

# International Relations

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

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Office: 18.2.D15

Office hours: Thu 15-16h or by appointment

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 (20%):** blah blah blah

**Presentation (20%):** blah blah blah

**Research paper (60%):** blah blah blah

### 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)
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#### Session 2: Interstate war

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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#### Session 3: State-building, nationalism, and war

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 4: Peace and democracies**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 5: Political economy**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 6: International borders and state size**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 7: Civil wars**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 8: Wartime violence**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 9: Terrorism and armed groups**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 10: Legacies of conflict**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 11: Transitional justice and norm diffusion**

*Required:*

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*Complementary:*

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## **Session 12: Research workshop**

No readings. Presentation of research projects and workshop discussion.