

Professor Sara Mitchell
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Summer 2009
22 SH
2:00-4:45pm

International Conflict 030:165

The primary purpose of this course is to examine the conditions that make for war and peace in international relations. Given the short duration of the course, you will participate in a group project that emphasizes the causes or correlates of war; all topics for the course will be related to the project. The ultimate goal of the group project is to predict whether two fictitious countries will fight each other. Upon completion of this course, students should be familiar with the factors that mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. Students should be able to apply these factors in examining real-world scenarios, such as studying historical cases of war or assessing the prospects for future conflict in troubled areas of the world.

Course Requirements

Your final course grade is calculated as follows:

Seminar Participation	30%
Group Project	35%
Final Exam	35%

Seminar Participation (30%)

This course will be run as an upper division seminar. Each class period will involve a discussion of the readings assigned for that day. You can gain or lose class participation points each day. To gain points, you need to make a positive contribution to class participation. Positive contributions are comments that build on, react to, challenge, or request clarification on the reading. Students may raise their hands and contribute to discussion, although remember that only those comments directly relevant to the readings will earn points.

Your final participation grade will be based on the total number of positive contributions (minus any points lost, see below), and will be calculated as follows:

- A 8 or higher
- B 5 - 7
- C 3 - 4
- D < 3

If no one volunteers, then I will randomly call on people. Each person will be assigned a number in the first week of class, which corresponds to a poker chip in a bowl. If your chip is drawn, then you must answer the question I raise. You will have the opportunity to pass once if you are unprepared for a particular question, although on the second strike, you will lose one point from your overall participation total. In short, if you are called upon and unprepared or absent, you will lose 1 point that day. But you will only lose points if your chip is drawn. Also, because your chip goes back in the bowl, such sampling with replacement suggests that you can be called upon more than once in a given class. This system will obviously work best if everyone volunteers and I never have to use the chips!

You may wonder why I have created such a system. The answer is that I want you to do the reading, so I have given you an incentive to do it. The group project and exams will make extensive use of the assigned readings, thus it is in your best interest to read everything.

Group Project (35%)

Each student will be placed in a group consisting of four or five students. Each group will receive various pieces of information about a (fictitious) pair of countries and will be asked to predict whether or not these countries will fight a war based on this information. In this project, students will draw upon the theoretical material covered in class to make their predictions. Each group will be required to make a brief (10-15 minute) Power Point presentation in class on Thursday, June 4th, in addition to submitting a paper summarizing the group's findings, and a short paper describing each group member's experience with the project.

Final Examination (35%)

There is a comprehensive final exam scheduled on Friday, June 5th. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (death in the family). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit. *I will be strict on this policy.*

Required Readings (Available at Iowa Bookstore)

Betts, Richard K. 2007. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace, Third Edition*. New York: Longman.

Vasquez, John A. and Marie T. Henehan. 1999. *The Scientific Study of Peace and War: A Text Reader*. New York: Lexington Books.

All articles marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on the course website at <http://saramitchell.org/icsummer09.html>. You can also find a copy of the syllabus and some extra lecture slides to help you study the material there as well.

Outline of Topics and Weekly Readings

Monday, May 18th Introduction to the Scientific Study of Warfare

Required Reading

V&H, Introduction, pages xix-xxix, Chapter 15, pages 373-414

Video: The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara (2003)

Tuesday, May 19th Realism & Balance of Power

Required Reading

Betts, Part I, Mearsheimer; Part II, Waltz

V&H, Chapter 2, Singer, Bremer, & Stuckey

Video: Fail Safe (2000)

Wednesday, May 20th

Power Transitions, Hegemony

Required Reading

Betts, Part II, Gilpin, Part XI, Betts & Christensen

*Lemke, Douglas. 1997. "The Continuation of History: Power Transition Theory and the End of the Cold War." *Journal of Peace Research* 34(1): 23-36.

Video: Lord of the Flies (1990)

Thursday, May 21st

Arms Races, Nuclear Weapons, and Deterrence

Required Reading

V&H, Chapter 3, Wallace

Betts, Part VIII, Huntington & Levy

Video: The Day After (1983)

Friday, May 22nd

Reciprocity

Required Reading

*Goldstein, Joshua S. and John R. Freeman. 1991. "U.S.-Soviet-Chinese Relations: Routine, Reciprocity, or Rational Expectations?" *American Political Science Review* 85(1): 17-35.

*Goldstein, Joshua S and Jon C. Pevehouse. 1997. "Reciprocity, Bullying, and International Cooperation: Time-Series Analysis of the Bosnia Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 91(3): 515-529.

Video: Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan (1982)

Monday, May 25th

NO CLASS, UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY

Tuesday, May 26th

Alliances

Required Reading

V&H, Chapter 1, Levy

*Leeds, Brett Ashley, Andrew G. Long, and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2000. "Reevaluating Alliance Reliability: Specific Threats, Specific Promises." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(5): 686-699.

*Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 427-439.

Video: No Man's Land (2001)

Wednesday, May 27th

Territorial and Resource Conflicts

Required Reading

Betts, Part X, Cooley

*Hensel, Paul R., Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, Thomas E. Sowers II, and Clayton L. Thyne. 2008. "Bones of Contention: Comparing Territorial, Maritime, and River Issues." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(1): 117-143.

*Vasquez John A. 1995. "Why do Neighbors Fight? Proximity, Interaction, or Territoriality?" *Journal of Peace Research*, 32(3): 277-293.

Video: Blood Diamond

Thursday, May 28th

Crisis Bargaining and Rivalry

Required Reading

V&H, Chapter 5, Leng

*Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(2): 309-341.

*Colaresi, Michael P. and William R. Thompson. 2002. "Hot Spots or Hot Hands? Serial Crisis Behavior, Escalating Risks, and Rivalry." *Journal of Politics* 64(4): 1175-1198.

Video: Thirteen Days (2000)

Friday, May 29th

Diversionsary Theories of War and Public Opinion

Required Reading

*Ostrom, Charles W. Jr. and Brian L. Job. 1986. "The President and the Political Use of Force." *American Political Science Review* 80(2): 541-566.

*Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Brandon C. Prins. 2004. "Rivalry and Diversionsary Uses of Force." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48(6): 937-961.

Video: The Mouse that Roared (1959)

Monday, June 1st

Nationalism and the Clash of Civilizations

Required Reading

Betts, Part I, Huntington; Part V, Wendt; Part VII, Gellner; Part XI, Huntington

Video: Children of War (HBO Series)

Tuesday, June 2nd

The Liberal Peace

Required Reading

Betts, Part III, Kant & Doyle; Part XI, Ikenberry & Slaughter

*Peceny, Mark. 1997. "A Constructivist Interpretation of the Liberal Peace: The Ambiguous Case of the Spanish-American War." *Journal of Peace Research*, 34(4): 415-430.

Video: Nuremberg (2000)

Wednesday, June 3rd

International Organizations and Peacekeeping, Willingness to Suffer

Required Reading

V&H, Chapter 11, Rosen

*Diehl, Paul F. 1988. "Peacekeeping Operations and the Quest for Peace." *Political Science Quarterly* 103(3): 485-507.

*Hansen, Holley, Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, and Stephen C. Nemeth. "IO Mediation of Interstate Conflicts: Moving Beyond the Global vs. Regional Dichotomy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(2): 295-325.

Video: Apocalypse Now (1979)

Thursday, June 4th

Presentation of Group Projects & Review for Final Exam

Friday, June 5th

Final Exam