

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

Government 204

Introduction to International Politics

Office: Morton #13 (Office hours: Monday and Friday 10-11:30 or by appt.)

Michael Tierney
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mjtier@wm.edu

Government 204 is an introduction to the study of politics *among* countries – rather than politics within countries. This makes international politics quite a broad field of inquiry and includes such issues as international trade, human rights, crisis bargaining, arms control, terrorism, global health, the relevance of international organizations, global environmental degradation and even the international Olympic movement. However, this semester we will focus most of our attention on the issues that have received the most sustained study by students of international politics – the causes and consequences of war in the international system. We will begin with the question—why does war recur throughout human history? Naturally, by asking this question we are implicitly asking whether war is inevitable or whether its occurrence or consequences could be mitigated through human action.

Along the way to answering these questions, this course has four objectives: First, to develop a typology of theories and conceptual tools that can be employed to help answer these and many other questions about international relations; Second, to introduce basic facts about nine important cases from the history (some quite recent) of international relations; Third, to illustrate ways in which social scientists design research in order to answer questions like “why does war recur in the international system?” or “how can we explain the outbreak of a specific war?” or “does increased trade reduce the probability of war?” or “why didn’t country X attack country Y?” The tools used by social scientists will help you to think more clearly about issues that you care about, not just the issues covered in this course; Fourth, to provide students with an opportunity to improve their writing and speaking skills. This is an introductory course; it assumes no previous study of politics. This syllabus is also posted on the course Blackboard site. Read the whole thing.

Brief Outline of the Course

I. Introduction: Why Does War Recur in the International System?

- A. Opinion Survey
- B. The Anarchy and Economics Game - Project #1
- C. Reaction Paper
- D. Kenneth Waltz’s Typology of Explanations
- E. The Actors in International Politics

II. International System: What is it? How does it constrain state behavior?

- A. The Security Dilemma
- B. Realism, Power and the Balance of Power
- C. Case Study: World War I
- D. The Number of Great Powers
- E. Technology
- F. Norms and Ideas
- G. Liberalism, Interdependence and War
- H. International Organizations and Collective Security
- I. Case Studies: Concert of Europe, League of Nations, United Nations

III. Internal Attributes of States: Are certain types of states more aggressive?

- A. Are These Really Rational Unitary Actors? Does This Matter?
- B. Film: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*
- C. Optional Reaction Paper
- D. Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis → Politics Within States - Project #2
- E. Economic Systems
- F. Political Culture
- G. Case Study: The 1990-91 Persian Gulf War
- H. Domestic Political Institutions
- I. Case Study: Spanish American War

IV. The Relevance of Individuals: Is human nature the problem?

- A. Political Psychology
- B. Case Study: World War II
- C. Statesmanship and Great Man Theories
- D. Sex, Gender and International Politics – If all world leaders were women...

V. Bringing the Pieces Together: Linking Levels of Analysis

- A. Linkage Theories
- B. Case Study: Why was Kosovo not World War III?
- C. Film: *Before the Rain*
- D. Project #3: Predicting and Explaining Contemporary Cases in International Politics
- E. Why So Much Realism?

Reading and Viewing Assignments:

There is one required book for the course. Joseph Nye and David Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 8th edition. Longman: New York, 2011. It is available for purchase in the college bookstore. You can also purchase this book online, which is much cheaper. **DO NOT** buy an older version of this book.

There are three recommended books for this course. Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Columbia University Press, 1990. John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Norton, 2002. Allison and Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, Longman, 1999. These books are strongly recommended for anyone majoring in Government or International Relations.

The remainder of the required readings are posted on the course Blackboard site. There are a few optional articles listed on the syllabus and they are good compliments to the material covered in class. They are also posted on Blackboard. If you are an IR major or will study international relations in the future, you ought to read these optional articles. You can use these optional readings when completing assignments for the course, but you are not required to do so.

In addition to the readings contained in the textbook and on the Blackboard site, **you will be expected** to read a major daily newspaper with good coverage of international news (sorry the *Flat Hat* does not qualify). Swem library has subscriptions to the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*. All these publications are also available free of

charge online and can be accessed through the course web page on blackboard. Current international events will be integrated into lectures/discussions and they will be part of both exams. Spend 30 minutes per day reading the paper while you eat breakfast...it is painless.

In addition to all the fascinating reading assigned in this course, you will see three movies over the course of the semester. Two of these movies, *Doctor Strangelove* and *Before the Rain*, will be screened for the class as a whole and are also available in the library. In addition you are required to see the movie *Thirteen Days* some time before you return from Fall Break. This movie is available free of charge at the Swem Media Center.

Grades: Your course grade will be the weighted average of your performance in class discussions/projects, a short reaction paper, five map quizzes, and two examinations. In the computation of your course grade, your performance on these requirements will be weighted as follows:

Reaction Paper	5%
Map Quizzes	5%
Class Participation	20%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	40%

- *All late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late.*
- *No student can pass this course without completing **all assignments**.*
- *All students must submit assignments in hard copy and are responsible for retaining a hard copy of their papers until they have received a grade from the instructor. The only exception is for graded group projects and comments on outside speakers which students will post on the appropriate discussion board on our blackboard site.*

Other Policies:

Absence: Students are required to attend all classes. To reschedule a test or receive a paper extension because of an absence requires notice from the Health Center or the Dean of Students, preferably prior to the due date. Late paper assignments will be penalized as stated above, unless an excuse is provided from the Health Center or the Dean's office. If you will miss class or require an extension because of a religious holiday or school sanctioned activity, **you must notify me in writing during the first two weeks of classes.**

Disability Services: Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should contact the Dean of Students Office. If you feel it is important for me to know that you have a diagnosed disability that will require accommodation, the Dean of Students Office must notify me in the first two weeks of classes.

Blackboard: All assignments will be posted on our course blackboard site. Occasionally I will make announcements to the class on this site as well. Students should check this site regularly for announcements and details on course assignments. In addition, our substantive conversations from class will occasionally spill over onto the class discussion board. I will occasionally ask you to answer a question or make some observation on our discussion site. These responses will be considered when calculating participation grades.

Examinations: Each examination will include two parts—in class portion may include multiple choice questions, short identification questions, and/or an essay. The dates of the examinations are as follows:

Midterm Examination.	Friday, October 7th
Final Examination.	December 6 th or December 9 th (Your Choice!)

One essay question for each examination will be a take-home assignment to be turned in at the time of the examination. You will receive the take home essay question 1 week before the examination.

Class Participation: Participation during class meetings is a required part of the course. You will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading. If you are not in class you are not participating. **If you are not participating, you will get a bad grade in this class.** Discussion provides an opportunity to critically question the ideas presented in the readings and the lecture and, more importantly, it offers students the chance to share their own ideas. This active involvement of students in their own education enables learning in a way that straight lecture does not. Occasionally I will ask you to fill out an online survey or make some comments on our Blackboard discussion board. In addition to relatively unstructured class discussions, there will be three group exercises done (at least in part) during class time. Hence, your participation grade is based on attendance, actual participation, and performance in group projects.

Extra Credit: Over the course of the semester there will be a minimum of 10 outside speakers or events identified by your Instructor. If you attend at least 6 of these events and write a brief response on our discussion board, then your participation grade will be raised by one full letter grade. Since participation counts for such a large part of your grade, this is the single easiest thing you can do to raise your grade in this class.

Reaction Papers: The purpose of the reaction papers is to demonstrate your ability to think creatively and to apply concepts you have learned in one context to new situations. The first reaction paper asks you to explain the outcome of a simulation that will be conducted in class. The second reaction paper is optional and requires you to judge the adequacy of a social science theory based on a “set of facts” depicted in a film. While the papers are short, they require you to practice sound analytic reasoning. Students who receive an “A” on the optional reaction paper assignment (Strangelove Paper) will have the grade on their first reaction paper raised 1/3 of a letter grade.

Detailed Lecture, Writing and Reading Assignments

I. Introduction: Why Does War Recur in the International System?

- A. Online Survey of Intro IR students (due before class on Friday August 26th)
- B. The Anarchy and Economics Simulation – Friday August 26th **Project #1**
- C. First Reaction Paper due Monday August 29th
- D. First Map Quiz -- Wednesday August 31st
- E. International Relations Scholarship -- Friday September 2nd)
- F. Kenneth Waltz’s Typology of Explanations – Monday September 5th

Required Reading: Nye, Chapter 1 from *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation*; Waltz, Chapter 1 from *Man the State and War*. All these are available on our Blackboard site.

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, Chapter 1 from *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*.

G. The Actors in International Politics

Required Reading: Herz, "The Rise and Demise of the Territorial State;" Nye, *Chapter 2*;

Optional Reading: Krasner, "Is Sovereignty Dead?"

II. International System: What is it? How does it constrain state behavior?

A. Anarchy and the Security Dilemma

Required Reading: Waltz, "The Anarchic Structure of International Politics"

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, *Chapter 2*.

B. Realism, Power and the Balance of Power

Required Reading: Paul Kennedy, "The First World War and the International Power System;" Nye, 71-86; Nye, "American Power in the 21st Century"

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, *Chapter 3*.

C. Case Study: World War I

Required Reading: John Stoessinger, "The Iron Dice: World War I;" Nye, pp 86-102.

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, 181-190.

D. The Number of Great Powers

Required Reading: John Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future;" Deutsch and Singer, "Multipolar Power Systems and International Stability"

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, *Chapter 8*

E. Technology

Required Reading: Carl Kaysen, "Is War Obsolete?;" Jervis, "The Offense-Defense Balance and the Security Dilemma;" Nye, *Chapter 8*.

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, *Chapter 4*.

F. Norms and Ideas

Required Reading: Steven Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive: and the Origin of the First World War."

G. Liberalism, Interdependence and War

Required Reading: Nye Chapter 7.

Optional Reading: Gartzke, "The Classical Liberals Were Lucky;" Mastanduno, "The Strategy of Economic Engagement;" *Mearsheimer*, Chapter 10.

H. International Organizations and Collective Security

Required Reading: Nye, pp 81-89; Richard Rosecrance, "A New Concert of Power;" Josef Joffe, "Collective Security and the Future of Europe;" Robert Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes."

I. Case Studies: Concert of Europe, League of Nations, United Nations

Mid-Term Exam: Friday October 7th -- Fall Break!

III. Internal Attributes of States: Are certain types of states more aggressive?

A. Are These Really Rational Unitary Actors? Deterrence Theory Revisited.

Required Reading: Nye, Chapter 5.

B. Film: *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*

C. Second Reaction Paper (Optional, see discussion under “Reaction Papers” above)

D. Case Study: The Cuban Missile Crisis → Politics Within States - Project #2

Required Reading: Graham Allison, “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis.” Jason Vest, “Beyond Osama: The Pentagon’s Battle with Powell Heats Up.”

Optional Reading: Allison and Zeiklow, *Essence of Decision*.

E. Economic Systems

Required Reading: J.A. Hobson, “The Economic Taproots of Imperialism” and V.I. Lenin, “The Highest Stage of Capitalism.”

F. Political Culture

Required Reading: Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations.” Zakaria, “The Politics of Port.”

G. Domestic Political Institutions

Required Reading: Michael Doyle, “Liberalism and World Politics.”

Optional Reading: Ferguson and Tierney, “Perpetual Terror: Does Kant’s Perpetual Peace Have a Dark Side?” Posted on blackboard under “Assignments.”

H. Case Study: Spanish American War

Required Reading: David Trask, “The Spanish American War” and Mark Peceny, “A Constructivist Interpretation of the Liberal Peace”

IV. The Relevance of Individuals – Is human nature the problem?

A. Political Psychology

B. Case Study: World War II

Required Reading: Nye 93-111; Stoessinger, “Barbarossa: Hitler’s Attack on Russia.”

C. Statesmanship and Great Man Theories

Required Reading: Hermann and Hagan, “International Decision Making: Leadership Matters.”

Optional Reading: Kissinger, *A World Restored*, 1959.

D. Sex, Gender and International Politics – If all world leaders were women...

Required Reading: Fukuyama, “Chimpanzee Politics;” Capriolli, “The Myth of Women’s Pacifism.”

Optional Reading: Goldstein, Chapter 1 from *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice-Versa*.

V. Bringing the Pieces Together:

A. Linkage Theories

Required Reading: Snyder and Christiansen, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks." Nye, *Chapter 9*.

Optional Reading: Mearsheimer, *Chapters 5 and 8*.

B. Case Study: Why was Kosovo not World War III?

C. Film: *Before the Rain*

D. Project #3: Predicting and Explaining Contemporary Cases in International Politics. This group paper will be posted on the web and will provide information that other students can use on the final exam.

E. Why So Much Realism?

Required Reading: Maliniak et al, 2011, "International Relations in the U.S. Academy," Edward Luttwak, "Give War a Chance."

Final Exam: 9am on December 6th or December 9th (Your Choice!)