

PIECES ON OUR CRAFT

Schoolhouse Rock: Pedagogy, Politics, and Pop

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For never are the ways of music moved without the greatest political laws being
moved
—Plato (*The Republic*, 424c)

Rock stars . . . is there anything they don't know?
—Homer Simpson (Episode 71, "Marge vs the Monorail").

Great thinkers from Plato to Homer suggest that music and musicians can illuminate important issues and inspire us to think about them in different ways. Indeed, I have found music a useful pedagogical tool—or at least an interesting catalyst for discussion—in my 8 a.m. Introduction to International Relations (IR) course. The idea, which I stole from Kate Weaver at the University of Kansas, is to play a song at the beginning of every class that illuminates some element of the lecture for that day. Ten minutes before class starts I put up a slide with the name of the song, the artist, title of the lecture, and a brief outline of the subject that we will cover in class. Then I turn the volume way up and allow the song to repeat until the beginning of class.

Plato and Homer are almost certainly correct about the relevance of music (and rock stars) when it comes to understanding IR. Since I began integrating music into my classes students have scored better on tests, written better papers, gotten better jobs, become better dancers, and solved some of the most difficult problems facing humanity. Well, maybe not all those things, but at least a few students report that they look forward to their 8 a.m. class a bit more because of the music.

Below I list the topics covered in my Introduction to IR course along with the songs I play for that day. Predictably, there are more great songs than there are topics in IR. If you would like to make additional suggestions or share your own IR Play List, please feel free to visit the IR Play List web site at <http://mjtier.people.wm.edu/teaching/irplaylist.php> where you can post the “right” answers for each of the topics listed below. You can also list new topics and songs on the site so that the rest of us can benefit from your musical knowledge.

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Introduction to International Relations: Daily Musical Selections

1. Introduction: *Political Science* (Randy Newman)
2. War as the Central Issue in IR: *War* (Bruce Springsteen's live version)
3. World Politics Simulation: *Everybody Wants to Rule the World* (Tears for Fears)
4. Theory and Methods in IR: *Epistemology* (Witchypoo)
5. Nationalism and the State: *Blame Canada!* (South Park)
6. Non-State Actors: *Ma Petite Terroriste* (Mint)
7. Anarchy and the Security Dilemma: *Anarchy* (Busta Rhymes)
8. Power and the Balance of Power: *The Power* (Snap)
9. World War I: *Take me Out* (Franz Ferdinand)
10. Hegemonic Stability Theory: *One is the Loneliest Number* (Three Dog Night)
11. Military and Information Technology: *Mr. Roboto* (Styx)
12. Norms and Ideas: *Imagine* (John Lennon)
13. Liberalism, Interdependence, and War: *It's a Small World* (Disney song)
14. International Organizations and Collective Security: *Peace Train* (Cat Stevens)
15. Exam Review: *O Fortuna* (Carl Orff)
16. Mid-Term Exam: *I Feel Lucky* (Mary Chapin Carpenter)
17. Nuclear Deterrence: *99 Red Balloons* (Nena)
18. The Political Use of Force: *Bomb Iran* (The Capital Steps)
19. The Cuban Missile Crisis: *Let Me Die in My Footsteps* (Bob Dylan)
20. Bureaucratic Politics in the Bush Administration: *My Sweet Neo-Con* (Rolling Stones)
21. Political Economy: *Money* (Pink Floyd)
22. Marxism, Imperialism, and War: *Waiting for the Great Leap Forward* (Billy Bragg)
23. Culture and the Clash of Civilizations: *Never be Rude to an Arab* (Monty Python)
24. The Democratic Peace: *Peace, Love, and Understanding* (Elvis Costello)
25. Spanish American War and Electoral Connection: *Election* (Culture Reggae)
26. Causes of World War II: *Springtime for Hitler* (The Producers)
27. Consequences of World War II: *Blitzkrieg Bob* (The Ramones)
28. Sex, Gender, and War: *I am Woman* (Helen Reddy)
29. Ethnic Conflict and the Balkans: *Bosnia* (The Cranberries)
30. Luttwak's "Give War a Chance": *Give Peace a Chance* (Peace Aid)
31. The IR Discipline and Last Day: *Another Brick in the Wall* (Pink Floyd)
32. Final Exam: *It's the End of the World as we Know It* (REM)

Extra Topics and Songs (If You Have MWF Schedule and Thus More Meetings)

1. Napoleonic Wars and Concert of Europe: *1812 Overture* (Tchaikovsky)
2. Insurgency and Guerilla Warfare: *If I Had a Rocket Launcher* (Bruce Cockburn)
3. Vietnam and Domestic Politics: *Stop, Hey What's That Sound* (Buffalo Springfield)
4. Nuclear War and its Consequences: *London Calling* (The Clash)
5. Conflict and Natural Resources: *Royal Oil* (Mighty Mighty Bostones)
6. Multi-National Corporations: *Lawyers, Guns, and Money* (Warren Zevon)
7. Collapse of the Soviet Union: *Back in the U.S.S.R.* (Beatles)
8. End of the Cold War: *Right Here, Right Now* (Jesus Jones)
9. Global Environment: *Fall on Me* (REM)
10. Universal Human Rights: *Biko* (Peter Gabriel)
11. Foreign Aid and Development: *Do They Know its Christmas* (Band Aid)
12. Linking Theories Together: *Ah Tutti Contenti* (From the Marriage of Figaro)

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13. Conflict Resolution: *Beat It* (Michael Jackson)
14. Negotiation and Bargaining: *Don't Let me be Misunderstood* (Nina Simone)
15. Constructivism: *Daydream Believer* (The Monkeys)
16. Postmodernism and IR Theory: *Postmodern Sleaze* (The Sneaker Pimps)
17. Moral Obligation in IR: *We Didn't Start the Fire* (Billy Joel)