International Relations 223: Cycles of War and Peace
Global Security Track (A), Spring 2011

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Course Information:
Class: Gavett 301
Tues and Thurs 2 - 3:15

Description

This course is designed to provide students with a rich understanding of both conflict and peace-making theory, of the advantages and limitations of using qualitative and quantitative evidence to test theory, and of the nuances involved in the practical application of theory to real world conflict. The first half of the course examines explanations of crisis initiation, the escalation of violence, and causes of protracted conflict. The second half surveys theories of conflict resolution (peace-making, negotiation, mediation and arbitration), as well as explanations of the successes and failures of peace-making and peace-keeping efforts (settlement vs. breakdown, spoiler effects, and various forms of intervention).

Generally, each week’s readings consist of theoretical development alongside statistical evidence on Tuesday followed by a case study on Thursday. Each week’s case study does not always reflect that week’s readings, however, as we move through the course these case studies will return, thematically. Thus, the added value of each week’s case study is intended to foster a well-rounded understanding of the central issues that plague contemporary crises, and to study how war and peace evolve in cases that vary (for example) in terms of the geopolitical struggle (e.g., Russia and Georgia), the intensity of the conflict (causes of genocide, e.g., Rwanda), the length of the conflict (enduring rivalries, e.g., the Israeli-Palestinian conflict), and the value of the conflict (territorial and resource wars, e.g., the dispute over Kashmir, the Congo, and the Arctic). Therefore, this course hopes to improve students’ abilities to use a scientific approach to test theory rigorously using both quantitative and qualitative approaches, as well as provide students with a richer knowledge of contemporary conflicts as guided by theory.

Additionally, students will work in groups to apply the theories and concepts learned in a semester-long focused study of a conflict of their choice (see Group Work description below). Overall, this course addresses important questions involving the development of conflicts (why do wars occur, what prolongs fighting, what is the role of violence), as well as the prospects for peace (how is peace made, what makes peace last, why does peace end).
Aims of this course

This course has two broad aims. First, to improve students’ knowledge of real world conflicts and international relations theory. Second, to develop students’ abilities to think critically, write concisely, and speak effectively. Please note that this course does not aim to advance anyone’s political opinion or policy proposal (including those of the instructor). Political opinions often are an integral part of one’s own understanding of the world, however, it is equally important to acknowledge the multiplicity of opinions that exist – a central component of the political process. Therefore, discussion, group work, presentations, and exams will be judged based on the quality of analysis, the development of an argument that incorporates evidence and theory, and not the ability to expound upon any political opinion.

Thus, to assist the instructor in ensuring consistency and fairness in evaluating students, students' are expected to meet the following requirements:

Course Requirements

Readings and Participation

Participation, 20%: Come to class on-time, having read the course material, and be prepared to discuss the material and pay attention to information taught in class. Students are responsible for concepts and information reviewed in class that are not found in the readings. Often the ideas and concepts taught in class will draw from recommended readings, however, recommended readings are simply recommended, not required. Recommended readings are primarily listed so that each student is aware of where these ideas are from, and where to look for further information. Students are encouraged to criticize ideas presented in class, however no form of verbal attacks are permitted. The classroom is to be a supportive, and cooperative free exchange of ideas so that we can engage in serious, meaningful discussions of course material. Disruptive behavior or rudeness toward fellow students will result in a lowered participation grade for the course. Attendance will not be taken, however, students can expect that unexcused absences and/or lateness will result in a lowered participation grade for the course. Excused absences will not affect the participation grade.

Group Work

Students will be assigned to groups. Each group is to choose one conflict to study throughout the semester (this choice must be emailed to the instructor by Sunday, January 23rd for approval). Groups discussions will be held in the classroom (students should expect to meet outside the classroom to develop their group presentations as they deem necessary). Come to group discussion days prepared with information about the conflict with regard to that day’s specified topic. Feel free to print out information, write down internet links, bring books or articles, and distribute your executive summary to your group to aid in your ability to summarize relevant information. This will enhance your group’s understanding of the conflict, and improve your presentation at the end of the semester.

Three Executive Summaries, 5% each (15% total): Each student is to turn in their own two-page, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins, executive summary due
at the start of class on each group discussion day. These executive summaries are intended to ensure that each group member has reviewed the relevant literature and is ready to contribute to discussion on group discussion days.

The first executive summary on the “Origins of the Conflict” is due on **January 27th**.
The second executive summary on the “Actors and Issues” is due on **February 17th**.
The third executive summary on the “History of Conflict and Resolution” is due on **March 24th**.

**Group Presentation, 20%:** Each group is to create a presentation that teaches the class about the origins of their chosen conflict, the actors and issues that are important to the conflict, the overall history of the conflict and its resolution (or attempts to resolve the conflict), and develop an argument about this conflict in light of the theories and concepts learned in this course. Please draw from theoretical concepts regarding both the conflict and conflict resolution (or the potential for conflict resolution) for the presentation. Each group’s presentation is to be no longer than 12 minutes total. Group members who do not present will receive a zero for their group presentation grade. Group presentations will be followed by questions from fellow students and the instructor, and a general discussion of what we as a class can learn from this conflict (in preparation for the final exam). Group presentations will be made on two separate “pizza and pop” **group presentation days** on Thursday, **April 21st** and Tuesday, **April 26th**. Attendance and participation is required for everyone in the class.

**Exams**

**Midterm Exam, 20%:** Thursday, March 3rd. The midterm consists of identification-style questions as well as short essays. Options will be given to allow students to choose the questions they feel they can best answer. A study guide will be distributed at least one week before the exam.

**Final Exam, 25%:** See registrar’s schedule for date/time. The final exam is cumulative and will consist of identification-style questions, short essay questions, and a long essay that will require students to defend an argument using evidence gained from case studies reviewed in class and as presented by the various groups. Options will be given to allow students to choose the questions they feel they can best answer. A study guide will be distributed at least one week before the exam.

**Grading Policy**

No incomplete grades will be given as a final course grade. Students who fail to complete the course will be given a failing grade. Final grades are computed as follows: Participation (20%), Executive Summaries (15%), Group Presentation (20%), Midterm (20%), Final Exam (25%).

**Late Assignment Policy**

Assignments are due by the start of class on the due date. Hard copies of written assignments are expected, however, emailed copies are acceptable if unforeseen circumstances arise. Students will lose 10 points (out of 100) for every 24 hours that an assignment is late.
Exam Policy

Exams are to be taken at the specified day and time. If you cannot take the exam on the specified day/time, prior approval (at least 48 hours in advance) must be obtained. If approval is not obtained at least 48 hours in advance, a failing grade will be given for that exam. Make-up exams must be taken within 3 days of the specified time/day. Lateness on the day of the exam will result in less time to take the exam.

Academic Integrity

There are many forms of academic dishonesty, which include, but are not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, false citations, creating or using fraudulent records or official documents, and aiding another person in their academic dishonesty. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Any case of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the College Board of Academic Honesty. Please speak with the instructor immediately if you have any concerns or questions about academic integrity.

Campus Resources

There are several on-campus resources here to help you succeed in college, and to ensure that you are safe and secure. Please contact these resources if you feel that any of these may be helpful to you:

College Center for Academic Support (CCAS): 585-275-2354
Learning Assistance Services: 585-275-9049
The Center for Study Abroad and Interdepartmental Programs: 585-275-7532
University Health Services: 585-275-2662
University Counseling Center: 585-275-3113
University Security Services: 585-275-3333
University Facilities and Services: 585-273-4567

Required Texts

Recommended Texts


Schedule

**Week 1: Thursday January 13**  
Course Logistics

**Week 2a: Tuesday January 18**  
No Class

**Week 2b: Thursday January 20**  
Traditional Thoughts on Causes of War


**Week 3a: Tuesday January 25**  
Structural vs. Fundamental Causes of War


- GTN Introduction.

Recommended:


Week 3b: Thursday January 27
Group Discussions: Origins of the Conflict

• Executive Summary 1 due.

Week 4a: Tuesday February 1
Alternative Motivations in War: Reputation, Power and Symbolism


Recommended:


Week 4b: Thursday February 3
Case Study: Israel and Palestine

• GTN Chapters 14, 15.

Week 5a: Tuesday February 8
Territory, Domestic Politics and War

• SYG Chapters 1, 2, 3.

Recommended:


**Week 5b: Thursday February 10**  
**Case Study: Kashmir**

- GTN Chapter 12.

**Recommended:**


**Week 6: Tuesday February 15**  
**Domestic Politics, War Propensity, and the Choice Between Diplomatic and Military Conflict**

- SYG Chapters 4, 5.

**Recommended:**


**Week 6b: Thursday February 17**  
**Group Discussions: Actors and Issues**

- Executive Summary 2 due.

**Week 7a: Tuesday February 22**  
**Causes of Protracted Conflict: Domestic vs. International Reasons to Escalate Violence**
• HA Chapters 2 - 3.
• ST Chapters 1 - 2.

Recommended:


Week 7b: Thursday February 24
Case Study: Russia and Georgia


• “Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia.” *Report by the European Union*. Available at:

  http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/bsp/hi/pdfs/30_09_09_iiffmgc_report.pdf

Week 8a: Tuesday March 1
Research Design: Data vs. Case Studies

• HA Chapters 4 - 6, and 7.

• ST Chapters 4, 5, and 7.

• Note: Groups will be assigned to individual chapters. You are not responsible for every chapter this week, but you are responsible to contribute to the discussion with regard to your assigned chapter.

Week 8b: Thursday March 3
MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10a: Tuesday March 15 Peacemaking: Mediation, Negotiation and Arbitration

• PIIC Chapters 3-5.

Recommended:


Week 10b: Thursday March 17
Case Study: Cyprus


Recommended:


Week 11a: Tuesday March 22
The Prospects for Peace

• PT Chapters 3 - 5.

• GTN Chapters 5 - 6.

Recommended:


**Week 11b: Thursday March 24**
**Group Discussions: History of Conflict and Resolution**

• Executive Summary 3 due.

**Week 12a: Tuesday March 29**
**The Choice Between Peaceful Settlement and Violence**

• SYG Chapters 6, 7.

• HA Chapters 8, 9.

• PT Chapter 2, 6.

**Week 12b: Thursday March 31**
**Case Study: Eurasia and Nagorno Karabakh**


• GTN Chapter 11.

**Recommended:**


**Week 13a: Tuesday April 5**
**Economic, Military and Humanitarian Intervention**

• PIIC Chapters 10, 11.


**Recommended:**

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Week 13b: Thursday April 7
Case Study: Darfur, Rwanda, and Genocide

• GTN Chapter 7.

Recommended:


Week 14a: Tuesday April 12
Spoiling the Peace


Recommended:


**Week 14b: Thursday April 14**

**Case Study: The Conflict Over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands**


**Week 15a: Tuesday April 19**

**Case Study 1: The Spratly Islands**


Recommended:


**Case Study 2: The Conflict Over the Arctic Circle**


Week 15b: Thursday April 21
Group Presentation Day 1

Week 16: Tuesday April 26
Group Presentation Day 2