

J2P216 SE: International Cooperation and Conflict

Spring 2016

Time: Thu/Fri, 12:15-14:00

Place: M 2150 (Thu) / M S050 (Fri)

Instructor: Reto Wüest

Email: reto.wuest@unige.ch

Office Hours: Wed, 13:00-15:00, SIP A7'

Course Website: <http://retowuest.github.io/j2p216/>

Description

This seminar is an introduction to the analysis of international conflict and cooperation. The seminar begins with a brief review of the primary theoretical paradigms in the field and the levels at which states interact. It then addresses the question of what factors cause conflict and peace between states. We then examine why states engaged in a dispute fail to reach negotiated settlements. In particular, we explore how uncertainty, commitment problems, and domestic politics can lead to bargaining failure, and hence war.

Resources

Readings

There are up to two required readings each week. Students are expected to have read all required readings prior to class. The readings listed under “Further Readings” are not required, but they may be helpful for students who are interested in learning more about the topics. Links to all journal articles are available in the [syllabus](#) on the course website. Scans of book chapters will be made available through [Chamilo](#).

Piazza

We will be using [Piazza](#) for class discussion. Piazza is a free online platform for class Q&A that replaces mailing lists. Rather than emailing questions to the instructor, you are encouraged to post your questions on Piazza. This allows you to answer each other's questions and for the entire class to see the instructor's responses.

Assessment

The assessment for this course consists of two critical response papers (50%), a class presentation (40%), and a student's in-class participation (10%).

Critical Response Papers (50%)

Each student will write two critical response papers throughout the semester. Each paper will consist of a critical assessment of one of the required course readings. The papers must be turned in within two weeks of the discussion of the reading they respond to. For more details, see the information on critical response papers on the course website.

Class Presentation (40%)

Students will give a 15-20 minute presentation in class about one of the required readings. The schedule of presentations will be set in the second week of class. For more details, see the information on class presentations on the course website.

Class Participation (10%)

Participation consists of more than attendance. Behaviors that improve students' participation evaluation are answering questions asked of the class, asking questions, and responding to something another student says (including answering a question asked by a student).

Academic Integrity

While students are encouraged to discuss course materials, no collaboration is allowed on critical response papers. There is no tolerance for plagiarism. Any student who turns in plagiarized work will fail the course. For more information, see the [Directive on student plagiarism](#).

Schedule

Introduction to International Relations

THU, MARCH 3 / FRI, MARCH 4: INTRODUCTION

Required Readings

- Walt, Stephen M. 1998. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories." *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-46.

THU, MARCH 10 / FRI, MARCH 11: LEVELS OF ANALYSIS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Required Readings

- Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." *World Politics* 14(1): 77-92.

Further Readings

- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1959. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press. [Chapters 2, 4, 6]

What Causes Conflict Between States?

THU, MARCH 17 / FRI, MARCH 18: COMMERCE

Required Readings

- [P] Gowa, Joanne and Edward D. Mansfield. 1993. “Power Politics and International Trade.” *American Political Science Review* 87(2): 408-420.
- [P] Gartzke, Erik. 2007. “The Capitalist Peace.” *American Journal of Political Science* 51(1): 166-191.

Further Readings

- Gartzke, Erik, Quan Li and Charles Boehmer. 2001. “Investing in the Peace: Economic Interdependence and International Conflict.” *International Organization* 55(2): 391-438.

THU, MARCH 24 / FRI, APRIL 8: TERRITORY

Required Readings

- [P] Walter, Barbara F. 2003. “Explaining the Intractability of Territorial Conflict.” *International Studies Review* 5(4): 137-153.
- [P] Simmons, Beth A. 2005. “Rules over Real Estate: Trade, Territorial Conflict, and International Borders as Institution.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(6): 823-848.

Further Readings

- Branch, Jordan. 2011. “Mapping the Sovereign State: Technology, Authority, and Systemic Change.” *International Organization* 65(1): 1-36.
- Carter, David B. and H. E. Goemans. 2011. “The Making of the Territorial Order: New Borders and the Emergence of Interstate Conflict.” *International Organization* 65(2): 275-309.

THU, APRIL 7 / FRI, APRIL 15: IDEOLOGY

Required Readings

- [P] Lake, David A. 1992. “Powerful Pacifists: Democratic States and War.” *American Political Science Review* 86(1): 24-37.
- [P] Rosato, Sebastian. 2003. “The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory.” *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 585-602.

Further Readings

- Doyle, Michael W. 1983. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12(3): 205-235.
- Doyle, Michael W. 1983. "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part 2." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12(4): 323-353.
- Bukovansky, Mlada. 1999. "The Altered State and the State of Nature: The French Revolution and International Politics." *Review of International Studies* 25(2): 197-216.

THU, APRIL 14 / FRI, APRIL 22: IDENTITY

Required Readings

- [P] Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72(3): 22-49.
- [P] Henderson, Errol A. and Richard Tucker. 2001. "Clear and Present Strangers: The Clash of Civilizations and International Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly* 45(2): 317-338.

Further Readings

- Posen, Barry R. 1993. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict." *Survival* 35(1): 27-47.
- Snyder, Jack and Karen Ballentine. 1996. "Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas." *International Security* 21(2): 5-40.

Why Does Bargaining Fail?

THU, APRIL 21 / FRI, APRIL 29: BARGAINING THEORY

Required Readings

- [P] Powell, Robert. 2002. "Bargaining Theory and International Conflict." *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 1-30. [Read carefully: pp. 1-14, 19-23; skim: pp. 14-19, 23-27]

Further Readings

- Muthoo, Abhinay. 2000. "A Non-Technical Introduction to Bargaining Theory." *World Economics* 1(2): 145-166.
- Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-43.

THU, APRIL 28 / FRI, MAY 6: UNCERTAINTY

Required Readings

- [P] Levy, Jack S. 1983. "Misperception and the Causes of War: Theoretical Linkages and Analytical Problems." *World Politics* 36(1): 76-99.
- [P] Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414.

Further Readings

- Gartzke, Erik. 1999. "War Is in the Error Term." *International Organization* 53(3): 567-587.
- Garfinkel, Michelle R. and Stergios Skaperdas. 2000. "Conflict without Misperceptions or Incomplete Information: How the Future Matters." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(6): 793-807.
- Leventoglu, Bahar and Ahmer Tarar. 2008. "Does Private Information Lead to Delay or War in Crisis Bargaining?" *International Studies Quarterly* 52(3): 533-553.

THU, MAY 12 / FRI, MAY 13: COMMITMENT PROBLEMS

Required Readings

- [P] Lake, David A. 2010/11. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War." *International Security* 35(3): 7-52.

Further Readings

- Powell, Robert. 2006. "War as a Commitment Problem." *International Organization* 60(1): 169-203.
- Walter, Barbara F. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization* 51(3): 335-364.
- Findley, Michael G. and Joseph K. Young. 2011. "Terrorism, Democracy, and Credible Commitments." *International Studies Quarterly* 55(2): 357-378.

THU, MAY 19 / FRI, MAY 20: DOMESTIC POLITICS

Required Readings

- [P] Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3): 427-460.
- [P] Chiozza, Giacomo and H. E. Goemans. 2004. "International Conflict and the Tenure of Leaders: Is War Still 'Ex Post' Inefficient?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48(3): 604-619.

Further Readings

- Fearon, James D. 1994. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes.” *American Political Science Review* 88(3): 577-592.
- Schultz, Kenneth A. 1998. “Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises.” *American Political Science Review* 92(4): 829-844.
- Jackson, Matthew O. and Massimo Morelli. 2007. “Political Bias and War.” *American Economic Review* 97(4): 1353-1373.
- Weeks, Jessica L. 2008. “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve.” *International Organization* 62(1): 35-64.

Conclusion

THU, MAY 26 / FRI, MAY 27: CONCLUSION

Required Readings

- TBA