INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND COOPERATION
030:362, SPRING 2006
W 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM, 337 SH

INSTRUCTOR:
Professor Sara McLaughlin Mitchell
307 SH
Phone: 335-2471
Email: sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu
Http: www.saramitchell.org
Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to analyze the most important theories regarding the causes of international war and conflict. This course will: (a) introduce students to a wide range of research on international conflict (with a focus on recent empirical research) and (b) show students how to critically evaluate research, and consequently how to design their own research projects.

Required Texts (Available at Iowa Bookstore or from online bookstores)

A master copy of the required readings (except books) will be available in my office (including those available on JSTOR). Check out the readings from me, please make a copy, and return them to me (or print them on your own). Many of the readings are available electronically (through JSTOR or other library sources); search for the journal title in the library catalog.

Recommended Texts (Edited volumes useful for preliminary exam preparation)
Course Requirements

1) Research Paper (50%)

Choose a research question on international conflict for which a significant difference of opinion exists, and research this based on either the historical evidence of two or more wars, or else on the basis of existing statistical data sets. The final product should take the form of a conference paper or journal article. The paper should be about 25-30 pages in length, contain a review of the relevant literature, and be written in the professional style of the American Political Science Association. You may use whatever methodology you feel is most appropriate to the issue and which you feel qualified to implement. I will not be impressed by incompetent quantitative analysis, nor will I penalize competent historical or case-study approaches.

The paper will be due in several stages:

Friday, February 24th (by 5:00p.m. in my mailbox in 341 SH): Research design, 5-7 pages identifying your research question, a brief description of the literature relevant to your question, the method of analysis you intend to employ, and any data or historical sources you will use to evaluate your hypotheses.

Friday, March 31st (by 5:00p.m. in my mailbox): First draft, at least 12 pages in length with initial drafts of all of the elements in the paper; research question, literature review, and theory should be well-developed.

Friday, April 28th (by 5:00pm in my mailbox): Second draft, with all required elements of the paper, should be distributed to instructor and all other students in class. Students should read each other’s papers and come prepared with at least three written questions per paper for class on May 3rd.

Wednesday, May 3rd: Presentation of paper in class: format will follow Peace Science Society format with 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for questions. Faculty & graduate students in the department will be invited to attend these presentations.

Wednesday, May 10th: Final paper due (by 5:00pm in my mailbox); you should address questions and comments raised during in-class presentations when preparing your final paper.

The paper is due in multiple stages so that I and other students in the class will have an opportunity to give you some feedback along the way. The paper will be given a final grade when I read the final draft, but I will take into consideration the quality of the research design, first draft, second draft, and in-class presentation when determining the final paper grade.

2) Class Participation and Attendance (25%)

The quality of a graduate level seminar depends to a large extent on the efforts of the students. I expect that you will come to class each week prepared to discuss the required readings. While you are reading the assigned course material, I encourage you to consider the following questions:

   a) What is the research question?
   b) What is the researcher's theoretical argument?
   c) What methods/approach does the author use to try to answer the question?
   d) Is this approach suitable for the question or theory?
   e) If the author provides empirical tests, are the operational measures of the concepts appropriate?
   f) What are the most significant research findings & how do these relate to other course readings?
   g) To what degree do you think the researcher has answered his/her research questions?

3) Weekly Quizzes (25%)

Each week at the beginning of class, I will administer a quiz covering that week's readings. The quiz will consist of 5 multiple choice questions that will highlight the most important points in the readings for that week. I will drop your two lowest quiz scores. Any missed quizzes will receive a score of 0/5.
Course Schedule

**Week 1, January 18th: Studying and Conceptualizing International Conflict**

1) General Approaches to the Scientific Study of International Conflict


- Pages 3-50 (Introduction and Chapter 1).


2) Conceptualizing and Measuring War/Conflict


**Week 2, January 25th: Methodological Issues & International Politics**


**Week 3, February 1st: Power Transition Theory**

- Pages 129-163

- Pages 10-50
- Chapters 1, 3-5, 7

- Pages 35-73 (Chapters 2-3)


**Week 4, February 8th: Polarity, Hegemony, and Long Cycles**

1) Overview

2) Polarity


3) Hegemony


4) Long Cycles/Power Cycles
- Pages 23-54 (Modelski and Thompson)
- Pages 83-110 (Doran)

**Week 5, February 15th: Arms Races and War**

- Pages 195-218 (Chapter 8, Siverson & Diehl)
- Pages 219-236 (Chapter 9, Intriligator & Brito)


**Week 6, February 22nd: Alliances and War**

1) Alliance Formation


2) Alliance Reliability & Deterrence


3) Alliance Duration

Week 7, March 1st: Expected Utility, Strategic Choice, & Psychological Approaches

1) Expected Utility
   • Pages 1-92


2) Strategic Choice
   • Pages 164-192 (James D. Morrow)


3) Psychological Approaches
   • Pages 193-221 (Jack S. Levy)


Week 8, March 8th: Deterrence and Reciprocity

1) Deterrence


2) Reciprocity


**Week 9, March 15th:** No Class, Spring Break

**Week 10, March 22nd:** No Class, International Studies Association Meeting

**Week 11, March 29th:** Diversionary Theories and Public Opinion in Foreign Policy

1) Theoretical Foundations


• Pages 259-288 (Chapter 11, Levy)


2) Empirical Assessments


3) Design Issues


**Week 12, April 5th:** Regime Type and War

1) Theoretical Foundations


**Week 13, April 12th:** Economic Interdependence and Environmental Conflict

1) Economic Interdependence & Peace


2) Environmental Conflict


- Pages 289-326 (Chapter 12, Choucri & North)


**Week 14, April 19th: Geography, the Diffusion of War, and Issues in World Politics**

1) The Expansion and Diffusion of War
   - Pages 111-139 (Chapter 5, Most, Starr, and Siverson)


2) Territorial Conflict


3) Contentious Issues in World Politics

Week 15, April 26th: Rivalry


- Pages 51-224 (Chapters 2-6)


Week 16, May 3rd: Outcomes and Consequences of War, Research Paper Presentations


