilpin, Robert. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics* NY: Cambridge UP. Chapters 2-5

2. Liberalism, Neoliberalism and International Institutions

Martin, Lisa L. and Beth A. Simmons. 1998. "Theories and Empirical Studies of International Institutions." *International Organization* 52(4): 729-757
Jervis, Robert. 1999. "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate." *IS* 24(1): 42-63

Recommended Readings

Powell, Robert. 1994. "The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate." *IO* 48(2): 313-40
Schweller, Randall and David Priess. 1997. "A Tale of two Realisms: The Institutions Debate." *Mershon International Studies Review* 41(1): 1-32
Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Positive Liberal Theory of International Politics." *IO* 51(4): 513-53



Goldstein, Judith, Robert Keohane, and Anne-Marie Slaughter. 2000. "Introduction: Legalization and World Politics." *IO* 54(3): 385-399

3. Culture and the Role of Ideas

Yee, Albert. 1996. "The Causal Effect of Ideas on Policies." *IO* 50(1): 69-108

Legro, Jeffrey W. 2000. "The Transformation of Policy Ideas." *AJPS* 44(3): 419-32

Michael C. Desch. 1998. "Culture Clash: Assessing the Importance of Ideas in Security Studies." *International Security*, 23(1): 141-70.

Alastair Iain Johnston, 1995. "Thinking about Strategic Culture." *International Security* 19(4): 32-64

4. Constructivism

Wendt, Alexander E. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *IO* 46(2): 391-425

Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *IO* 52(4): 887-917

5. Democracies and War

Chan, Steve. 1997. "In Search of Democratic Peace: Problems and Promise." *Mershon International Studies Review*, 41(1): 59-91.

Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace." *APSR*, 87(3): 624-38

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *APSR*, 93(4): 791-807

6. Rational Choice and its Critics + Deterrence, Crisis Bargaining, Signaling, Reputation, Information, Credibility, Trust, and Commitment+ Diversionary Theory

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View." *ISQ* 29(2): 121-36

7. Leaders

Hermann, Margaret G. 1980 "Explaining Foreign Policy Behavior Using the Personal Characteristics of Political Leaders." *ISQ* 24(1): 7-46

Movie – 12 Angry Men

8. Foreign Policy Analysis & Allison's Models

Chapters from Allison and Zelikow's book.

Bender, Jonathan and Thomas H. Hammond. 1992. "Rethinking Allison's Models." 86(3): 301-22

9. Trade and Conflict



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Readings TBA

10. Summary + Wrap Up