

PSC 566: International Relations Field Seminar I

Prof. Bethany Lacina

Wednesdays, 2–4:40

Harkness 329

Goals of the Field Seminars

This is the first of two international relations field seminars for graduate students. This pair of courses has three goals:

1. To give students a brief introduction to the large academic literature on international politics, preparing for the synthesis and analysis required for a dissertation prospectus.
2. To introduce students to research problems that animate current work in the field, so they can see and evaluate examples of ongoing research in addition to commenting on classic works.
3. To gain practical experience in digesting a theoretical argument, drawing out empirical implications, analyzing relevant evidence, and identifying directions for future research.

Goals of this course

This is the first of two graduate seminars on international relations. This course covers the history of the field and introduces major areas of research.

The second course in the sequence focuses on rationalist and empirical approaches to international relations.

Instructor

Bethany Lacina

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Office: Harkness 316

Office hours: Mondays, 12–2

Course Requirements

1. Students must attend every class. A student who misses class must get in touch with me within 24 hours of the start of the missed class period and then complete a make-up assignment.
2. Reading for the week must be completed by all students before class. I will get in touch with you outside of class if I have concerns about your preparation for class or participation.

3. Students are expected to write short (no more than 2-page) papers critiquing the assigned readings for each week following week 1. Each week's papers will be due by email to me by 9:00am on the Tuesday before class meets. The papers should address some aspect of the week's readings, such as by:

- critically examining a set of arguments,
- appraising a controversy in the literature, and/or
- discussing the strengths and weaknesses of the research tools employed.

While the content of these papers is flexible, what I do not want is a blow-by-blow summary of each reading for a week.

Students have the option of skipping two papers; alternatively, the lowest two grades will be dropped.

4. A take-home final exam of about 10 pages. This will be scheduled for a 48 hour period somewhere in the interval 12/8 to 12/17. The dates will be chosen by the class.

Grading and deadlines

Grading will be as follows: 1/3 class participation, 1/3 the average of the short papers, and 1/3 final.

Short papers received after the deadline but before the start of class will receive half credit. Papers not handed in by the start of class will receive a zero.

The final exam will be marked down one letter grade per 24 hours after the deadline. It will receive a zero if it is not handed in within one week of the due date.

Readings

- Most of the journal articles and book chapters in the syllabus are available through links below.
- Readings marked with a dagger (†) are available as electronic books from the Rochester library.
- You should purchase the following books:
 1. Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press.
 2. Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. This book has had multiple printings. They are all the same text as the first edition.
 3. Robert Powell. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power: States and Strategies in International Politics*. Princeton University Press.

Academic honesty

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. The College Board on Academic Honesty provides further information on our policies and procedures: www.rochester.edu/college/honesty.

In this course the following additional requirements are in effect: You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. All written work must properly format quotations, use citations, and include a bibliography where necessary. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Honesty Board.

Class schedule

1. Aug 25 – Introduction to the course

David A. Lake. 2013. “Theory is dead, long live theory: The end of the Great Debates and the rise of eclecticism in International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations*, 19(3): 567—587. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066113494330>

2. Sept 1 – What is an international system and what traits does it have?

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Addison-Wesley. Chapters 3, 4.

Markus Fischer. 1992. “Feudal Europe, 800-1300: Communal discourse and conflictual practices.” *International Organization*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2706859>

David A. Lake. 2017. “Hierarchy and International Relations: Theory and Evidence.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. https://www.dropbox.com/s/mbdoom8ei8auko1/Lake_Hierarchy_OREP.pdf?dl=0

Brandon J. Kinne. 2018. “Defense Cooperation Agreements and the Emergence of a Global Security Network.” *International Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818318000218>

Bentley B. Allan, Srdjan Vucetic, and Ted Hopf. 2018. “The Distribution of Identity and the Future of International Order: China’s Hegemonic Prospects.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818318000267>

Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni. 2020. “Death of international organizations: The organizational ecology of intergovernmental organizations, 1815–2015.” *Review of International Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-018-9340-5>

3. Sept 8 – Imperialism and the origins of IR

Robert Vitalis. 2005. “Birth of a discipline.” In *Imperialism and Internationalism in the Discipline of International Relations*. David Long and Brian C. Schmidt, eds. SUNY Press. https://www.dropbox.com/s/uk3yc3ifm3ysx93/Long_Schmidt_Imperialism_Internationalism.pdf?dl=0

Peter Wilson. 2012. “The myth of the first ‘great debate’.” In *International Relations and the First Great Debate*. Brian Schmidt, ed. Routledge. †

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1–4.

4. Sept 15 – Liberal internationalism and the post-WW2 global system

Daniel Deudney and G. John Ikenberry. 1999. “The nature and sources of liberal international order.” *Review of International Studies*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210599001795>

John R. Oneal, Bruce Russett, and Michael L. Berbaum. 2003 “Causes of Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885–1992.” *International Studies Quarterly*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2478.4703004>

Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 1999. “The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations.” *International Organization*. www.jstor.org/stable/2601307

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. 2020. *Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of American Global Order*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 2. †

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 5–6.

5. Sept 22 – Realist dissent

Hans Morgenthau. 1948. *Politics among Nations*. 1st ed. Knopf. Selections. (Provided by instructor).

John J. Herz. 1950. “Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma.” *World Politics*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i308594>

John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. W. W. Norton and Company. Selections. https://www.dropbox.com/s/c0ih6v66n5b7nb9/Mearsheimer_Tragedy_Great_Power_Politics.pdf?dl=0

Jennifer Welsh. 2003. “I is for Ideology: Conservatism in International Affairs”, *Global Society* 17(2): 165–185. <http://doi.org/10.1080/1360082032000069073>

Michael C. Williams. 2013. “In the beginning: The International Relations enlightenment and the ends of International Relations theory.” *European Journal of International Relations*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066113495477>

6. Sept 29 – The rationalist critique of realism

Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Addison-Wesley. Chapters 5, 6, 8.

James D. Fearon. 1995. “Rationalist Explanations for War.” *International Organization*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2706903>

Robert Powell. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power: States and Strategies in International Politics*. Princeton University Press.

7. Oct 6 – The rise and fall of the “ism” wars

Alexander Wendt. 1992. “Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization*. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2706858>

Michael Doyle. 1986. “Liberalism and World Politics.” *American Political Science Review*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1960861>

Robert Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 4–6. (Provided by instructor).

Amitav Acharya and Barry Buzan. 2019. *The Making of Global International Relations*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters 8 and 10.

8. Oct 13 – Is liberal internationalism over?

Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon. Forthcoming. *Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of American Global Order*. Oxford University Press. Chapters 4–6. †

Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni and Stephanie C. Hofmann (2019). “Of the contemporary global order, crisis, and change,” *Journal of European Public Policy*. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2019.1678665>

Samuel P. Huntington. 1993. “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*. www.jstor.org/stable/20045621

Kari Roberts. 2017. “Understanding Putin: The politics of identity and geopolitics in Russian foreign policy discourse.” *International Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020702017692609>

Christopher Joseph MacKay and David LaRoche. 2018. “Why Is There No Reactionary International Theory?” *International Studies Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqx083>

Part II: Outcomes in the international system

9. Oct 20 – International economic policy

David A. Lake. 2009. “Open Economy Politics: A Critical Review.” *The Review of International Organizations*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11558-009-9060-y>

Margaret E. Peters. 2015. “Open Trade, Closed Borders: Immigration in the Era of Globalization.” *World Politics*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24578340>

J. Bradford Jensen, Dennis P. Quinn, and Stephen Weymouth. 2015. “The influence of firm global supply chains and foreign currency undervaluations on US trade disputes.” *International Organization*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24758261>

Jeff Colgan, Jessica F. Green, and Thomas Hale. “Asset Revaluation and the Existential Politics of Climate Change.” *International Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000296>

Leslie Johns, Krzysztof J. Pelc, and Rachel L. Wellhausen. 2019. “How a Retreat from Global Economic Governance May Empower Business Interests.” *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/702231>

10. Oct 27 – International cooperation and international organizations

Randall W. Stone. 2008. “The Scope of IMF Conditionality.” *International Organization*. www.jstor.org/stable/40071891

Michael M. Bechtel and Thomas Sattler. “What Is Litigation in the World Trade Organization Worth?” *International Organization*. www.jstor.org/stable/24758119

Vegard H. Tørstad. 2020. “Participation, ambition and compliance: can the Paris Agreement solve the effectiveness trilemma?” *Environmental Politics*. <http://doi.org/10.1080/09644016.2019.1710322>

Tana Johnson. 2020. “Ordinary Patterns in an Extraordinary Crisis: How International Relations Makes Sense of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000430>

Stephen C. Nelson. 2014. “Playing Favorites: How Shared Beliefs Shape the IMF’s Lending Decisions.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818313000477>

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. 2019. “The Disclosure Dilemma: Nuclear Intelligence and International Organizations.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12426>

11. Nov 3 – How does the international economy influence peace and conflict?

Kerim Can Kavalki, J. Tyson Chatagnier, and Emre Hatipoğlu. 2020. “The Power to Hurt and the Effectiveness of International Sanctions.” *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/707398>

Julia C. Morse. 2019. “Blacklists, Market Enforcement, and the Global Regime to Combat Terrorist Financing.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S002081831900016X>

Kyle Beardsley, Howard Liu, Peter J. Mucha, David A. Siegel, and Juan F. Tellez. 2020. “Hierarchy and the Provision of Order in International Politics.” *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/707096>

Beth A. Simmons. 2005. “Rules Over Real Estate: Trade, Territorial Conflict, and International Borders as Institutions.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2F0022002705281349>

Alberto Alesina, Enrico Spolaore, and Romain Wacziarg. 2000. “Economic Integration and Political Disintegration.” *American Economic Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1257/aer.90.5.1276>

12. Nov 10 – Regimes, leaders, and international behavior

Susan D. Hyde and Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2020. “Recapturing Regime Type in International Relations: Leaders, Institutions, and Agency Space.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818319000365>

Alexandre Debs and Hein Goemans. “Regime Type, The Fate of Leaders and War.” *American Political Science Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055410000195>

Joslyn N. Barnhart, Robert F. Trager, Elizabeth N. Saunders, and Allan Dafoe. 2020. “The Suffragist Peace.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000508>

Andrew Bertoli, Allan Dafoe, and Robert F. Trager. 2019. “Is There a War Party? Party Change, the Left–Right Divide, and International Conflict.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0022002718772352>

Matthew A. Baum and Philip B. K. Potter. 2019. “Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy in the Age of Social Media.” *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/702233>

13. Nov 17 – The role of international system in determining political regimes

Patrick J. McDonald. 2015. “Great Powers, Hierarchy, and Endogenous Regimes: Rethinking the Domestic Causes of Peace.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818315000120>

Michael K. McKoy and Michael K. Miller. 2012. “The Patron’s Dilemma: The Dynamics of Foreign-Supported Democratization.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23414715>

Kaitlyn Webster, Chong Chen, and Kyle Beardsley. 2019. “Conflict, Peace, and the Evolution of Women’s Empowerment.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818319000055>

Dawn Brancati and Adrián Lucardi. 2019. “Why Democracy Protests Do Not Diffuse.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0022002718815957>.

Kurt Weyland. 2019. “Why Some Democracy Protests Do Diffuse.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0022002719862426>

Nov 24 – No class

14. Dec 1 – Anarchy and international security

James D. Fearon. 2018. “Cooperation, Conflict, and the Costs of Anarchy.” *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818318000115>

Sandeep Baliga and Tomas Sjöström. 2004. “Arms Races and Negotiations.” *The Review of Economic Studies*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3700629>

David Lindsey. 2019. “Mutual Optimism and Costly Conflict: The Case of Naval Battles in the Age of Sail.” *The Journal of Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1086/704221>

Mark Fey and Kristopher Ramsay. 2007. “Mutual Optimism and War.” *American Journal of Political Science*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4620097>

15. Dec 8 – International negotiation and signaling

James D. Fearon. 1994. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes.” *American Political Science Review*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2944796>

Kenneth Schultz. 1998. “Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises.” *American Political Science Review*. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2586306>

Eric Min. 2020. "Talking While Fighting: Understanding the Role of Wartime Negotiation." *International Organization*. <http://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818320000168>

Jessica L. Weeks. 2008. "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve." *International Organization*. www.jstor.org/stable/40071874

William G. Nomikos and Nicolas Sambanis. 2019. "What is the mechanism underlying audience costs? Incompetence, belligerence, and inconsistency." *Journal of Peace Research*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0022343319839456>