

## Approaches to the Study of International Relations

PSC 504  
Department of Political Science  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
Fall 2009

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### *Description*

The core course in international relations is designed to introduce students to the major concepts and theories of the field. Topics include the of development international relations theory; cognitive, psychological, rational choice, and related approaches to the study of international politics; structural models; theories of deterrence, arms races, alliances, and war.

### *Required Texts*

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *The War Trap*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981.
- Harvey, Frank P. and Michael Brecher, eds. *Evaluating Methodology in International Studies*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2002
- Keohane, Robert, ed. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.
- Organski, A.F.K. and Jacek Kugler. *The War Ledger*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.
- Sullivan, Michael P. *Theories of International Relations: Transition vs. Persistence*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2002.
- Viotti, Paul R. and Mark V. Kauppi, eds. *International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism, Globalism*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Ally & Bacon, 1999.
- Zagare, Frank C. *Game Theory: Concepts and Applications*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1984.
- Zagare, Frank C. and D. Marc Kilgour. *Perfect Deterrence*. Cambridge University Press, 2000.

### *Suggested Texts*

Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman (eds.). *Progress in International Relations: Appraising the Field*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003.

Midlarski, Manus I. (ed.). *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2000.

Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis (ed.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.

### *Recommended:*

Knopf, Jeffrey W. (2006). "Doing a Literature Review." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 40: 127 – 132.\*

McMenamin, Iain (2006). "Process and Text: Teaching Students to Review the Literature." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 40: 132 – 146.\*

### *Requirements*

There will be one examination (sometime in November) that will count for 35% of the final grade. Make-up examinations will be given only in *extreme* cases.

A major research paper, counting for 45% of the final grade, is required of each student. Paper topics *must* be approved by the instructor. An outline of the paper, with a suggested bibliography, is due the week of **September 15**. The paper is due the last day of class. Papers turned in late will be read at the convenience of the instructor. Papers turned in after **November 1, 2010** will automatically receive a failing grade.

Classroom contributions will count for 20% of the final grade.

From time to time, additional assignments will be posted on the class web page that can be reached at: <http://pluto.fss.buffalo.edu/classes/psc/fczagare/default.htm>.

You will be notified of these assignments by e-mail. Please make sure that you are receiving messages from the PSC 504 Listserv.

## Approaches to the Study of International Relations

The following is a chronological list of topics and suggested readings.

### I. WHAT IS THEORY?

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, *The War Trap*, pp. ix – 10.
- Keohane, Chapters 2 and 3
- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 1
- [Bruce Bueno de Mesquita](#), *Principles of International Politics*, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, Chapter 5.\*
- Harvey and Brecher, Chapters by Nicholson, Starr, Zinnes, Ray, Leng, and Maoz.

### II. HISTORICAL APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 2
- Keohane, Chapters 1, 4 – 6
- [John A. Vasquez](#) (1997). “The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz’s Balancing Proposition.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 899 – 912.#
- [Kenneth N. Waltz](#) (1997). “Evaluating Theories.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 913 – 917.#
- [Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder](#) (1997). “Progressive Research on Degenerate Alliances.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 919 – 922.#
- [Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman](#) (1997). “Lakatos and Neorealism: A Reply to Vasquez.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 923 – 26.#
- [Randall L. Schweller](#) (1997). “New Realist Research on Alliances: Refining, Not Refuting, Waltz’s Balancing Proposition.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 927 – 30.#
- [Stephen M. Walt](#) (1997). “The Progressive Power of Realism.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 931 – 35.#
- [Steve Smith](#) (1997). “New Approaches to International Theory.” In John Baylis and Steve Smith, eds. *The Globalization of World Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 165 – 190.\*

### III. THE DECISION-MAKING APPROACH

- [Richard Snyder, H.W. Bruck, and Burton Sapin](#), “The Decision-Making Approach to International Politics,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 199 – 206.\*
- [David Braybrooke and Charles E. Lindbloom](#), “Types of Decision-Making” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 207 – 216.\*
- [Sidney Verba](#), “Assumptions of Rationality and Non-Rationality in Models of the International System,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 217 – 231.\*
- [Glenn D. Paige](#), “The Korean Decision,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 461 – 472.\*
- Zagare and Kilgour, Chapter 2
- [James E. Campbell](#), “The Referendum that Didn’t Happen: The Forecasts of the 2000 Presidential Election.” *PS*, 35: 33 – 38.\*
- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 3, especially the article by Allison.
- [James N. Rosenau](#), The Premises and Promises of Decision-Making Analysis.” In James C. Charlesworth, ed., *Contemporary Political Analysis*. New York: Free Press, 1967.\*

### IV. PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES

- [Greg Cashman](#), *What Causes War?* New York: Lexington Books, 1993, Ch 2; pp. 36 – 49 (or Sullivan Ch. 2).
- [Alexander and Juliette George](#), *Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House: A Personality Study*, in Nelson Polsby, Robert Dentler and Paul Smith, *Politics and Social Life*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1963, pp. 192 – 208.\*
- [William Freidman](#), “Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House and Political Psychobiography,” *Political Psychology*, 15: 35 – 60.\*
- [Joseph de Rivera](#), *The Psychological Dimension of Foreign Policy*, in William Vocke, *American Foreign Policy*. (New York: Free Press, 1976, pp. 38 – 63.\*
- [Peter Aranson](#), “Presidential Personality and Presidential Decision-Making,” in Peter Aranson, *American Government*. Cambridge, MA: Winthrop, 1981, pp. 434 – 38.\*
- [Charles F. Hermann and Margaret G. Hermann](#) (1967). “An Attempt to Simulate the Outbreak of World War I,” *American Political Science Review*, 61: 400 – 16.#
- [Janice Gross Stein](#), “Psychological Explanations of International Conflict” in Walter Carlsaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons, eds., *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2002, pp. 292 – 308.\*
- [Jack S. Levy](#), “Political Psychology and Foreign Policy” in David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis (ed.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 253 – 84.
- [David G. Winter](#), “Personality and Political Behavior” in David O. Sears, Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis (ed.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 110 – 45.

## V. COGNITIVE APPROACHES

- [Ole R. Holsti](#) (1962). “The Belief System and National Images: A Case Study.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 6: 244 – 52.#
- [Ole R. Holsti, Richard A. Brody, and Robert C. North](#) (1964). “Measuring Affect and Action in International Relations Models: Empirical Materials from the 1962 Cuban Crisis.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 1: 170 – 89.#
- [David M. Lampton](#), “The U.S. Image of Peking in Three International Crises.” *The Western Political Quarterly*, 26: 28 – 49.#
- [Urie Bronfenbrenner](#), “The Mirror Image in Soviet-American Relations.” *Journal of Social Issues*, 16: 45 – 56. Excerpt from Ralph K. White, *Psychology and the Prevention of Nuclear War*. New York, NYU Press, 1986, pp. 71 – 81\*.
- [Richard K. Hermann](#), “Image Theory and Strategic Interaction in International Relations” in Sears, David O., Leonie Huddy and Robert Jervis (ed.). *Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 285 – 314.
- [Stephen G. Walker](#) (2003). “Operational Code Analysis as a Scientific Research Program: A Cautionary Tale,” in Colin Elman and Miriam Fendius Elman, eds. *Progress in International Relations Theory*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

## VI. EXPECTED UTILITY MODELS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, *The War Trap*, entire book.
- [Daniel Ellsberg](#), “The Theory and Practice of Blackmail,” in Oran Young, *Bargaining*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975, pp. 343 – 63.\*

## VII. INTERACTIVE MODELS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

- Zagare, pp. 1 – 64.
- Harvey and Brecher, Chapters by Bueno de Mesquita and Brams
- [Gibbons, Robert](#) (1997). “An Introduction to Applicable Game Theory,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 11: 127 – 49.#

### VIII. RESEARCH TOPIC: DETERRENCE

- Organski and Kugler, Chapter 1; pp. 147 – 79.
- Zagare, pp. 55 – 58.
- [Myerson, Roger B, 2007](#). “Force and Restraint in Strategic Deterrence.”
- [Intriligator, Michael and Dagobert Brito](#) (1984). “Can Arms Races Lead to the Outbreak of War?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 28: 63 – 84.#
- Zagare and Kilgour, Chapters 1 – 5, 10.
- [Achen, Christopher H. and Duncan Snidal](#) (1989). “Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies.” *World Politics*, 41: 143 – 69.#
- [George, Alexander L. and Richard Smoke](#) (1989). “Deterrence and Foreign Policy.” *World Politics*, 41: 170 – 82.#
- [Jervis, Robert](#) (1989). “Rational Deterrence: Theory and Evidence.” *World Politics*, 41: 183 – 207.#
- [Lebow, Richard Ned and Janice Gross Stein](#) (1989). “Rational Deterrence Theory: I Think, Therefore I Deter.” *World Politics*, 41: 208 – 224.#
- [Downs, George W.](#) (1989). “The Rational Deterrence Debate.” *World Politics*, 41: 225 – 37.#

### IX. BALANCE OF POWER, ALLIANCES, AND WAR

- Keohane, Chapters 10 – 11
- Organski and Kugler, pp. 53 –57.
- Zagare, pp. 64 – 85.

### X. RESEARCH TOPIC: ARMS RACES

- Organski and Kugler, pp. 180 – 202.
- [George Downs, David Roche and Randolph Siverson](#), “Arms Races and Competition,” *World Politics*, (October 1985).#
- [Randolph Siverson and Paul Diehl](#), “Arms Races, the Conflict Spiral, and the Onset of War.” In Manus Midlarsky, *Handbook of War Studies* (Unwin Hyman, 1989): 195 – 218.\*

### XI. SYSTEMS THEORY

- Viotti and Kauppi, Chapter 4

\* = available from instructor

# = available at <http://www.jstor.org/>