

Syllabus

International Security

Instructor: Oliver Westerwinter
Fall Semester 2017

Time & room

Thursday, 10:15-12h in 01-308

Exception: Wednesday, 22.11

16:15-18h in 01-U308

Note: No class on 21.12

Office

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Office hours: By appointment

This syllabus may be subject to adjustments.

Overview and goals

In this course, we will read, discuss, and engage the modern, quantitative literature on international security, with particular emphasis on contemporary research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international security literature is extensive, the particular readings and issues that we cover must inevitably be a small and somewhat idiosyncratic sample. However, we will also focus on more general issues and develop analytical skills relevant to research design, empirical analysis, and academic discourse that have wider applicability in the study of international security and international relations more generally. The course will also focus on how to go beyond the role of a consumer or just evaluating the research of others to becoming active contributors and improving on existing research.

The course will be theory-driven, with each session devoted to studying a particular theoretical argument or set of arguments related to specific questions about international security. In addition to theoretical arguments, each session will engage with empirical applications of these theories. We will address most of the major topics in the study of international security, including war and conflict onset, war and conflict duration, deterrence, rivalries, military alliances, civil war, and terrorism.

The goal of this course is to enable students to read and understand theoretical arguments about international security and research designs developed to empirically test these arguments. The course will also enable students to develop their own ideas for research and writing. The assignments for the course are designed to help students to move toward identifying researchable questions for study, and preparing a research design to answer these questions.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this class.

Class requirements

Final grades will be based on:

- Research design paper (50% of final grade)
- Topic identification paper (20% of final grade)
- Two response papers (30% each of final grade)
- Participation in lectures and discussions

Your final grade will be determined by two response papers (30% each), an identification of a research topic paper (20%), and a research design paper (50%). The response or discussion papers (1-2 pages) focus on a particular article and serve to start the group discussion of a selected class session. Each student has to select two class sessions to write a response paper for a particular article in each of these two class sessions. Students will give brief summaries of their response papers (5-10 minutes) in class to start the group discussion.

The research topic identification paper is a short (2-3 pages) paper that outlines a research topic of your choice and identifies a researchable question. The topic identification paper has to be submitted either as hard copy or electronically (pdf) by October 26, 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted for any assignment.

The research design paper (5-7 pages) builds on the topic identification and develops the topic and question into a executable research design (as would be required, for example, for a BA or MA thesis project). For the topic identification and the research design paper, there are short guidelines available on the studyNet website of the class. Discussion papers have to be submitted as hard copy at the beginning of the class session to which they are related. Ideally, students send a copy of their discussion paper to the course instructor via email a day or two prior to the class session for which they are due. The topic identification has to be handed in as hard copy at the beginning of the session on October 26, 2017. The research design paper has to be submitted either as hard copy or electronically (pdf) by January 15, 2018. Late submissions will not be accepted for any assignment.

In combination, the assignments will help students to deepen and broaden their understanding of the materials covered in class. In general, students should come to class having completed the required readings and being prepared to participate in the group discussions.

Course website

We use StudyNet as communication platform for the class. The course site at StudyNet can be accessed here: <https://loginpages.unisg.ch/studynet>. The course website at StudyNet will provide readings and other materials.

Textbooks

The course will be taught without using a single textbook. The required readings in combination with the slides provided throughout the course will be the primary teaching materials. Students may find it useful to purchase one or several of the following books. These are seminal contributions to the study of international security and are useful not only in this class, but may also be relevant later on in your studies.

- Blainey, Geoffrey. 1973. *The Causes of War*. Third edition. New York: Free Press.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1981. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson and James D. Morrow. 2003. *The Logic of Political Survival*. Cambridge: MIT University Press.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1992. *War and Reason. Domestic and International Imperatives*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Gowa, Joanne. 1994. *Allies, Adversaries, and International Trade*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Maoz, Zeev. 2011. *Networks of Nations. The Evolution, Structure, and Impact of International Networks, 1816-2001*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace. Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. New York: Norton.
- Wagner, R. Harrison. 2007. *War and the State. The Theory of International Politics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Schedule

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. The assigned required and optional readings are listed in the class schedule for each session. The required readings should be completed prior to the session for which they are listed and studied carefully. In addition, it is recommended to consult the optional readings. The optional readings may prove useful to students looking for additional coverage of some of the course topics as well as for developing the topic of your assignments. This schedule is subject to adjustments.

September 21: The scientific study of international security

Required readings:

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. "Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View." *International Studies Quarterly* 29:121-54.
- Simowitz, Roslyn and Barry Price. 1986. "Progress in the Study of International Conflict: A Methodological Critique." *Journal of Peace Research* 23:29-40.

Optional readings:

- Gaddis, John Lewis. 1992. "International Relations Theory and the End of the Cold War." *International Security* 17:5-58.
- Ray, James Lee and Bruce Russett. 1986. "The Future as Arbiter of Theoretical Controversies: Predictions, Explanations and the End of the Cold War." *British Journal of*

Political Science 26:441-70.

September 28: Onset of international conflict

Required readings:

Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49:379-414.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and David Lalman. 1988. "Empirical support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of International Conflict." *World Politics* 41:1-20.

Optional readings:

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1980. "An Expected Utility Theory of International Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 74:917-31.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 1985. "The War Trap Revisited: A Revised Expected Utility Model." *American Political Science Review* 79:156-77.

Braumoeller, Bear. 2008. "Systemic Politics and the Origins of Great Power Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 102:1-17.

Slantchev, Branislav L. and Ahmer Tarar. 2011. "Mutual Optimism as a Rationalist Explanation of War." *American Journal of Political Science* 55:135-48.

Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60:169-203.

Wagner, R. Harrison. 1994. "Peace, War, and the Balance of Power." *American Political Science Review* 88:595-607.

October 05: Conflict expansion, duration, and termination

Required readings:

Powell, Robert. 2004. "Bargaining and Learning While Fighting." *American Journal of Political Science* 48:344-61.

Bennett, D. Scott and Allan C. Stam III. 1996. "The Duration of Interstate Wars, 1816-1985." *American Political Science Review* 90:239-257.

Optional readings:

Altfeld, Michael F. and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 1979. "Choosing Sides in Wars." *International Studies Quarterly* 23:87-112.

Gartner, Scott Sigmund and Randolph M. Siverson. 1996. "War Expansion and War Outcome." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40:4-15.

Slantchev, Branislav L. 2004. "How Initiators End Their Wars: The Duration of Warfare and the Terms of Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* 48:813-29.

Ramsay, Kristopher W. 2008. "Settling It on the Field: Battlefield Events and War Termination." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:850-79.

Siverson, Randolph M. and Harvey Starr. 1990. "Opportunity, Willingness, and the Diffusion of War, 1816-1965." *American Political Science Review* 84:47-67.

October 12: Democracy and conflict

Required readings:

Dixon, William J. 1994. "Democracy and the Peaceful Settlement of International Conflict." *American Political Science Review* 88:14-32.

Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 1997. "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." *International Studies Quarterly* 41:267-94.

Optional readings:

Gartzke, Erik. 2007. "The Capitalist Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* 51:166-91.

Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88:577-92.

Gartzke, Erik. 1998. "Kant We All Just Get Along? Motive, Opportunity, and the Origins of the Democratic Peace." *American Journal of Political Science* 42:1-27.

Lake, David A. 1992. "Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War." *American Political Science Review* 86:24-37.

October 19: Economic interdependence and conflict

Required readings:

Gartzke, Erik, Quan Li and Charles Bohmer. 2001. "Investing in the Peace: Economic Interdependence and International Conflict." *International Organization* 55:391-438.

Barbieri, Katherine. 1996. "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of Interstate Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 33:29-49.

Optional readings:

Morrow, James D. 1999. "How Could Trade Affect Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 36:481-9.

Polachek, Solomon W., John Robst, and Yuan-Ching Chang. 1999. "Liberalism and Interdependence: Extending the Trade-Conflict Model." *Journal of Peace Research* 36:405-22.

Pollins, Brian M. 1989. "Conflict, Cooperation, and Commerce: The Effect of International Political Interactions on Bilateral Trade Flows." *American Journal of Political Science* 33:737-61.

Reed, William. 2003. "Information and Economic Interdependence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47:54-71.

October 26: International organizations and conflict (research topic identification paper due)*Required readings:*

Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 1999. "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations." *World Politics* 52:1-37.

Boehmer, Charles, Erik Gartzke and Timothy Nordstrom. 2004. "Do Intergovernmental Organizations Promote Peace." *World Politics* 57:1-38.

Optional readings:

Pevehouse, Jon and Brude Russett. 2006. "Democratic International Governmental Organizations Promote Peace." *International Organization* 60:969-1000.

Chapman, Terrence L. and Scott Wolford. 2010. "International Organizations, Strategy, and Crisis Bargaining." *Journal of Politics* 72:227-42.

Hansen, Holley E., Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Stephen C. Nemeth. 2008. "IO Mediation of Interstate Conflicts. Moving Beyond the Global versus Regional Dichotomy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:295-325.

Hafner-Burton, Emilie M., Jana von Stein and Erik Gartzke. 2008. "International Organizations Count." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:175-88.

November 16: Networks and conflict*Required readings:*

Dorussen, Han and Hugh Ward. 2008. "Intergovernmental Organizations and the Kantian Peace. A Network Perspective." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:189-212.

Gartzke, Erik and Oliver Westerwinter. 2016. "The Complex Structure of Commercial Peace: Contrasting Trade Interdependence, Asymmetry, and Multipolarity." *Journal of Peace Research* 53:325-43.

Optional readings:

Dorussen, Han, Erik Gartzke and Oliver Westerwinter. 2016. "Networked international politics: Complex interdependence and the diffusion of conflict and peace." *Journal of Peace Research* 53:283-91.

Maoz, Zeev, Ranan D. Kuperman, Lesley Terris, and Ilan Talmud. 2006. "Structural Equivalence and International Conflict. A Social Network Analysis." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50:664-89.

Lupu, Yonatan and Brian Greenhill. 2016. "The Networked Peace: Intergovernmental Organizations and International Conflict." Manuscript: George Washington University.

November 22: Deterrence

Required readings:

Crescenzi, Mark. 2007. "Reputation and International Conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 51:382-96.

Huth, Paul and Bruce Russett. 1984. "What Makes Deterrence Work: Cases from 1900 to 1980." *World Politics* 36:496-526.

Optional readings:

Fearon, James D. 1994. "Signaling Versus the Balance of Power and Interests: An Empirical Test of a Crisis Bargaining Model." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 38:236-69.

Signorino, Curtis S. and Ahmer Tarar. 2006. "A Unified Theory and Test of Extended Immediate Deterrence." *American Journal of Political Science* 50:586-605.

Smith, Alastair. 1999. "Testing Theories of Strategic Choice: The Example of Crisis Escalation." *American Journal of Political Science* 43:1254-83.

November 23: Rivalries

Required readings:

Gartzke, Erik and Michael W. Simon. 1999. "Hot Hand: A Critical Analysis of Enduring Rivalries." *Journal of Politics* 61:777-98.

Goertz, Gary and Paul F. Diehl. 1995. "The Initiation and Termination of Enduring Rivalries: The Impact of Political Shocks." *American Journal of Political Science* 39:30-52.

Optional readings:

Bennett, Scott D. 1996. "Security, Bargaining, and the End of Interstate Rivalry." *International Studies Quarterly* 40:157-84.

Lemke, Douglas and William Reed. 2001. "War and Rivalry among Great Powers." *American Journal of Political Science* 45:457-69.

Goertz, Gary and Paul F. Diehl. 1993. "Enduring Rivalries: Theoretical Constructs and Empirical Patterns." *International Studies Quarterly* 37:147-71.

November 30: Military alliances

Required readings:

Warren, T. Camber. 2010. "The Geometry of Security: Modeling Interstate Alliances as Evolving Networks." *Journal of Peace Research* 47: 697-709.

Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47:427-39.

Optional readings:

Bennett, Scott D. 1997. "Testing Alternative Models of Alliance Duration, 1816-1984." *American Journal of Political Science* 41:846-78.

Gartzke, Erik and Kristian S. Gleditsch. 2004. "Why Democracies May Actually Be Less Reliable Allies." *American Journal of Political Science* 48:775-95.

Morrow, James D. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances." *American Journal of Political Science* 35:904-33.

Westerwinter, Oliver. 2016. "Interdependent Choices: Using Temporal Exponential Random Graph Models for Studying Alliances." Manuscript: University of St. Gallen.

December 07: Civil war

Required readings:

Fearon, James D. and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97:75-90.

Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War." *Oxford Economic Papers* 563-95.

Optional readings:

Salehyan, Idean and Kristian S. Gleditsch. 2006. "Refugees and the Spread of Civil War." *International Organization* 60:335-66.

Gleditsch, Kristian S. 2007. "Transnational Dimensions of Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research* 44:2936-309.

Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45:259-82.

December 14: Terrorism

Required readings:

Asal, Victor and R. Karl Rethemeyer. 2008. "The Nature of the Beast: Organizational Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks." *Journal of Politics* 70:437-49.

Pape, Robert A. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102:269-77.

Optional readings:

Li, Quan. 2005. "Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:278-97.

Kydd, Andrew and Barbara F. Walter. 2002. "Sabotating the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence." *International Organization* 56:263-96.