

Syllabus Day (i.e. Welcome)

POSC 1020 – Introduction to International Relations

Steven V. Miller

Department of Political Science



Goal for Today

Familiarize students with the topic of the course and the instructor's expectations.

New to International Relations? Not Sure How Things Work?



Figure 1: You're Not Alone

I'll try to help.

Structure of This Course

- Intro/framework/method
 - Actor's interests, interactions, and institutions
 - Preliminary game theory, understanding of stats.
- War as bargaining, and its causes
 - Included: civil war and terrorism
- International economics
 - i.e. learn these lessons as we get set to relearn history's mistakes in the West.
 - Included: trade, monetary relations, and inequality
- The problems of the future: international law, human rights, and global warming

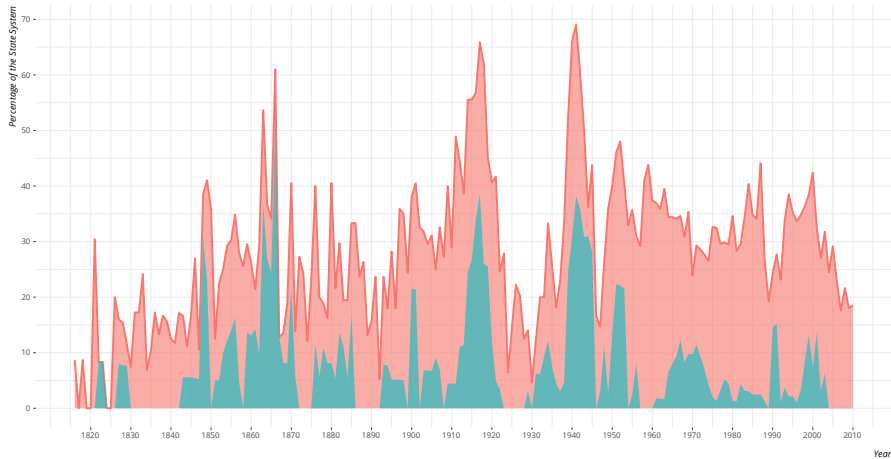
We'll give careful attention to the issue of inference too.

Structure of This Course

- Also: expect a lot of data and data visualization.
- I *love* playing with data and want you to better understand the world around you.
- Visualization with current (as possible) data may help your learning experience.

The Percentage of States Involved in a MID and Inter-State War by Year, 1816-2010

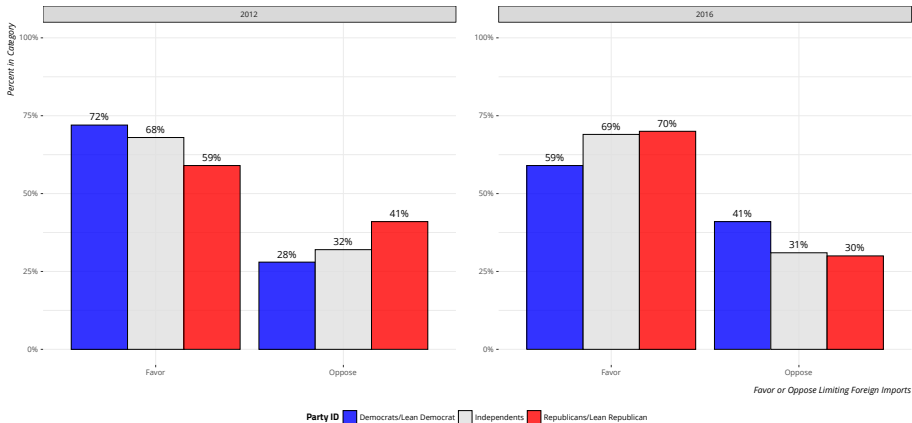
We observe clear spikes in the 1860s, 1910s, and 1940s, which were particularly violent decades.



Data: GML MID data (v. 2.03) and Correlates of War State System Membership List.
Note: Red shaded areas are for MID involvement. Blue shaded areas are the subset of wars.

Protectionism is Still an Easy Sell, but We're Seeing a Partisan Shift on Limiting Imports to Protect Workers from Competition

"Some people have suggested placing new limits on foreign imports in order to protect American jobs. Others say that such limits would raise consumer prices and hurt American exports. Do you FAVOR or OPPOSE placing new limits on imports, or haven't you thought much about this?"



Data: American National Election Studies (2012, 2016)
Note: Most respondents don't know enough to respond to this question so attitudes are certainly malleable.

The Dollar Has Always Been Strong to the Mexican Peso

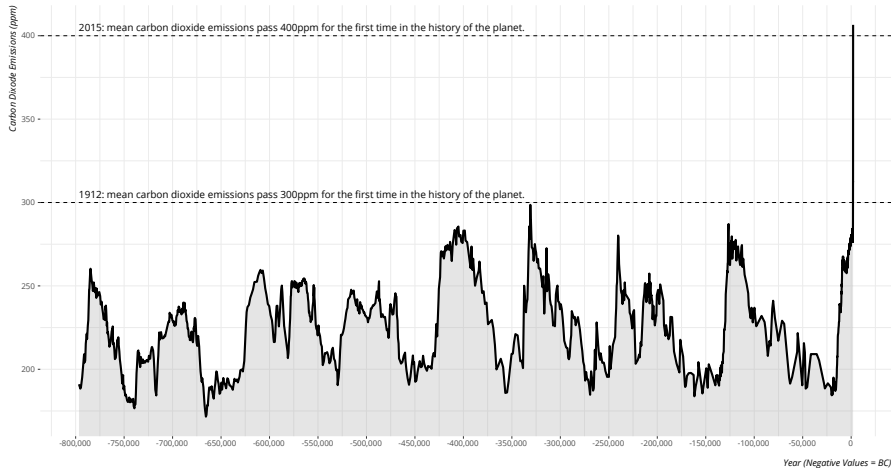
Mexico dropped its previous peg (i.e. three new pesos to one USD) in 1995, which you can see in the first few years of the data.



Data: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (US)

Estimated Carbon Dioxide Emissions Through the History of the Planet, 800,000 BC to 2017

What's happening right now is more than just a normal "cycle."



Data: cobbled from various sources, including EPA, IAC/Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule estimates, and NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory

Course Objectives

1. Gain a cursory knowledge of important topics in IR; prepare for upper-division courses with more focused applications in the field.
2. Understand conflict as bargaining process and explain why bargaining “breaks down” (i.e. war onset).
3. Learn that, despite popular commentary and outward appearances, terrorism is rational behavior and part of a bargaining process.
4. Appreciate the benefits of globalization and free trade, notwithstanding the externalities these policies can create.
5. Discuss current issues at the fore of international politics (e.g. human rights, global warming) and the problems we have trying to address these issues.

Books

Frieden, Jeffry A, David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz (2016). *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. 3rd. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company.

Grading Policy

Assignment	(Due) Date	Percent of Grade
Discussion	Periodically	15%
Midterm 1	<i>before</i> Oct 1, 9:30 a.m.	20%
Midterm 2	<i>before</i> Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.	30%
Final Exam	<i>before</i> Dec. 11, 9:30 p.m.	35%

Check syllabus for more information about the discussion requirements.

Attendance/Participation Policy

I'd otherwise go on a big spiel here about the importance of attending class, but...
lol...

For this semester:

- Attendance is assumed not required.
- Please make it a point to attend (online) lectures.



Paul Musgrave 🍕 🌟
@profmusgrave



pleased to unveil my 2020 teaching strategy: "don't worry about grades, just learn something and please don't die"

5:32 PM · Aug 18, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

August						
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December						
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27	28	29	30	31		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

 Class Day
  Exams

Notable dates: Fall Break (Nov. 3... please vote), Thanksgiving Break (Nov. 23-27)

Email Policy

I'm usually quick to respond to student e-mails. However, I may not if:

1. You could answer your question by reading the syllabus.
2. You missed a class for which there was no exam.
3. You want to know what you missed for the class you skipped.
4. You're protesting a grade without specific objections.
 - Read the syllabus about protesting a grade.
5. You want to know how many classes you missed.
6. You're requesting an extension on an assignment.
7. You're protesting that a late assignment is not actually "late".
8. You're grade-grubbing.
9. You want an extra credit opportunity.

Disabilities Policy

I'm more than happy to accommodate, but:

- The student has to take the initiative. I can't.
- Do let me know privately after class if I should expect to hear from SAS soon.

My Contact Information

- *Name:* Steve Miller (as in the band)
- *E-mail:* svmille@clemson.edu
- *Office Hours:* $\neg_('')_/\neg$
- *Office:* $\neg_('')_/\neg$
- *Website:* posc1020.svmiller.com

Additional Course Materials

I do like making lectures publicly available, though.

- Check course website at posc1020.svmiller.com
- Check my Github repository (just in case): github.com/svmiller/posc1020

I encourage the student to take initiative to keep track of their grade through the semester.

My Expectations

I come off as a bit cruel in my expectations.

- I expect a lot, and I expect a commitment from you.
- Otherwise, why bother? Your job is to become “pro-ready.”

I also expect it to be a bit difficult for you.

- My philosophy: if you 100% understand something the first time you read it, you didn't learn anything.
- Read and re-read if necessary.
- Lectures should help, but they're not sufficient. You need to read.

I take seriously the “science” of political science.

- This may not be intuitive, but I'm also eager to help in-class or office hours.

You Have Homework!

Basically, read these on my website:

- Taking Good Notes
- Fun with Attendance and Grades (i.e. Students Should Attend Class)
- The Educational Power of Discomfort
- Put Your Laptops Away, Kids (Vol. 2)

Links available on the course website.

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POSC 1020 Syllabus

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