

# Political Science 4048: International Conflict and Cooperation

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Fall 2015

Class Meeting: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30-2:50

Class Location: 220 Stubbs

Instructor: David Sobek

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00

Wednesday 9:00-10:00

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## Course Description:

International relations comprises a number of areas (interstate conflict, civil war, international economy) and uses a wide range methods (quantitative, qualitative, game theoretic, psychological). This course serves as an introduction to a number of these theories and the methods used to test them. In particular, you will be introduced to a set of theories on the origin of interstate conflict and the evidence rallied in their respective defense.

The first part of this course examines realist and liberal conceptions as to the origin of interstate conflict. While learning these arguments you will also be exposed to both qualitative and quantitative ways to develop and analyze theories. The second section of this course moves away from the realism/liberalism dichotomy and compares rational (game theoretic) and psychological explanations of conflict. This "third debate" in international relations has become increasingly important.

This course has three main goals. First, it is meant to provide a more in depth knowledge of the theories of conflict that were first presented in your introduction to international relations course. Second, you should leave this class with the ability to more critically, and scientifically, evaluate various theories of international politics. Last, this course will introduce you to a more systematic way to study political science and prepare you for advance undergraduate and, perhaps, graduate classes.

## Grading:

**Reading Quizzes (25% total):** There will be **three (3)** unannounced reading quizzes throughout the course. These will consist of two short answer questions based on the readings for that day. Of the three quizzes, your lower score will be dropped and only the two highest will count towards your final grade. These quizzes will be given in the first couple minutes of class. If you arrive late and miss the quiz, you will miss the quiz. There will be no make ups of the quizzes.

**Mid-Term (30%):** **Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** is the mid-term examination. This test will consist of a set of short answer questions.

**Final Exam (35%):** There will be a cumulative final exam in the class. As with the mid-term, it will contain a series of short answer questions. It is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-5pm.**

**Participation (10%):** Participation in class discussion is critical for this course. As such, you will need to actively participate in **six (6)** classes throughout the semester. At the end of the classes in which you felt you participated, you need to write on a sheet of paper your name and how you participated and hand this in to me. I will either accept your participation and count it towards your grade, or reject it (in which case it will not be recorded).

## Course Texts (required readings):

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. **ISBN-10: 0029035910**

Axelrod, Robert. 1984. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. **ISBN-10: 0465005640**

Jervis, Robert. 1976. *Perception and Mis-Perception*. **ISBN-10: 0691100497**

Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. **ISBN-10: 039397684X**

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### Grading Scale:

A+:	97% or higher
A:	93%-97%
A-:	90%-93%
B+:	87%-90%
B:	83%-87%
B-:	80%-83%
C+:	77%-80%
C:	73%-77%
C-:	70%-73%
D+:	67%-70%
D:	63%-67%
D-:	60%-63%
F:	Under 60%

Note: Border percentages are given higher grade, i.e. a 90% is an A- not a B+.

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## Reading Schedule

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### Part 1: Realism, Liberalism, and War

#### Week 1:

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Introduction

August 27<sup>th</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapters 1-2

#### Week 2:

September 1<sup>st</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapters 1-2, **continued**.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapter 3

#### Week 3:

September 8<sup>th</sup>: Hero movie

September 10<sup>th</sup>: Hero movie

#### Week 4:

September 15<sup>th</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapter 4

September 17<sup>th</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapter 5

#### Week 5:

September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Russett and Oneal, Chapters 6-8

September 24<sup>th</sup>: Farber, Henry S. and Joanne Gowa. 1997. "Common Interests or Common Politics? Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace." *The Journal of Politics*. 59(2): 393-417.

#### Week 6:

September 29<sup>th</sup>: Gartzke, Erik. 1998. "Kant We All Just Get Along? Opportunity, Willingness, and the Origins of the Democratic Peace." *American Journal of Political Science*. 42(1): 1-27.

October 1<sup>st</sup>: Blainey, Chapters 1-5

#### Week 7:

October 6<sup>th</sup>: Blainey, Chapters 6-9

- October 8<sup>th</sup>: Blainey, Chapters 10-12
- Week 8:  
October 13<sup>th</sup>: Blainey, Chapters 13-17  
October 15<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Term Review
- Week 9:  
**October 20<sup>nd</sup>: Mid-Term Exam**  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Axelrod, Chapter 1
- Week 10:  
October 27<sup>th</sup>: Axelrod, Chapters 2-3  
**October 29<sup>th</sup>: Fall Break**
- Week 11:  
November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Axelrod, Chapters 4-6  
November 5<sup>th</sup>: Axelrod, Chapters 7-9
- Week 12:  
November 10<sup>th</sup>: Axelrod movie  
November 12<sup>th</sup>: Axelrod movie
- Week 13:  
November 17<sup>th</sup>: Jervis, Chapters 1-2  
November 19<sup>th</sup>: Jervis, Chapters 3-4
- Week 14:  
November 24<sup>th</sup>: Jervis, Chapters 5-6  
**November 26<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Break**
- Week 15:  
December 1<sup>st</sup>: Jervis, Chapter 7  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Final exam review

**Final Exam: Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>, 3pm-5pm.**