

PSC 645 Conflict Processes

Course Syllabus

Spring 2008

Class schedule: W 1-3:50 p.m.

Location: 502 Park Hall

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic

Department of Political Science

University at Buffalo, SUNY

Office: 505 Park Hall

Office hours: MW 11 am-12:45 pm

Course description

This seminar provides a survey of different approaches to the study of international conflict. We will discuss major theories that link conflict to power distributions, deterrence and bargaining, domestic regime type (democratic peace and beyond), alliances, economic interdependence, and political geography. One week will be reserved for the Steps to War research. Some recent developments in intra- and trans-national violence such as those concerning ethnic conflicts and terrorism will also be covered in the context of systematic theoretical and empirical approaches. The readings include a selection of classic seminal writings as well as more recent leading studies in each area.

Reading materials

All required readings for the course consist of selected book chapters and journal articles. If not available through JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org>) or the SUNY Buffalo electronic journal holdings (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/ft.html>), they can be accessed on UBLearn for this course (marked with *UBLearn in the schedule below). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all materials.

Course requirements

Final grades will be based on class participation (20%), three short papers (30%), and a take-home final exam (50%).

Class participation: Students are expected to complete the assigned reading each week according to the topic covered. Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade.

Three short papers: Beyond regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, each student is expected to make three brief (10-15 minutes) in-class presentations on the weekly topics, based on a short (approximately 5 pages double-spaced) paper to be e-mailed to me by 4 p.m. one day before the scheduled class for that topic. These papers and presentations should highlight the principal points of all of the week's readings, critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the readings (and of their theoretical contributions), and provide guidance for future research in this area (such as identifying a related question that has been left unanswered or answered incompletely by the readings, or by proposing an extension of the week's reading to

a new question or area). They should not be simple summaries of the readings or annotated bibliographies. These presentations are meant to help focus the class discussion on the week's topic, readings, and future directions; as a result, each presentation will be followed by a period of general class reaction and discussion. Each short paper/presentation will count for 10% of the overall course grade, for a total of 30%.

Final exam: The take-home final exam is similar in format to the comprehensive exams in international relations, although it will be shorter and with an extended time of one week. It will be distributed in class on April 23 and will be due by 4 p.m. on April 30. Although both hard copy and electronic version are preferable, an electronic version is required and must reach me by e-mail by the deadline. The final exam will count toward 50% of the final grade.

Excused Absences, Deadline Extensions, and Make-Ups

If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled presentation or other graded procedure, the student must notify me or department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. The student is responsible for providing satisfactory documented evidence to the instructor within one week of his or her absence to substantiate the reason for the absence. Deadline extensions and make-ups will be given **ONLY** in documented cases of serious illness or family emergency. Otherwise, short review papers and the final exam will be graded F if not turned in to me by the specified deadlines. The same applies for a failure to present a short paper in class as scheduled.

Plagiarism Statement

As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another person. In accordance with the definition, a student is committing plagiarism if s/he copies the work of another person and turn it in as his/her own, even if s/he should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism and any case of scholastic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade F for the course. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism and general academic dishonesty issues, please consult the UB pages and policy on these issues as a starting point such as: <http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.shtml>, http://www.grad.buffalo.edu/policies/academic_integrity.pdf, and <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/plagiarism.html>, as a starting point.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1: January 16

COURSE INTRODUCTION

No readings.

Week 2: January 23

GENERAL OVERVIEW

General Theoretical Issues

Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher. Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 24 (3): 315-342.

Geller, Daniel S. 2000. "Explaining War: Empirical Patterns and Theoretical Mechanisms." In *Handbook of War Studies II*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 407-449. *UBLearns

Dessler, David. 1991. "Beyond Correlations: Toward a Causal Theory of War." *International Studies Quarterly* 35 (3): 337-55.

Conceptualizing Conflict Processes

Diehl, Paul F. 2006. "Just a Phase?: Integrating Conflict Dynamics Over Time." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23 (3): 199-210.

Historical Patterns

Sarkees, Meredith, Frank Wayman, and J. David Singer. 2003. "Inter-State, Intra-State, and Extra-State Wars: A Comprehensive Look at Their Distribution Over Time, 1816-1997." *International Studies Quarterly* 47 (1): 49-70.

Week 3 (1/30)

STRUCTURAL AND DYADIC POWER BALANCES/SHIFTS

Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18 (4): 615-628.

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. "The Abacus of Power." In Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*. New York: Free Press, Ch. 8 (pp. 108-124). *UBLearns

Kugler, Jacek, and Douglas Lemke. 2000. "The Power Transition Research Program: Assessing Theoretical and Empirical Advances." In *Handbook of War Studies II*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 129-163. *UBLearns

Kim, Woosang, and James D. Morrow. 1992. "When Do Power Shifts Lead to War?" *American Journal of Political Science* 36 (4): 896-922.

Lemke, Douglas, and Suzanne Werner. 1996. "Power Parity, Commitment to Change, and War." *International Studies Quarterly* 40 (2): 235-260.

Week 4 (2/6)**ALLIANCES****Alliance Motivations: Security Seeking and Power Balancing**

Walt, Stephen M. 1985. "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power." *International Security* 9 (4): 3-43.

Morrow, James D. 1991. "Alliances and Asymmetry: An Alternative to the Capability Aggregation Model of Alliances." *American Journal of Political Science* 35 (4): 904-933.

Alliance Motivations: Domestic Politics

Siverson, Randolph M., and Juliann Emmons. 1991. "Birds of Feather—Democratic Political Systems and Alliance Choices in the 20th Century." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 35 (2): 285-306.

Simon, Michael W., and Erik Gartzke. 1996. "Political System Similarity and the Choice of Allies: Do Democracies Flock Together, or Do Opposites Attract?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40 (4): 617-635.

Alliance Reliability

Sabrosky, Alan. 1980. "Interstate Alliances: Their Reliability and the Expansion of War." In *The Correlates of War II: Testing Some Realpolitik Models*, ed. J. David Singer. New York: Free Press, pp. 161-198. *UBLearns

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.

Alliance Duration and Termination

Bennett, D. Scott. 1997. "Testing Alternative Models of Alliance Duration, 1816-1984." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (3): 846-878.

Leeds, Brett Ashley, and Burcu Savun. 2007. "Terminating Alliances: Why do States Abrogate Agreements?" *Journal of Politics* 69 (4): 1118-1132.

Week 5 (2/13)**GEOPOLITICS AND TERRITORIAL ISSUES**

Diehl, Paul F. 1992. "What Are They Fighting for? The Importance of Issues in International Conflict Research." *Journal of Peace Research* 29 (3): 333-344.

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

Hensel, Paul R. 2001. "Contentious Issues and World Politics: The Management of Territorial Claims in the Americas, 1816-1992." *International Studies Quarterly* 45 (1): 81-109.

Starr, Harvey, and G. Dale Thomas. 2005. "The Nature of Borders and International Conflict: Revisiting Hypotheses on Territory." *International Studies Quarterly* 49 (1): 123-139.

Starr, Harvey. 2005. "Territory, Proximity, and Spatiality: The Geography of International Conflict." *International Studies Review* 7 (3): 387-406.

Week 6 (2/20)**STEPS TO WAR**

- Vasquez, John A. 2004. "The Probability of War, 1816–1992: 2002 Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 48 (1): 1–28.
- Senese, Paul D., and John A. Vasquez. 2005. "Assessing the Steps to War." *British Journal of Political Science* 35 (October): 607-633.
- Senese, Paul D. 2005. "Territory, Contiguity, and International Conflict: Assessing a New Joint Explanation." *American Journal of Political Science* 49 (4): 769-779.
- Senese, Paul D., and John A. Vasquez. (forthcoming). *The Steps to War: An Empirical Study*. Chs. 2 and 8. *UBLeans

Week 7 (2/27)**STRATEGIC BARGAINING AND DETERRENCE I****Classical Deterrence Theory and Criticism**

- Jervis, Robert. 1979. "Deterrence Theory Revisited." *World Politics* 31 (2): 289-324.
- Zagare, Frank C. 1996. "Classical Deterrence Theory: A Critical Assessment." *International Interactions* 21 (4): 365-387.
- Zagare, Frank C. 2004. "Reconciling Rationality with Deterrence: A Re-examination of the Logical Foundations of Deterrence Theory." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 16 (2): 107 – 141.
- Danilovic, Vesna. 2001. "The Sources of Threat Credibility in Extended Deterrence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 341-369.

Conceptual Issues & Empirical Evidence

- Huth, Paul, and Bruce Russett. 1988. "Deterrence Failure and Crisis Escalation." *International Studies Quarterly* 32 (1): 29-45.
- 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 (2): 236-269.
- Danilovic, Vesna. 2001. "Conceptual and Selection Bias Issues in Deterrence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (1): 97-125.

Week 8 (3/5)**STRATEGIC BARGAINING AND DETERRENCE II****Resolve, Signals, and Commitments**

- Schelling, Thomas C. 1966. *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Ch. 2 (pp. 35-91). *UBLeans
- Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.
- Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60 (1):

169-203.

Morrow, James D. 1999. "The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics." In *Strategic Choice and International Relations*, ed. David A. Lake and Robert Powell. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 77-114. *UBLeans

Bargaining and War

Wagner, R. Harrison. 2000. "Bargaining and War." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (3): 469-484.

Slanchev, Branislav L. 2003. "The Principle of Convergence in Wartime Negotiations." *American Political Science Review* 97 (4): 621-632.

Week 9 (3/12) No Class (Spring Recess)

Week 10 — (3/21) Friday 12-3 p.m. Guest: Professor Michelle Benson, University at Buffalo
ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE AND CONFLICT

Barbieri, Katherine. 1996. "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or Source of Interstate Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 33 (1): 29-50.

Oneal, John R., and Bruce M. Russett. 1999. "Assessing the Liberal Peace with Alternative Specifications: Trade Still Reduces Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 36 (4): 423-442.

Benson, Michelle. 2005. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads in the Study of Interdependence and Dyadic Disputes." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22 (2): 113-133.

Dorussen, Han. 2006. "Heterogeneous Trade Interests and Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50 (1): 87-107.

Morrow, James D. 1999. "How Could Trade Affect Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research* 36 (4): 481-489.

Keshk, Omar M.G, Brian M. Pollins, and Rafael Reuveny. 2004. "Trade Still Follows the Flag: The Primacy of Politics in a Simultaneous Model of Interdependence and Armed Conflict." *Journal of Politics* 66 (4): 1155-1179.

Week 11 (3/26) No Class (the instructor is attending the ISA conference)

Week 12 (4/2)

DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE I

Foundations

Doyle, Michael W. 1986. "Liberalism and World Politics." *American Political Science Review* 80 (4): 1151-1169.

Democratic Peace: Structure/Institutions vs. Norms

- Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review* 87 (3): 624-638.
- Rousseau, David L., Christopher Gelpi, Dan Reiter, and Paul K. Huth. 1996. "Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace, 1918-88." *American Political Science Review* 90 (3): 512-33.
- Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2007. "The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited)." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (2): 397-414.

Domestic Audience Costs and Strategic Interaction

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson, and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation for the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 93 (4): 791-808.
- Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Domestic Institutions Constrain or Inform?: Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53 (2): 233-266.
- Clare, Joe. 2007. "Domestic Audiences and Strategic Interests." *Journal of Politics* 69 (3): 732-745.

Week 13 (4/9)**DOMESTIC REGIME TYPE II****Democratic Diversions?**

- Gelpi, Christopher. 1997. "Democratic Diversions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41 (2): 255-82.
- Miller, Ross A. 1995. "Domestic Structures and the Diversionary Use of Force." *American Journal of Political Science* 39 (3): 760-785.

Domestic Politics and Conflict Outcomes

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Randolph M. Siverson. 1995. "War and the Survival of Political Leaders: A Comparative Study of Regime Types and Political Accountability." *American Political Science Review* 89 (4): 841-853.
- Gelpi, Christopher, and Michael Griesdorf. 2001. "Winners or Losers? Democracies in International Crisis, 1918-94." *American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 633-647.
- Reiter, Dan, and Allan C. Stam III. 1998. "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory." *American Political Science Review* 92 (2): 377-389.

Critics of Democratic Peace

- Farber, Henry S., and Joanne Gowa. 1997. "Politics and Peace." *International Security* 20 (2): 123-146.
- Layne, Christopher. 1994. "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19 (2): 5-49.

Week 14 (4/16)**ETHNOPOLITICAL CONFLICTS**

- Gurr, Ted Robert. 1994. "Peoples Against States: Ethnopolitical Conflict and the Changing World System: 1994 Presidential Address." *International Studies Quarterly* 38 (3): 347-377.
- Fearon, James D., and David D. Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.
- Lake, David A. and Donald Rothchild. 1996. "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict." *International Security* 21 (2): 41-75.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2001. "Do Ethnic and Nonethnic Civil Wars Have the Same Causes?" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (3): 259-282.
- Mueller, John. 2000. "The Banality of 'Ethnic War'." *International Security* 25 (1): 42-70.
- Heraclides, Alexis. 1990. "Secessionist Minorities and External Involvement." *International Organization* 44 (3): 341-378.
- Tir, Jaroslav. 2006. "Domestic-Level Territorial Disputes: Conflict Management via Secession." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23 (4): 309 - 328.

Week 15 (4/23)**TERRORISM**

- Rapoport, David C. 2004. "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism." In Cronin, A. K. & Ludes, J. M. (eds.) *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC.: Georgetown University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 46-73). *UBLeads
- Cronin, Audrey Kurth. 2002. "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism." *International Security* 27 (3): 30-58.
- Enders, Walter, and Todd Sandler. 2002. "Patterns of Transnational Terrorism, 1970-1999: Alternative Time-Series Estimates." *International Studies Quarterly* 46 (2): 145-165.
- Kydd, Andrew H., and Barbara F. Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security* 31 (1): 49-80.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2005. "Conciliation, Counterterrorism, and Patterns of Terrorist Violence." *International Organization* 59 (1): 145-176.

Take-home exam will be given in class on April 23 — it is due by 4 p.m. on April 30

~Have a Good Summer~