

International Relations

Master in Social Sciences
Carlos III-Juan March Institute
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

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Office hours: Thu 15-16h or by appointment

Time and place:

Thursdays, 10h–13h

Room 18.1.A01

1 Description

This is a graduate-level course on contemporary research on international relations. The core of the field of international relations focuses on the causes, dynamics, and consequences of aggression and cooperation between states, and has traditionally revolved around the study of war and peace. We will focus on the study of international conflict, but also on related topics that are often considered within IR, such as the study of internal conflict and processes of political violence, the nature of state size and borders, the influence of the international system on domestic institutions, or processes of international diffusion of norms. Although, especially during the first sessions, we will review some classic works that have a strong theoretical component, the focus of this course will be on more recent research and on the methodological aspect of studying these topics empirically.

2 Requirements and assessment

Each session will consist of a brief lecture introducing the topic and the main concepts, followed by a seminar discussion on the required readings. Students are expected to attend every week, read the required readings in advance, and actively participate in the discussion. In addition, each student will have to present one of the complementary readings once during the semester. The last session of the course will be a workshop where students present ideas and ongoing work for the final research paper.

Participation (30%): Everyday participation. In addition, choose three sessions and prepare a brief response paper (1-2 pages) about the three readings, finding connecting points.

Presentation (10%): One presentation of a complementary reading

Research paper (60%):

3 Course outline

Session 1: Introduction

Required:

- Stephen M. Walt (1998) [International Relations: One World, Many Theories](#). *Foreign Policy* 110: 29–32, 34–46.
- David A Lake (2011) [Why ‘isms’ Are Evil: Theory, Epistemology, and Academic Sects as Impediments to Understanding and Progress](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 55(2): 465–480.
- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita (1985) [Toward a Scientific Understanding of International Conflict: A Personal View](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 29(2): 121–136.

Complementary:

- (No complementary readings)

Session 2: Interstate war

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Required:

- [Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*. Columbia University Press, 1959. Chapters 2, 4, and 6.](#)
- James D. Fearon (1995) [Rationalist Explanations for War](#). *International Organization* 49(3): 379–414.
- Paul Huth, Christopher Gelpi, and D. Scott Bennett (1993) [The Escalation of Great Power Militarized Disputes: Testing Rational Deterrence Theory and Structural Realism](#). *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 609–623.

Complementary:

- Kalevi J Holsti, *Peace and War: Armed Conflicts and International Order, 1648-1989*. Cambridge University Press, 1991. Chapter 1: pp. 1–24.
- Powell, Robert (1996) [Uncertainty, Shifting Power, and Appeasement](#). *American Political Science Review* 90(4): 749–764.

- James D. Fearon (1994) [Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes](#). *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577–592.
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Session 3: State-building, nationalism, and war

Required:

- Charles Tilly, 'War making and state making as organized crime.' In *Bringing the State Back In* (ed. P. Evans, D. Rueschmeyer & T. Skocpol). Cambridge UP, 1985: pp. 169–187.
- Andreas Wimmer and Brian Min, 'From empire to nation-state. Explaining wars in the modern world, 1816-2001.' *American Sociological Review* 71: 867–897, 2006.
- Lars-Erik Cederman, T. Camber Warren & Didier Sornette, 'Testing Clausewitz: Nationalism, Mass Mobilization, and the Severity of War.' *International Organization* 65(4): 605–638, 2011.
- Agustina S. Paglayan (2022) [Education or Indoctrination? The Violent Origins of Public School Systems in an Era of State-Building](#). *American Political Science Review* 116(4): 1242–1257

Complementary:

- Michael Mann (2004) [The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing](#). New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1 (1–33).
 - Barry R. Posen (1993) [Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power](#). *International Security* 18(2): 80–124.
 - Mark Mazower (2002) [Violence and the State in the Twentieth Century](#). *American Historical Review* 107(4): 1158–1178.
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Session 4: Peace and democracies

Required:

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- Cederman, Lars-Erik (2001) [Back to Kant: Reinterpreting the Democratic Peace as a Macrohistorical Learning Process](#). *American Political Science Review* 95(1): 15–31.

- Kristian Skrede Gleditsch and Michael D. Ward (2006) [Diffusion and the International Context of Democratization](#). *International Organization* 60(4): 911–933.

Complementary:

- Michael D. Ward and Kristian S. Gleditsch (1998) [Democratizing for Peace](#). *American Political Science Review* 92(1): 51–61.
 - Michael D. Ward, Randolph M. Siverson, and Xun Cao (2007) [Disputes, Democracies, and Dependencies: A Reexamination of the Kantian Peace](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 51(3): 583–601.
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Session 5: Political economy

Required:

- Rodrik, Dani (2021) [Why Does Globalization Fuel Populism? Economics, Culture, and the Rise of Right-Wing Populism](#). *Annual Review of Economics* 13: 133–170.
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Complementary:

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Session 6: International borders and state size

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Required:

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Complementary:

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Session 7: Civil wars

Required:

- James D. Fearon and David Laitin (2003) [Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War](#) *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75–90.
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Andreas Wimmer, and Brian Min (2010) [Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis](#). *World Politics* 62(1): 87–119.
- Michael Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis (2000) [International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis](#). *American Political Science Review* 94(4): 779–802.

Complementary:

- Barry Posen (1993) [The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict](#). *Survival* 35:1: 27–47.
- Chaim Kaufmann (1996) [Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars](#). *International Security* 20:4: 136–175.
- Lars-Erik Cederman, Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, and Nils B. Weidmann (2011) [Horizontal Inequalities and Ethnonationalist Civil War: A Global Comparison](#). *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 478–495.
- Michael D. Ward, Nils W. Metternich, Cassy L. Dorff, Max Gallop, Florian M. Hollenbach, Anna Schultz, and Simon Weschle (2013) [Learning from the Past and Stepping into the Future: Toward a New Generation of Conflict Prediction](#). *International Studies Review* 15(4): 473–490.
- Stathis Kalyvas and Laia Balcells (2010) [International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict](#). *American Political Science Review* 104(3): 415–429.

Session 8: Wartime violence

Required:

- Stathis Kalyvas (2006) [The Logic of Violence in Civil War](#). Cambridge University Press, 2006. Chapters 1 (16–31) and 7 (173–209).
- Laia Balcells (2010) [Rivalry and Revenge: Violence against Civilians in Conventional Civil Wars](#). *International Studies Quarterly* 54(2): 291–313.
- Weidmann, N. B. (2011). Violence “from above” or “from below”? The Role of Ethnicity in Bosnia’s Civil War. *The Journal of Politics*, 73(04), 1178–1190.

- Cohen, D. K. (2013). Explaining rape during civil war: Cross-national evidence (1980–2009). *American Political Science Review*, 107(03), 461-477.

Complementary:

- Robert Braun (2016) [Religious Minorities and Resistance to Genocide: The Collective Rescue of Jews in the Netherlands during the Holocaust](#). *American Political Science Review* 110(1): 127–147.
- Stathis Kalyvas and Matthew A. Kocher (2007) [How ‘Free’ is Free Riding in Civil Wars?: Violence, Insurgency, and the Collective Action Problem](#). *World Politics* 59(2): 177–216.

Session 9: Terrorism and armed groups

Required:

Kydd, Andrew. H, and Walter, Barbara. F. 2006. “The Strategies of Terrorism.” *International Security* 31(1): 49-80. David Lake. 2002. “Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty First Century.” *International Organization* 56(1): 15-29. Savun, Burcu and Brian J. Phillips. 2009. “Democracy, Foreign Policy, and Terrorism,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(6): 878-904.

Pape, Robert. 2003. “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.” *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361.

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Complementary:

- Nils W. Metternich, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Simon Weschle, and Michael D. Ward (2013) [Antigovernment Networks in Civil Conflicts: How Network Structures Affect Conflictual Behavior](#). *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 892–911.
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Session 10: Legacies of conflict

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Complementary:

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Session 11: Transitional justice and norm diffusion

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Required:

- Kathryn Sikkink and Carrie Booth Walling (2007) [The Impact of Human Rights Trials in Latin America](#). *Journal of Peace Research* 44(4): 427–445.
- Kim HJ. 2012. Structural determinants of human rights prosecutions after democratic transition. *J. Peace Res.* 49(2):305–20
- Kim HJ, Sikkink K. 2010. Explaining the deterrence effect of human rights prosecutions for transitional countries. *Int. Stud. Q.* 54:939–63

Wendt, Alexander. 1992. Anarchy Is What States Make Of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics. *International Organization* 46 (4): 887-918. Finnemore, Martha, and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. International Norm Dynamics and Political Change. *International Organization* 52 (4): 887-918. Adler, Emmanuel. 1997. "Seizing the Middle Ground: Constructivism in World Politics." *European Journal of International Relations* 3, 3: 319-63 Ruggie, John Gerard. 1986. Continuity and Transformation in the World Polity: Toward a Neorealist Synthesis. In Robert Keohane, Ed. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press: 131-157. Katzenstein, Peter. 2003. Same War-Different Views: Germany, Japan, and Counterterrorism. *International Organization* 57 (4): 731-760. Lebovic, James, and Erik Voeten. 2006. The Politics of Shame: The Condemnation of Country Human Rights Practices in the UNHCR. *International Studies Quarterly* 50 (4): 861-888.

Complementary:

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Session 12: Research workshop

No readings. Presentation of research projects and workshop discussion.