

Syllabus - PLS457–International Security and Conflict

Dr. Spencer Willardson

Spring 2019

Instructor	Office	Email	Office Hours
Professor Willardson	8.133	spencer.willardson@nu.edu.kz	Tu 14:00-15:30, Th 14:00-15:30, and by appt.

Class meets on Friday from 12:00 to 14:50 in 8.322B

Course Description

This course will explore issues of international security including causes and consequences of both interstate and intrastate war. We will use readings from international relations and political science journals for theoretical and empirical examination of these issues. PLS457 is an upper level course for advanced undergraduate students (in their 3rd and 4th years), and an elective course for MA students in the MAPSIR program. It is reading and writing intensive. Students will read 4-5 academic articles per class session and will write 5 reaction papers to those weekly readings over the course of the semester. The final project for the course is a term paper (10-15 pages for undergraduate, 15-20 for MA students – not including bibliography and title pages). The final paper will be original research through a case study, data analysis, or a literature review that significantly builds on existing research, or which ties research from different areas together in a new and interesting way. A student's final paper in this class should be acceptable for an undergraduate research conference for the undergraduate students or as the beginning of a thesis project for graduate students.

Course Expectations

The following are the expectations of students for the course:

- Students in this course will be expected to read all assigned papers **prior to the assigned class**.
- Assignments will be turned in on time.
- Late work will be penalized 20 percent per day¹.
- Students will do their own work. All writing assignments will be written by students. Any plagiarism, or attempt to pass off anyone else's writing as your own will result in a 0 for the assignment and referral to the Student Discipline Committee.
- Students are expected to attend every class² This is especially crucial since this is a class that meets only once per week and we are missing an extra course period due to the March 8th holiday this year.
- Students will be prepared to discuss work with peers and professor in class.³

Students can expect Professor Willardson to do the following:

- Be prepared to answer questions and help with any assignment during office hours.

¹This day starts at the beginning of class – meaning if you turn in the assignment at the end of class rather than the beginning, you lose 20 percent of your grade.

²Any exception will be cleared with professor prior to class and all work is expected to be turned in even if student is missing class for an approved activity.

³Students who are not prepared to discuss the assigned readings each week in class will be given a 0 for participation.

- Be an example of what is expected from academics and professionals in terms of knowledge and professionalism.
- Encourage students to do their best work.
- Provide clear expectations for assignments.
- Provide timely feedback on assignments.

Time Management

In this class you will have multiple reading and writing assignments that are due. Many of these assignments overlap. This is in addition to the work that you have in other classes. In order to be successful in this class (and in life in general), you must manage your time and work hard - but also work smart. You need to be disciplined in your reading and writing habits and have a long-term plan for writing your final paper. I have built in some time management to the schedule, but this is a **difficult** course for both undergraduate and graduate students. I will do everything in my power to help you succeed by giving you my time and effort, and I expect you to do the same. I will discuss time management and scheduling during the first day.

Grading

The course will be graded as follows:

Item	Date	Percent	Points
Participation	<i>Ongoing</i>	20%	100
Response Papers	<i>See Dates</i>	20%	100
Research Methods Assignment	1 February	5%	25
Research Proposal	22 February	5%	25
Literature Review	15 March	5%	25
Draft 1 ⁴	12 April	10%	50
Peer Review	19 April	5%	25
Final Paper	3 May (15:00)	30%	150
Totals		100%	500

A short description of each assignment is found below. A general rubric for assignments and more detailed expectations for each assignment will be provided during the first week of the semester. All written assignments will be turned in electronically on Moodle **and** a hard copy will be turned in to Professor Willardson at the beginning of the class on the day it is due. Each item will be graded according to the provided rubric. Total points earned are divided by 500 for a percent. Grades are assigned based on the following scale:

95-100	A	90-94.99	A-		
85-89.99	B+	80-84.99	B	75-79.99	B-
70-74.99	C+	65-69.99	C	60-64.99	C-
55-59.99	D+	50-54.99	D	0-49.99	F

⁴This is a full draft of the paper.

Assignments and Expectations

Participation

Student participation will be judged on both attendance (See [Policies](#)) and participation in our classroom discussions. In-class participation will consist of working through papers in small groups, class-wide discussion of issues, and answering questions posed by students and the professor. Every student is expected to come to class prepared each session with a question about the week's readings that they can pose to the class. Even if you are naturally quiet, you will be asked to participate in these discussions, so be prepared to talk.

Response Papers

Students will turn in 5 response papers over the course of the semester. These papers will tie together each week's readings into a coherent essay that demonstrates that a student understands the questions, background, and gaps within the approach to politics we are studying during that week. These papers are meant to help build your skills for the literature review for your term paper that you will turn in on March 17. Response papers are due at the beginning of the class on the date they are due. They are due in **hard copy and must be stapled**. Your name must be on the paper. The papers should be 1-2 pages single-spaced (750-1000 words).

Research Methods Assignment

This assignment is meant to help you think through the process of research for your term paper. You will provide a brief description of the methods that we discussed in the previous week (1 paragraph each). Then you will identify the type of method that you think you will use for your term paper. This means that you will need to have an idea of what your term paper will be on by the time you turn in the assignment. You will provide a brief (2-3 paragraph) description of your project and why the method you have chosen will help you answer your research question.

Research Proposal

Your research proposal builds on the [Research Methods Assignment](#). In this proposal you identify your research question, briefly outline the data and method you will use to answer your research question, and identify 10-15 sources that can be used in your literature review and research. We will discuss issues related to the literature review and research proposal during the first week of class. Supplemental materials are available on the course Moodle page.

Literature Review

The literature review is a draft of the front end of your paper (i.e. the part that you write before you present the empirical work you are using to answer your research question). The literature review will place your research paper within the context of other work that has been done and should help the reader understand why your question is interesting, important, and different from other work that has been done before. Your literature review will also contain the theoretical set-up for your empirical analysis. We will talk about literature reviews in class, and you will have had some practice with the basic form in your response papers.

Paper Draft

This is a first draft of your paper. It is meant to be a **completed** version of your paper. You will have conducted the research and written the paper. It *will not be perfect*, however. The draft is meant to be the place where you have your ideas laid out for the first time. Your draft may be a *bit* shorter than what is expected for the final paper, but the more complete the draft is, the better your final paper will be.

Peer Review

Each student will act as a peer reviewer for two other students' papers. This will be a "single blind review," since students will know who the author of the paper is, but the paper's author will not know who the reviewers are. I will give more details on what is expected for this assignment closer to the date of the review.

Final Paper

This paper will incorporate all of the elements that we have built on throughout the semester. The paper should represent your best work. Because we will have spent so much time during the semester working on the paper, the quality of these papers is expected to be high. The work (as all work in this class) is expected to be your own. This will be a paper that has gone through multiple stages and revisions, so I will expect the writing, grammar, citations, and everything else to be polished.

Course Schedule⁵

Week	Date	Topic	Work Due
1	1/11	Introduction and Expectations	
2	1/18	Security Studies	Response Paper 1
3	1/25	Data and Methods	
4	2/1	IR Theory and Causes of War	Research Method Assignment
5	2/8	More Realist Theories of War	Response Paper 2
6	2/15	Balancing and Deterrence	Response Paper 3
7	2/22	Collective Security and Alliances	Research Proposal
8	3/1	Coercion and Compellence	Response Paper 4
9	3/8	No Class, Holiday	
10	3/15	Regime Type and War	Literature Review
11	3/22	NONE–Spring BREAK	FUN!
12	3/29	Territory and Geography ⁶	Response Paper 5
13	4/5	Leadership and War	
14	4/12	Diversionsary Theory	Draft 1
15	4/19	Civil and Interstate War	Peer Review

Final Paper due to me by May 3, 2019 at 15:00.

⁵Subject to change, but changes will be announced early.

⁶Class will be rescheduled due to ISA Meeting in Toronto

Policies

Attendance

This course meets once a week, and thus attendance and participation are crucial to you understanding and mastering the material. If you cannot make the commitment to be in class for each session, you are asked to withdraw from the class so that other students who are willing to be here can be.

Students are expected to be in class for each scheduled session. Any absence must be documented through student services. Students who pre-arrange absences due to religious holidays or University sanctioned activities (such as conferences, competitions, etc.) will schedule make-up work at the time of notification. Students who miss class due to unforeseen circumstances will need to provide documentation within 1 week of the class period(s) missed. Make-up work is expected as soon as possible after return. Any unexcused absence will result in 0 points on any missed assignment. Having a doctor's note does not count as a verified absence, unless it is verified through student services. Leaving class early, being disruptive (including the use of cell-phones), or arriving late will result in being counted absent for that class session. Absences will affect your participation grade severely. **Being absent from any class unexcused will result in you losing a full letter grade for the course for *each* absence.**

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated under any circumstances. All students have been notified of Nazarbayev University's Student Code of Conduct and you have agreed to follow the university's standards. Plagiarism is defined as "intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own." In short, all of the work you turn in for this class is expected to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarized work will receive a zero and students will be reported to university authorities.

Religious Holidays Policy

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a religious holiday absence prior to its occurrence.

Writing Center

This is a writing intensive course. Your grade is dependent on you turning in assignments that convey ideas clearly using standard language, format, citation style, etc. Students are encouraged to work with the writing center to improve their writing. I will use my discretion in requiring students to use the writing center if assignments are consistently poorly written. I will notify you in writing as to whether I will require you to work with the writing center on future papers.

Readings for Each Topic

See schedule for each week's topic

Week 1: Introduction and Expectations

Knopf, Jeffrey W. 2006. Doing a Literature Review. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39:127-132.

Other materials on expectations for assignments are posted on *Moodle*. Become familiar with all materials and expectations for class.

Week 2: Intro to Security Studies

Buzan, Barry. 1997. Rethinking Security after the Cold War. *Cooperation and Conflict* 32:5-28.

Zinnes, Dina A. 1980. Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher: Presidential Address. *International Studies Quarterly* 24:315-342.

Paris, Roland. 2001. Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air? *International Security* 26:87-102.

Walt, Stephen M. 1991. The Renaissance of Security Studies. *International Studies Quarterly* 35: 211-239.

Week 3: Data and Methods

This will be one of the most difficult reading weeks. It is necessary to prepare for your methods assignment and to make sure you are prepared for your overall assignment in the course to review these methods. I suggest that you read some of these materials during week 1 so that you don't have so much to do in week 3.

Overview of Methods in Political Science/International Relations

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Henry E. Brady, and David Collier. 2008. *Political Science Methodology*. in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*, Oxford University Press: New York.

Quantitative Methods and Data

Jones, Daniel M., Stuart A. Bremer, and J. David Singer. 1996. "Militarized Interstate Disputes, 1816-1992: Rationale, Coding Rules, and Empirical Patterns." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 15(2):163-213.

Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Havard Strand. 2002. "Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(5):615-637.

Meredith Reid Sarkees, Frank Wayman, and J. David Singer. 2003. "Inter-State, Intra-State, and ExtraState Wars: A Comprehensive Look at Their Distribution Over Time, 1816-1997" *International Studies Quarterly* 47(1):49-70.

Case Studies

Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman. 2007. Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield. *Comparative Political Studies* 40:170-95.

Gerring, John. 2004. What Is a Case Study and What Is It Good For? *American Political Science Review* 98:341-54.

Evaluating Qualitative Arguments

Brooks, Stephen and William Wohlforth. 2000. Power, Globalization and the End of the Cold War: Reevaluating a Landmark Case for Ideas. *International Security* 25(3):5-53.

Week 4: IR Theory and Causes of War

Jervis, Robert. 2002. Theories of War in an Era of Leading-Power Peace. *The American Political Science Review* 96:1-14.

Levy, Jack S. 1998. The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace. *Annual Review of Political Science* 1: 139-165.

van Evera, Stephen. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security* 22:5-43.

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

Waltz, Kenneth N. 1988. The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory. *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18:615-628.

Week 5: More Realist Theories of War

Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36:309-341.

Reed, William. 2000. A Unified Statistical Model of Conflict Onset and Escalation. *American Journal of Political Science* 44:84-93.

Thompson, William R. 2006. Systemic Leadership, Evolutionary Processes, and International Relations Theory: The Unipolarity Question. *International Studies Review* 8:1-22.

Wohlforth, William C. 1999. The Stability of a Unipolar World. *International Security* 24:5-41.

Week 6: Balancing and Deterrence

Glaser, Charles L., and Chaim Kaufmann. 1998. What Is the Offense-Defense Balance and Can We Measure It? *International Security* 22:44-82.

Jervis, Robert. 1978. Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma. *World Politics* 30:167-214.

Fearon, James D. 1994. Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes. *American Political Science Review* 88(3):577-592.

George, Alexander L., and Richard Smoke. 1989. Deterrence and Foreign Policy. *World Politics* 41:170-182.

Huth, Paul K., and Bruce Russett. 1993. General Deterrence Between Enduring Rivals: Testing Three Competing Models. *The American Political Science Review* 87:61-73.

Suggested

Walt, Stephen M. 1985. Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power. *International Security* 9:3-43.

Achen, Christopher H., and Duncan Snidal. 1989. Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies. *World Politics* 41:143-169.

Week 7: Collective Security and Alliances

Jervis, Robert. 1982. Security Regimes. *International Organization* 36:357-378.

Kupchan, Charles A., and Clifford A. Kupchan. 1991. Concerts, Collective Security, and the Future of Europe. *International Security* 16:114-161.

Lai, Brian, and Dan Reiter. 2000. Democracy, Political Similarity, and International Alliances, 1816-1992. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44:203-227.

Lake, David A. 2001. Beyond Anarchy: The Importance of Security Institutions. *International Security* 26:129-160.

Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes. *American Journal of Political Science* 47:427-439.

Week 8: Coercion and Compellence

Allen, Susan Hannah. 2008. The Domestic Political Costs of Economic Sanctions. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:916-944.

Horowitz, Michael, and Dan Reiter. 2001. When Does Aerial Bombing Work?: Quantitative Empirical Tests, 1917-1999. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45:147-173.

Lektzian, David, and Mark Souva. 2007. An Institutional Theory of Sanctions Onset and Success. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51:848-871.

Marinov, Nikolay. 2005. Do Economic Sanctions Destabilize Country Leaders? *American Journal of Political Science* 49:564-576.

Suggested

Art, Robert J. 1980. To What Ends Military Power? *International Security* 4:3-35.

Week 10: Regime Type and War

Caprioli, Mary, and Peter F. Trumbore. 2003. Identifying 'Rogue' States and Testing Their Interstate Conflict Behavior. *European Journal of International Relations* 9:377-406.

Mansfield, Edward D., and Jack Snyder. 2002. Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War. *International Organization* 56:297-337.

Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. 1993. Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986. *The American Political Science Review* 87:624-638.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin. 2002. A Kantian System? Democracy and Third-Party Conflict Resolution. *American Journal of Political Science* 46:749-759.

Peceny, Mark, Caroline C. Beer, and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. Dictatorial Peace? *American Political Science Review* 96:15-26.

Week 12: Territory and Geography

Carter, David B. 2010. The Strategy of Territorial Conflict. *American Journal of Political Science* 54:969-987.

Lektzian, David, Brandon C. Prins, and Mark Souva. 2010. Territory, River, and Maritime Claims in the Western Hemisphere: Regime Type, Rivalry, and MIDs from 1901 to 2000. *International Studies Quarterly* 54:1073-1098.

Rasler, Karen A., and William R. Thompson. 2006. Contested Territory, Strategic Rivalries, and Conflict Escalation. *International Studies Quarterly* 50:145-168.

Simmons, Beth A. 2005. Rules over Real Estate: Trade, Territorial Conflict, and International Borders as Institution. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:823-848.

Vasquez, John A. 1995. Why Do Neighbors Fight? Proximity, Interaction, or Territoriality. *Journal of Peace Research* 32:277-293.

Week 13: Leadership and War

McGillivray, Fiona, and Alastair Smith. 2006. Credibility in Compliance and Punishment: Leader Specific Punishments and Credibility. *Journal of Politics* 68:248-258.

Horowitz, Michael, Rose McDermott, and Allan C. Stam. 2005. Leader Age, Regime Type, and Violent International Relations. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:661-685.

Keller, Jonathan W. 2005. Leadership Style, Regime Type, and Foreign Policy Crisis Behavior: A Contingent Monadic Peace? *International Studies Quarterly* 49:205-232.

Walker, Stephen G., Mark Schafer, and Michael D. Young. 1999. Presidential Operational Codes and Foreign Policy Conflicts in the Post-Cold War World. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 43:610-625.

Wolford, Scott. 2007. The Turnover Trap: New Leaders, Reputation, and International Conflict. *American Journal of Political Science* 51:772-788.

Suggested

Colaresi, Michael. 2004. When Doves Cry: International Rivalry, Unreciprocated Cooperation, and Leadership Turnover. *American Journal of Political Science* 48:555-570.

Week 14: Diversionary Theory

Fordham, Benjamin O. 2005. Strategic Conflict Avoidance and the Diversionary Use of Force. *The Journal of Politics* 67:132-153.

Groeling, Tim, and Matthew A. Baum. 2008. Crossing the Water's Edge: Elite Rhetoric, Media Coverage, and the Rally-Round-the-Flag Phenomenon. *The Journal of Politics* 70:1065-1085.

Morgan, T. Clifton and Kenneth N. Bickers. 1992. Domestic Discontent and the External Use of Force. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36:25-52.

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and Brandon C. Prins. 2004. Rivalry and Diversionary Uses of Force. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48:937-961.

Tir, Jaroslav and Michael Jasinski. 2008 Domestic-Level Diversionary Theory of War: Targeting Ethnic Minorities. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:641-664.

Week 14: Civil War and Interstate War

Balcells, Laia, and Stathis N. Kalyvas. 2014. Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58:1390-1418.

Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede, Idean Salehyan, and Kenneth Schultz. 2008. Fighting at Home, Fighting Abroad: How Civil Wars Lead to International Disputes. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52:479-506.

Kalyvas, Stathis N., and Laia Balcells. 2010. International System and Technologies of Rebellion: How the End of the Cold War Shaped Internal Conflict. *American Political Science Review* 104:415-429.

Lyall, Jason, and Isaiah Wilson. 2009. Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars. *International Organization* 63:67-106.