

INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

POLI: 3512: 0001

Instructor: Saera Lee
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Course website: icon.uiowa.edu

Spring 2021
101 BCSB (face to face)
MW, 3:30P - 4:45P

Zoom drop-in hours: Tuesdays 2-3 or email for an appointment at other times

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims to understand the conditions for war and peace in international relations. Throughout the course, students will examine causes of war, the outcomes and consequences of war and solutions to prevent or limit war. Students will be able to apply the factors that promote or mitigate international conflict and should be able to apply these factors in examining real world scenarios and assessing the prospect of future conflict in troubled areas. The course is an upper division course in the general field of international relations; thus, students would benefit from taking POLI:1500 (Introduction to International Relations) prior to this course. The course is approved for International Studies majors and required for International Relations majors.

REQUIRED READINGS (ORDER ONLINE)

Levy, Jack S. and William R. Thompson. 2010. *Causes of War*. West Sussex, UK. Wiley- Blackwell. Paperback: ISBN: 978-1405175593. There is also an e-book version.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and John A. Vasquez. 2013. *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press/Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4522-4449-5. E-versions and rentals available from the publisher (<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/conflict-war-and-peace/book237760>).

All articles marked with an asterisk (*) and optional readings can be found on the course website at <https://icon.uiowa.edu/>. You can also find a copy of the syllabus and copies of the group project assignment. Click on Modules to find materials for each day of class.

COURSE DESIGN & STRUCTURE

This is in-person course that has in-person class on every Mon and Wed from 15:30 to 16:45. For those students who cannot come to in-person class, lecture will be available synchronously through zoom. Students can find the zoom link for the class on ICON.

If the university moves to all online classes, we will plan to continue via synchronous zoom courses. This is, of course, subject to change or amendment depending on the circumstances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Class Participation: 10%
- Reading Quizzes: 15%
- Midterm Exams: 50% (2 exams, 25% each)
- Group Project: 25%

Class Participation (10%)

One of the greatest challenges of COVID situation is providing opportunities to participate in the class. Class participation is designed to encourage you to reflect on course concepts and engage with your classmates. Most of the weeks there will be discussion forums and for other weeks, there will be writing reflections. The specifics for each week are in the weekly module.

For discussion forums, students will be split into groups of six to seven students (same as group project groups) at the beginning of the semester. Students will be randomly selected as discussion leaders each week and will be given a set of discussion questions to answer on Discussion Board on ICON. Other members of the group must post at least one comment in response per week. Saying “good job” or “I agree with you” is not adequate for earning participation points. Discussion forum is due Friday at 11:59.

Writing reflections will be submitted via ICON but only shared with me. Writing reflections are due on Fridays at 11:59. The rubric for these assignments can be found on ICON.

Your 1 lowest participation grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Reading Quizzes (15%, ICON)

Most weeks (starting in Week 2 and skipping weeks with exams and presentations), students will take 5-question multiple choice quiz. The goal of these quizzes is to provide opportunity to make sure you are understanding the material and help you review important concepts. Quizzes are due on Fridays at 11:59pm so students can take the quiz after the lecture. Students will have 5 minutes to complete each quiz and will be allowed to drop their one lowest quiz grade. There are no make-up quizzes and any missed quiz is automatically dropped as the lowest score.

Midterm Exams (25 x 2, 50%, ICON)

There are two exams scheduled on March 10th and April 21st. All students will take exams on ICON and the format includes multiple choice and essay questions. Exams are open book, but you must work alone. Students will have 75 minutes to complete the exams. The exam page will be open at our regular class time (3:30pm – 4:45pm). You will not be able to take the exam once it is closed and the exam stops at 4:45pm. So even if you are in the middle of completing it, it will stop.

Policy on Rescheduling Exams: You are required to take the exam as scheduled. The only allowable exception to this policy is a documented emergency or university event. In cases of severe illness and family emergency (death in family), you need to provide sufficient proof of the absence (e.g. a doctor’s note, the obituary, etc). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **BEFORE** the exam, or you will receive zero credit.

Group Project (25%)

Each student will be placed in a group consisting of six to seven students. Each group will receive various pieces of information about a (fictitious) pair of countries and will be asked to predict whether these countries will fight a war based on this information. In this project, students will draw upon the theoretical material covered in class to make their predictions. Each group will be required to make a Power Point Presentation on ICON during the last two class periods on May 3rd and May 5th, in addition to submitting a paper summarizing individual's finding, and a short paper describing each group member's experience with the project. Other class members will attend the group presentation on Zoom. More information about the group projects will be posted on ICON.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 5 extra credit points by writing one-page reflection paper (Times New Roman, 12 pt., 1-inch margin) on optional readings (and movie). You get one point for each submitted reflection paper. Paper should be submitted to me via email before the beginning of class on the same day the optional reading (or movie) is assigned. The paper should be not mere summary of the paper but should reflect your thoughts and be connected to what we've learned. Since this is extra credit, there won't be make-ups.

CLASS POLICIES

Communications and Office Hours

I will communicate with you outside of class primarily through email. Please make sure to check your UIowa.edu email and ICON regularly as I will send and post reminders and recitation assignments over email. You will be responsible for the information sent out over email. Please use proper grammar, punctuation, and communication when emailing your professor. Use actual words, such as "you," instead of "u." Please identify yourself in the subject line if you are not using a "uiowa" address. Please do not call me by my first name. In general, just remember to conduct yourself in a professional manner. All email communication with me should include a subject line that begins with POLI:3512. We all receive many emails a day and this helps ensure that yours doesn't get lost.

Office hours will be held on zoom, every Tuesday from 2pm to 3pm. Zoom link for office hour is posted on ICON. If this time doesn't work, do not hesitate to email me to schedule a zoom meeting. Please allow up to 48 hours for scheduling. I will send you a zoom appointment at that scheduled time.

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

Students will find the Writing Center and the Speaking Center very useful for this course.

Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.uiowa.edu/>

Speaking Center: <http://speakingcenter.uiowa.edu/>

GRADING

Final grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=94-100, A-=90-94, B+=87-90, B=84-87, B-=80-84, C+=77-80, C=74-77, C-=70-74, D+=67-70, D=64-67, D-=60-64, F=<60.

IMPORTANT DATES

- March 10 Exam 1
- April 21 Exam 2
- May 3/5 Group Project Presentation
- Refer Group Project Instructions for important dates for group project

COURSE SCHEDULE: (LT = LEVY AND THOMSON, MV = MITCHELL AND VASQUEZ)

- January 25 (Mon): Introduction
 - *Pettersson, Therése, Hogbladh, Stina, and Magnus Oberg. “Organized Violence, 1989-2018 and Peace Agreements.”, 2019
- January 27 (Wed): The Scientific Study of Conflict
 - LT Chapter 1
 - MV Chapter 1
- February 1 (Mon): System Level Theories
 - LT Chapter 2
 - (Optional) Lake, “Why “isms” are evil: Theory, Epistemology and academic sects as impediments to understanding and progress”, 2011
- February 3 (Wed): Measuring War/Data Analysis
 - *Codebook for Intra-State Wars v.4.0 (Correlates of War project, pp. 1-6)
 - *Codebook for Non-State Wars v.4.0 (Correlates of War project, pp. 1-2)
 - *COW (correlates of war) Typology of War
- February 8 (Mon): Dyadic Level Theories
 - LT Chapter 3
- February 10 (Wed): Dangerous Dyads
 - MV Chapter 2 & Editors’ Commentary
- February 15 (Mon): Dangerous Dyads – Territory
 - MV Chapter 3 & Editors’ Commentary

- **February 17 (Wed): Dangerous Dyads - Alliances**
 - MV Chapter 4 & Editors' Commentary
 - (Optional) Leeds, "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes", 2003
- **February 22 (Mon): Dangerous Dyads – Arms Races**
 - MV Chapter 6 & Editors' Commentary
- **February 24 (Wed): Dangerous Dyads – Rivalry**
 - MV Chapter 5
- **March 1 (Mon): Dangerous Dyads – Steps to War Model**
 - MV Chapter 7 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 3 (Wed): Watch Video at home (No class)**
 - No in-person class. Watch any war movie and write a reflection paper (2 pages, Times New Roman 12 pt., 1-inch margins). You need to include a brief summary of movie and how could connect the movie to what you've learned.
- **March 8 (Mon): Dangerous Dyads – Domestic Factors**
 - LT Chapter 4 (83-104)
 - MV Chapter 8 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 10 (Wed): Exam 1 (Take on ICON)**
- **March 15 (Mon): Peaceful Dyads – Democratic Peace**
 - LT Chapter 4 (104-127)
 - MV Chapter 9 & Editor's Commentary
 - (Optional) Lai and Slater, "Institutions of the Offensive: Domestic Sources of Dispute Initiation in Authoritarian Regimes, 1950–1992", 2006
- **March 17 (Wed): Peaceful Dyads – Trade & IGOs**
 - MV Chapter 10 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 22 (Mon): Peaceful Dyads – Power Preponderance**
 - MV Chapter 11 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 24 (Wed): Peaceful Dyads – Territorial Peace**
 - MV Chapter 12 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 29 (Mon): Peaceful Dyads – Nuclear Weapons**
 - MV Chapter 13 & Editors' Commentary
- **March 31 (Wed): Organizational Models**
 - LT Chapter 6
 - *Allison. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis" 1969

- (Optional) Watch D-13 (Thirteen days)
- **April 5 (Mon): Decision Making Models**
 - LT Chapter 5
 - *McDermott, Rose and Kugler “Comparing Rational Choice and Prospect Theory Analyses: The US Decision to Launch Operation ‘Desert Storm’” 1991
- **April 7 (Wed): Outcomes and Consequences: Enforcing Settlements**
 - MV Chapter 14 & Editors’ Commentary
- **April 12 (Mon): Outcomes and Consequences: Leadership Consequences**
 - MV Chapter 15 & Editors’ Commentary
- **April 14 (Wed): Instructional Break (No class)**
- **April 19 (Mon): Causes of Civil Wars**
 - LT Chapter 7
 - (Optional) Collier and Hoeffler, “Greed and Grievance in Civil War”, 2004
- **April 21 (Wed): Exam 2 (Take On ICON)**
- **April 26 (Mon), April 28 (Wed): Future of Scientific Study of War**
 - *Gleditsch, Nils Petter et al. 2013. “The Forum: The Decline of War.” International Studies Review
 - *True, Jacqui. 2015. “Winning the Battle but Losing the War on Violence: A Feminist Perspective on the Declining Global Violence Thesis.” International Feminist Journal of Politics
 - *Fazal, Tanisha. 2014. “Dead Wrong? Battle Deaths, Military Medicine, and Exaggerated Reports of War’s Demise.” International Security
- **Online discussion: Students need to answer one of the questions and make at least one comment for other student’s answer.**
- **May 3 (Mon): Presentation for Group Projects (Zoom)**
- **May 5 (Wed): Presentation for Group Projects (Zoom)**

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Information for Undergraduates Spring 2021

Absences and Attendance

Students are responsible for attending class and for contributing to the learning environment of a course. Students are also responsible for knowing course absence policies, which vary by instructor. All absence policies, however, must uphold the UI policy related to student illness, mandatory religious obligations, including Holy Day obligations, unavoidable circumstances, and University authorized activities (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/attendance-absences>). Students may use the CLAS absence form to aid communication with the instructor who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused; the form is located on ICON within the top banner under "Student Tools."

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have in essence agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#). Academic misconduct affects a student's related grade and is reported to the College which applies an additional sanction including suspension. Outcomes about misconduct are communicated through UI email (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

Accommodations for Disabilities

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as a mental health, attention, learning, vision, and a physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student is then responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. More information is at <https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>.

Administrative Home of the Course

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and related policies. Other UI colleges may have different policies for courses offered by that college. CLAS policies may be found here: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to comply with University policies regarding appropriate classroom behavior as outlined in the Code of Student Life (<https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/code-of-student-life/>). This includes related UI policies and procedures that all students have agreed to regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Particularly, each student must wear a face mask when in a UI building, including a classroom. The density of seats in classrooms has been reduced, and in some instances, this will allow 6 feet or more of distance while other cases, it may be less. Regardless, wearing a face mask and maintaining as much distance as is possible are vital to slowing the spread of COVID-19. In the event that a student disrupts the classroom environment through the failure to comply with a reasonable directive of an instructor or of the University, the instructor has the authority to ask that the student to leave the space immediately for the remainder of the class period. Additionally, the instructor is asked to report the incident to the UI Office of Student Accountability, with the possibility of additional follow-up with the student. Students who need temporary alternative learning arrangements (TALA) for a future semester related to COVID-19 should visit this website for more information: <https://coronavirus.uiowa.edu/temporary-alternative-learning-arrangements-tala>.

Class Recordings: Privacy and Sharing

Some sessions of a course could be recorded or live-streamed. Such a recording or streaming will only be available to students registered for the course. These recordings are the intellectual property of the faculty, and they may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the faculty member. Students may not share these sessions with those who are not enrolled in the course; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and in some cases is a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Communication and the Required Use of UI Email

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to the UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within or with UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

Complaints

Students with a complaint about an academic issue should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the Chair of the department or program offering the course; students may next bring the issue to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. See this page for more information: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals with a few exceptions made for particular types of courses such as labs or off-cycle courses: <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-scheduling-policies>.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for people of all gender, sexual, racial, religious, and other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited in MyUI to optionally share the names and pronouns they would like their instructors and advisors to use to address them. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (<https://diversity.uiowa.edu/eod>; +1 319 335-0705 or (diversity.uiowa.edu))

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, please see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.