

POLS 449.01: International Conflict Analysis (section 01) (v 1/29/19)

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Tue: 12-2 PM at IB 211

Thu: 1-2 PM at IB 301

Course description:

This course introduces basic concepts and theories in the field of international security. The field is organized around the study of war, its causes, its characteristics and its mitigation. War is costly and yet both states and leaders resort to the use of force. Our task is to understand the rationale for this phenomenon.

The course is structured as follows. We start with the major theoretical approaches, realism, liberalism, and constructivism, and their understanding of the causes of war. We will then turn to the rationalist perspective to war and apply it to various issue-areas that have preoccupied both the scholarship and policy-making world. Issue-areas that will be covered include the nuclear proliferation, democratic peace, ethnic conflict, and terrorism.

The pre-requisites for this course are POLS 101 and POLS 242. This is not a course on current events. We will focus rather on the concepts that underpin the behavior of states and leaders with regards to international conflict.

Course Readings:

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2009. *Principles of International Politics*. 5th edition. CQ Press. ISBN-13: 978-1452202983, Referred to as “BDM”.

Assigned readings and some chapters from the textbook are in the Library’s E-reserve.

The library website is:

<https://seyhan.library.boun.edu.tr/search~S5?/rpols+449/rpols+449/1,1,1,B/frameet~1842850&FF=rpols+449&1,1>

Course Requirements:

Grade Breakdown:

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| a) Final exam | (30) |
| b) Midterm exam | (30) |
| c) Class Attendance | (10) |
| d) Quiz 1 | (15) |
| e) Quiz 2 | (15) |

Notes:

1. Grading scheme

Students who are not auditing may receive the following grades:

AA = 90-100 BA = 85-89 BB = 80-84 CB = 75-79
CC = 70-74 DC = 65-69 DD = 60-64 F = 59 & below

2. Distribution of the grade and requests for special treatments

My course is designed to reward those who do consistent work. That is why the distribution of the grades is evenly split amongst the components. This means that if you have been doing badly for the first half of the course, you are arithmetically unlikely to make up for it in the second half. Please also note that you must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. I do not give Incompletes, extra credit or any unjustified special treatments. The last date to withdraw officially is 4/16/19.

3. Quizzes

There are two quizzes. Quizzes format can be a combination of multiple choice, structured questions and game theory problem sets. They are meant to be done in a short period of time. Each quiz is worth around 15% of your grade. They are usually held at the beginning of the lesson.

4. Policy on make-ups

You need to provide a valid reason and documentation for any make-ups. Without the documentation, you will automatically get a zero score for that section. It is your job to contact me if you miss an assignment/exam. Do not assume the make-up exam to be easier than the regular exam.

5. Missing classes

If you missed a class, it is your job to find out what you missed, I will not repeat material I have already taught during class. This is especially true for the 1st class where I do housekeeping. Students who missed that class and do not bother to find out about my policies typically do badly for the course.

6. Class attendance

You are expected to show up for class. Attendance is taken every lesson. You may miss four lessons, unexcused without grade penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond the second will result in a 1% deduction from the final grade.

7. Emails

In all emails to me, please include your name and class code (POLS 449.01) in your subject headline. My response will be more effective if you identify yourself clearly. If you have questions about your grades, you should arrange a time to meet in my office.

8. Etiquette

Do not use cell-phones in class. Turn off electronic devices in class as a courtesy to your fellow students. It is your responsibility to inform me about any factor that will interfere with your ability to perform in class, well in advance of scheduled datelines. Use common sense, last minute and “after the fact” requests do not help your credibility.

Course Outline:

Feb 7 Introduction

Frankfurt, 1986.

Topic 1 Major theoretical approaches in International Relations

Feb 12 Assessing Theories

BDM, Chp 1, pp. 35-63.

Feb 14 Realism & Liberalism

Thucydides (2008).

Morgenthau, 1948.

Waltz 1990.

Feb 19 Liberalism & Constructivism

Kant, (1795).

Doyle, 1986.

Checkel, 1998.

Feb 21 Selectorate theory (I)

BDM, Chp 2, pp. 64-95.

Feb 26 Selectorate theory (II)

BDM, Chp 2, pp. 64-95.

Feb 28 Selectorate theory (III) and Review

BDM, Chp 2, pp. 64-95.

Mar 5 Midterm exam

Topic 2 Analytic tools: case study of North Korea

Mar 7 Median Voter Theorem and Win Sets

BDM, chp 3, pp. 96-124.

Mar 12 Win Sets (continued) and Expected Utility

BDM, chp 3, pp. 125-37.

Mar 14 Game Theory (I)

BDM, Chp 4, pp. 138-150.

Mar 19 Game Theory (II)

BDM, Chp 4, pp. 150-164.

Topic 3 Theories of War

**Mar 21 Why War ?
Quiz 1**

BDM, Chp 5. pp. 165- 195.

Mar 26 Domestic Theories of War (I)

BDM, Chp 5. pp. 195-204.

BDM, Chp 6. pp. 205-223, and pp. 228-238

Mar 28 Diversionary War

Oakes 2006.

Apr 2 Democratic Peace (I)

BDM, Chp 14. pp. 443-456.

Apr 4 Democratic Peace (II)

Xenias, 2005
Russett, 2005

Topic 4 Issues-areas in International security

**Apr 9 Regime Type and Democracy Promotion (I)
Quiz 2**

BDM, Chp 14. pp. 456-474.

Apr 11 Regime Type and Democracy Promotion (II)

Tan, 2018.

Apr 16 The politics of foreign aid

BDM, Chp 12. pp. 383-414.

Also, print and read:

“Poll shows Pakistanis growing less afraid of Taliban”,
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-10805780>

“Why Pakistanis would reject \$7.5 billion in US aid”
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2009/1014/p90s01-wosc.html>

BBC 2018, “How will the US move to cut aid affect Pakistan?”
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42579077>

Apr 18 Do democracies win wars ?

Reiter and Stam, 1998.

Apr 30 Nuclear Proliferation

Sagen, 1996-7.

May 2 Terrorism as Irrational (I)

Harris 2002a.

May 7 **Terrorism as Rational**

BDM, Chp 13. pp. 415-442.

May 9 **Terrorism as Irrational (II)**

Harris 2002b.

Wood 2015.

May 14 **Review**

May 16 -June 1 **Final Exam**