

IRCO 410: INTERNATIONAL POLITICS and SECURITY

University of California, San Diego
Graduate School of International Relations &
Pacific Studies
Winter 2009 Tuesdays/Thursdays 9:30-10:50
& 12:30-1:50

Professor Barbara Walter
Email: bfwalter@ucsd.edu
Phone: (858) 822-0775
Office: Robinson Bldg. 1323
Office Hrs: Tuesdays 2:00-4:00

Course Outline and Readings

This course explores key concept and theories of international relations and shows how they can be used to understand and explain real-world problems. The course is divided into two sections. The first half is devoted to obtaining the analytic tools needed to understand why governments and their leaders make the foreign policy decisions they do. This includes a close examination of both the international and domestic forces shaping foreign policy, as well as a host of strategic problems that emerge during periods of crises.

The second half of the course concentrates on applying these concepts and theories to current topics in international relations. These include the nuclear proliferation, terrorism, civil wars, the environment, and the rise of China,. The goal is to enhance students' capacity to think critically about the basic forces that shape international politics, and in so doing improve their ability to understand and evaluate important real-world events.

Requirements

Students are expected to do all of the assigned reading, attend every lecture, and be prepared to discuss in detail the readings for each class. All of the readings are available either through the url listed below (accessed through your university account), or through e-reserves. The final grade will be based on the following:

- Short memos: Due in class. See syllabus. 10% of grade.
- 1st Paper. Due: Thursday January 29th. 20% of grade.
- 2nd Paper. Due: Thursday February 19th. 30% of grade.
- 3rd Paper: Due Tuesday March 17 at noon in R2D2. 40% of grade.

Paper: Paper topics will be handed out one week before they are due via First Class. Papers should be no more than 5 pages, double-spaced, with one inch margins. Papers must follow all conventions of attribution and notation. Quotes and paraphrasing must be explicitly cited. Violation of these rules is plagiarism.

Teaching Assistant: Brett Saalwaetcher

WEEKLY SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Tuesday January 6 Introduction

- No reading

Thursday January 8 The Strategic Approach to Analyzing International Politics: Who are the Main Actors?

- Jeffrey A. Frieden, David A. Lake and Kenneth A. Schultz, International Relations: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions. (under contract with W.W. Norton for publication Fall 2009), chapter 2, Understanding Interests, Interactions, and Institutions. Hereafter known as FLS. Can be accessed on-line for free, but you must register at:
http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world_politics_ebook/
- Case Discussion: Jenny Percival. "Israel launches deadly Gaza attacks." December 27, 2008. Guardian.co.uk Can be accessed at:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/dec/27/israelandthepalestinians>

Short memo assignment on the case:

In no more than 2 double spaced pages, please answer the following questions. (Make sure to justify each of your answers.)

Who are the main actors in this recent conflict in the Middle East? What are each of these actors trying to maximize? Why did war break out again this past week? Why are the players unable to settle their dispute peacefully?

Tuesday January 13 What are their Preferences?

What outcomes are actors attempting to maximize? How do you determine what their preferences are?

States and Their Preferences:

- Stephen Krasner, Defending the National Interest: Raw Materials Investments and U.S. Foreign Policy, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1978) pp. 5-20. On e-reserves.

- Helen Milner, Interests, Institutions and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations. (Princeton: Princeton University Press 1997), pp. 3-23, pp. 33-46, pp. 60-65. On e-reserves.

Non-State Actors and Their Preferences:

Please come to class prepared to discuss what you believe each of the following non-state actors is attempting to maximize: Terrorist organizations, NGOs, Multi-national organizations.

Thursday January 15 Case analysis: The Cuban Missile Crisis

- Ned Lebow, The Cuban Missile Crisis, CIAO Case Study. Can be accessed at:

<http://www.ciaonet.org/casestudy/ler01/>

Short memo assignment: In no more than 2 double-spaced pages, please identify the main actors in this crisis and their main objectives. Please explain why each side chose the actions it chose, and why war did not occur.

Tuesday January 20 No Class.

Thursday January 22 What Strategies Can Actors Pursue?

Military and Non-Military Sources of Influence:

- Thomas Schelling. “The Diplomacy of Violence,” Arms and Influence. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966). pp. 1-34. On e-reserves.
- Alexander Thompson, “Coercion Through IOs: The Security Council and the Logic of Information Transmission,” International Organization, (Winter 2006). Can be accessed at:
http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FINO%2FINO60_01%2FS0020818306060012a.pdf&code=3bd9f6f52681ce4a2cf84720c13bb8d5

Tuesday January 27 What Information Do They Have About Each Other?

- Robert Jervis, The Logic of Images in International Relations. Chapters 1-2. pp. 3-40. On e-reserves.
- James D. Morrow, “The Strategic Setting of Choices: Signaling, Commitment, and Negotiation in International Politics,” in David A. Lake and Robert

Powell, Strategic Choice and International Relations. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999), pp. 77-114. On e-reserves.

Thursday January 29 Case Analysis: The Taiwan Straits Crisis

- Case: The 1996 Taiwan Straits Crisis. Will be posted on First Class.

1st Paper Due.

ANALYZING CURRENT PROBLEMS

Tuesday February 3 Do We Still Have War?

If war is risky and costly, why would states ever choose to fight?

- James D. Fearon. "Rationalist Explanations for War," International Organization. 49, No. 3 (1995): pp. 379-414. Can be accessed at: <http://polisci.ucsd.edu/~bslantch/courses/pdf/fearon-io1995v49n3.pdf>

Thursday February 5 The Problem of Private Information: The 1st Gulf War

Why did the 1st Gulf War occur, and to what degree did information problems play a role?

- Steven Yetiv, The Persian Gulf Crisis. (Westport: Greenwood Press, 1997), Chapters 1-4. On e-reserves.
- Case: Joseph S. Nye Jr. "Why the Gulf War Served the National Interest," The Atlantic. July 1991. Will be posted on First Class.

**Tuesday February 10 The Problem of Credibly Committing to a Settlement:
The 2nd Gulf War**

Why did the 2nd Gulf War occur, and why were Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush not able to reach a settlement?

- Robert Powell, "War as a Commitment Problem," International Organization. (Winter 2006) pp. 169-204. http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FINO%2FINO60_01%2FS0020818306060061a.pdf&code=0bbf43f84ef4459b454f2789ffa4ab4d

- Case: Kenneth Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad?” Foreign Affairs, March/April 2002. <http://fullaccess.foreignaffairs.org/20020301faessay7970/kenneth-m-pollack/next-stop-baghdad.html>

Thursday February 12 Why Do Democracies Not Fight?

- Bruce Bueno De Mesquita et.al. “An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace,” American Political Science Review. Vol. 93, No. 4 (December 1999).
<http://www.jstor.org/view/00030554/di011607/01p06031/0>
- Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, “Democratization and War,” Foreign Affairs. (May/June 1995).
<http://fullaccess.foreignaffairs.org/19950501faessay5039/edward-mansfield-jack-snyder/democratization-and-war.html>

Tuesday February 17 Nuclear Proliferation

Why do states seek nuclear weapons? And can states cooperate to contain the spread of nuclear weapons?

- Scott Sagan, “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb,” International Security. Vol. 21, no. 3 (Winter 1996-97), pp. 54-86. <http://www.jstor.org/view/01622889/di008157/00p0004z/0>

Thursday February 19 Nuclear Proliferation. Case: North Korea.

Why has the conflict between the US and North Korea not been resolved?

- Ted Galen Carpenter and Doug Bandow, The Korean Conundrum: America’s Troubled Relations with North and South Korea. (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2004) Chapter 2-3, pp. 39-100. On e-reserves.

2nd Paper Due.

Tuesday February 24 The Emergence of Terrorism

Terrorism has become increasingly popular over the last twenty years. Why has this particular form of violence emerged, and why now?

- FLS, Chapter 9 “Non-State Actors in International Politics.”

http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world_politics_ebook/welcome.asp?page=368

- Robert Pape, Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. (New York: Random House, 2005), pp. 3-76. On e-reserves.

Thursday February 26 How Terrorism Works

How does terrorism work and why is it sometimes successful and other times not?

- Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism,” International Security (Summer 2006) pp. 49-80.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international_security/v031/31.1kydd.html

Tuesday March 3 Civil Wars

What explains the increase in civil wars over time? And what are some of the causes?

- Monty Marshall and Ted Robert Gurr, Peace and Conflict, 2005. Introduction and Chapter 3, pp. 1, and 11-15.

<http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/PC05print.pdf>

- James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin. Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War. American Political Science Review. Vol. 97, No. 1 (February 2003).

http://journals.cambridge.org/download.php?file=%2FPSR%2FPSR97_01%2FS0003055403000534a.pdf&code=06f2522e78a432ad0e7fa9d615b280fd

Thursday March 5 Why So Few Negotiated Settlements in Civil Wars?

Why are civil wars so difficult to resolve in negotiated settlements?

- Barbara F. Walter. “Bargaining Failures and Civil War.” Annual Review of Political Science. Spring 2009. Will be posted on First Class.

- Barbara F. Walter, Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001), Chapter 2, pp. 19-43. On e-reserves.

Tuesday March 10: The Global Environment

Why is international environmental cooperation so hard to achieve?

- FLS, Chapter 10, “The Global Environment.”

http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/world_politics_ebook/welcome.asp?page=486

- Case: Ronald B. Mitchell, “Regime Design Matters: Intentional Oil Pollution and Treaty Compliance,” International Organization, Vol. 48, No. 3 (Summer 1994).

<http://www.jstor.org/view/00208183/dm980287/98p0150k/0>

Thursday March 12: Emerging Rivalries

Is War between the U.S. and China inevitable?

- Jack S. Levy. “Declining Power and the Preventive Motivation for War,” World Politics, Vol. 40, No. 1 (October 1987).

<http://www.jstor.org/view/00438871/di971249/97p0166q/0>

- Case: Nicholas D. Kristof, “The Rise of China,” Foreign Affairs, (November/December 1993).

<http://fullaccess.foreignaffairs.org/19931201faessay5219/nicholas-d-kristof/the-rise-of-china.html>

Final Paper due Tuesday March 17th at noon in R2D2. Good luck!