

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
Understanding Historic and Contemporary Issues in Security

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 PM, or by appointment

Course Overview

This course explores theoretical and historical explanations for security dilemmas in the international system. The concept of security, traditionally, is studied with respect to countries and how countries can protect and obtain security for themselves. However, students of international relations will quickly observe that contemporary security dilemmas more often appear to arise from other sources of conflict and grievance, such as civil and ethnic conflict, terrorism, and environmental challenges. This course will study both of these approaches to international security, hoping to learn from the past to better understand and approach the present.

Together, we will study a variety of different approaches to international security, including theoretical debates about security, the causes of international and civil conflict, and how individual and systemic factors influence the abundance or lack of security in the international system. We will further work on broadening the conception of security by considering alternative narratives about which types actors seek security, which types of actors provide security, and how tools have changed over time to meet the goals of these various actors.

As a result, the focus of this class is primarily on conceptions of security in the post-Cold War world, though we do spend some time considering the causes of violence in World War I, World War II, and other pivotal historic conflicts. The goal is that students draw from the lessons of these earlier security crises to inform their evaluations of current conflicts. At the same time, students should openly question the traditional narratives of these historic conflict after learning about contemporary and critical theories of international security.

Apprehension of these learning goals will be exercised through daily discussion of the reading materials and of the research processes that led to the authors' conclusions. Therefore, students should not only study the content of the readings, but also the method of inquiry applied. By the end of the semester, students in this course will develop an applied understanding of international security and be able to analyze and assess emergent threats and responses from the international community.

Required Reading

Two books are required for this course. In addition, you are expected to regularly follow international news. Weekly readings will also draw extensively from political science research in international security. Other readings not included in the assigned texts will be made available on the course website.

Course Books:

- Nye, Joseph S., Jr. 2007. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History*, Sixth Edition. New York, NY: Peason-Longman Publishers.
- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

International News Sources

- Subscribe to one or more of the following news feeds and read regularly:
 - [The New York Times](#)
 - [BBC News: World](#)
 - [The Financial Times](#)
- The course website features an international news RSS-feed application. You may follow this news feed if you do not already use an RSS reader or regularly follow the news at another location.

Course Expectations

Notifications: All course information will be shared on the course website. It is expected that you check this page regularly to keep track of assignments, discussion topics, and updates.

Grading: Your grade will be based on the completion of three, short group summary papers, a research paper project, a research presentation, and participation. Details for each of these assignments are described below. The following table lists the deadlines and formats for each of these items, along with their point value. You must complete all course work in order to pass this course.

Summary of Coursework			
<i>Obligation</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Format</i>	<i>Point Value</i>
<u><i>Exams</i></u>			
Midterm Exam	Week 7	Short Answer (5/8)	50 points
Final Exam	Week 16	Short Answer (7/10)	70 points
<u><i>Research Paper Project</i></u>		Multiple Components	80 points total
Paper topic proposal	Week 5	Short (1 pg.) writing assignment	10 points
First paper draft	Week 11	10-page research paper draft	30 points
Final paper draft	Finals Week	10-page revised research paper	40 points
Attendance and Participation			50 points
			TOTAL POINTS: 250

Exams (50 point Midterm = 20% Grade; 70 point Final = 28% Grade): There will be two exams in this class. The first will be given at midterm and will cover the material from the first seven weeks of class. The second will be given during finals week and will cover the remaining material from the course. The final exam will not be cumulative. The format for both exams is a short answer format where you will be able to select from a set of questions. Before each exam, we will have a review period to discuss the material to be covered on the exam and answer any questions that you may have about the topics. Please bring at least one blue book on the day of each exam.

Research Paper (80 points total = 32% Grade): You will be asked to write a research paper that analyzes a current event relevant to international security, providing an explanation of the causes of the event, its effect on international, global, or human security. We will discuss examples in class and you are required to regularly follow a daily international news source for inspiration. Additionally, you will be asked to use the tools we discuss in class to provide a policy prescription that would advise political leaders either how to resolve the on-going conflict or how to ensure that post-settlement peace endures. This assignment will be completed in three stages:

1. Paper topic proposal (250 words): Provide a brief introduction to the topic about which you want to write. The proposal should include your research question (e.g., Why did so many Middle Eastern states experience anti-government protests at the same time?) and an initial answer in the form of a thesis statement (e.g., Several Middle Eastern countries experienced anti-government protests at the same time because their region is uniquely identified by a large number of similar domestic regimes, economic grievances, and resource constraints, which allowed protest ideals to more easily spread from one country to another.) Additionally, you should describe the theoretical approach that supports that conclusion.
2. First Paper Draft (10 pages): Prepare an initial draft of the research paper that introduces the research question, explains why it is important in the context of international conflict management, analyzes why it occurred and/or why it ended the way that it did, and advises policy-makers about how to resolve the conflict or to ensure post-settlement peace. The paper should be double-spaced, use a 12-point standard serif font (e.g., Times), 1-inch margins, use conventional construction, grammar, spelling, and punctuation, and follow [APSA formatting and citation style](#).
3. Final Paper Draft (10 pages): The final paper draft should take into consideration advice from peer review and from the instructor. You should be able to build and improve upon the original draft to construct a sophisticated analysis of the paper topic. The paper should follow the same formatting rules as the first draft and should attach the first draft graded by the instructor. Failure to include the previous draft and comments with the final draft of the paper will result in a loss of one letter grade on the paper.

More details on the research paper assignment and grading rubrics for each component are on the class website. This assignment requires your early attention, so read the assignment and

begin thinking about your research topic as soon as possible. It is recommended that you start early and seek outside help (e.g., additional peer reviews, Writing Center, meetings with me) at each stage of the assignment.

Attendance and Participation (20% Grade): This is a seminar-style course where participation is an important component of the class. You are expected to attend every class meeting, having read all of the assigned readings, given thought to the discussion topics for the day, and prepared to contribute to the class dialogue. Attendance will be taken for every class and absences should occur rarely and only under extreme circumstances. You are responsible for any material missed due to absence. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, you must inform the instructor in advance in order to be excused. Attendance and participation will be assessed using the following scale:

Attendance and Participation	
<i>Points</i>	<i>Description</i>
44-50	The student had excellent attendance and made unusually strong contributions to the discussion. S/he demonstrated connections across the readings with questions and comments.
36-43	The student had good attendance and made meaningful contributions to the discussion. S/he asked important questions and/or exhibited an understanding of the material.
28-35	The student had weak attendance and/or did not contribute meaningfully to the discussion.
0-28	The student did not attend or did not speak in class.

Policies and Conditions

Grade Complaints: Grade complaints will only be taken 24 hours after an assignment has been returned. Complaints should be submitted in writing and explain the particular discrepancy and recommend an appropriate recourse. The instructor maintains the right to add or subtract points on work that is submitted for reconsideration.

Academic Honesty: A copy of the University's policies on academic misconduct and complaint actions is attached and available on the the course website. Read and become familiar with these policies. Students caught violating conditions of academic honesty will fail this course and be reported to university authorities. It is recommended that you retain all notes and drafts of your coursework until two weeks after grades are received in order to protect your work.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities should notify the instructor as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of any student with a disability who requests a reasonable accommodation to contact Student Disability Services. Student Disability Services will arrange with the student and instructor a plan to ensure the student has the opportunities for full participation in the class.

Course Outline

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the Course

- Introduction, Course Syllabus
- Security Problems Exercise: Examining the Headlines
- Defining Security

Defining International Security

- Walt, Steve. 1991. The Renaissance of Security Studies. *International Studies Quarterly*, 35: 2, 211-239 (course website).
- Krahmhann, Elke. 2003. Conceptualizing Security Governance. *Cooperation and Conflict*, 38(1): 5-26 (course website).
- OPTIONAL: Haftendorn, Helga. 1991. The Security Puzzle: Theory-Building and Discipline-Building in International Security. *International Studies Quarterly*, 35(1): 3-17 (course website).

WEEK 2: MAN, THE STATE, AND WAR – SECURITY AND LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

Order of the International System

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 1: Is There an Enduring Logic of Conflict in World Politics? In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 1-32.
- Singer, J. David. 1961. The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations. *World Politics*, 14(1): 77-92 (course website)

International, National, Individual

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 2: Origins of the Great Twentieth-Century Conflicts. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 33-58.
- Lake, David A. 1996. Anarchy, hierarchy, and the variety of international relations. *International Organization*, 50: 1-33 (course website).

WEEK 3: THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR CONFLICT, PART I

Realism and Rationalism

- Waltz, Kenneth. 2000. Structural Realism After the Cold War. *International Security*, 25(1): 5-41 (course website)
- Fearon, James. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization*, 49(3): 379-414 (course website)

Neo-Liberalism and Institutionalism

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 7: Globalization and Interdependence. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 204-232.
- Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 1995. The Promise of Institutional Theory. *International Security*, 20(1): 39-51 (course website).
- OPTIONAL: Mearsheimer, John J. 1994/1994. The False Promise of International Institutions. *International Security*, 19(3): 5-49 (course website).

WEEK 4: THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR CONFLICT, PART II**Liberalism and the Democratic Peace**

- Moravcsik, Andrew. 1997. Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics. *International Organization*, 51(4): 513-53 (course website).
- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review*, 87(3): 624-638 (course website).

Constructivism and Other Critical Approaches**** Select one from each category.***Constructivism*

- Wendt, Alexander. 1992. Anarchy is What States Make of It. *International Organization*, 46(2): 391-425 (course website).
- Ashley, Richard K. 1986. The Poverty of Neorealism. In *Neorealism and Its Critics*. Robert O. Keohane, ed. New York, NY: Columbia University Press (course website).

Feminism

- Sjoberg, Laura. 2009. Introduction to *Security Studies: Feminist Contributions*. *Security Studies*, 18: 183-213 (course website).
- Tickner, J. Ann. 1997. You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists. *International Studies Quarterly*. 41(4): 611-632 (course website).
- Caprioli, Mary and Mark Boyer. 2001. Gender, Violence, and International Crisis. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 45: 503-518 (course website).

Marxism and Postcolonialism

- Gill, Stephen R. and David Law. 1989. Global Hegemony and the Structural Power of Capital. *International Studies Quarterly*, 33: 475-499.
- Barkawi, Tarak and Mark Laffey. 2006. The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies. *Review of International Studies*, 32: 329-352 (course website).
- Ayooob, Mohammed. 2002. Inequality and Theorizing in International Relations: The Case of Subaltern Realism. *International Studies Review*, 4(3): 27-48.

WEEK 5: POWER, PERCEPTION, AND SECURITY**Balance of Power and War****** Paper proposals due at the beginning of class.**

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 3: Balance of Power and World War I. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 59-86.
- Organski, A.F.K. and Jacek Kugler. 1981. Chapter 1: Causes, Beginnings, and Predictions. In *The War Ledger*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press (course website).

WEEK 5, CONTINUED**The Security Dilemma and Power Accumulation****** Read Richardson and one of the Jervis pieces.**

- Richardson, Lewis F. 1960. Chapter II: Arms Races and Chapter VI: Arms Races During the Years from 1820 to 1908. In *Arms and Insecurity: A Mathematical Study of the Causes and Origins of War*. Nicolas Rashevsky and Ernest Trucco, eds. Pittsburgh, PA: The Boxwood Press (course website).
- Jervis, Robert. 1978. Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma. *World Politics*, 30(2): 167-214 (course website)
- Jervis, Robert. 1976. Chapter 3: Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary. In *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (course website).

WEEK 6: CONFLICT IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM**Interstate Conflict**

- Levy, Jack S. 1998. The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1: 139-165 (course website).
- Holsti, K.J. 1995. War, Peace, and the State of the State. *International Political Science Review*, 16(4): 319-339 (course website).

Civil Conflict

- Brown, Michael E. 1993. Chapter 1: Causes and Implications of Ethnic Conflict. In *Ethnic Conflict and International Security*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (course website).
- Collier, Paul and Hoeffler, Anke. 2004. Greed and Grievance in Civil War. *Oxford Economic Papers*, 56: 563-595 (course website).

WEEK 7: MIDTERM EXAM**Midterm Exam Review**

- Bring notes and questions!
- **Film: *Dr. Strangelove***

Midterm Exam (Exam #1)

- Midterm Exam: Material from weeks 1-6
- Format: Short answer. Answer 5 questions from 8 possible choices.
- Please bring at least one blue book to the exam.

WEEK 8: SOURCES OF ABSOLUTE AND RELATIVE POWER**Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation**

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 5: The Cold War. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 115-156.
- Waltz, Kenneth. 1990. Nuclear Myths and Political Realities. *American Political Science Review*, 84(3): 731-745 (course website).
- Gartzke, Erik and Kroenig. 2009. A Strategic Approach to Nuclear Proliferation. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 53(2): 151-160 (course website).

The Means of War – Technology

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 8: The Information Revolution, Transnational Actors, and the Diffusion of Power. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 233-260.
- Levy, Jack S. 1984. The Offensive/Defensive Balance of Military Technology: A Theoretical and Historical Analysis. *International Studies Quarterly*, 28(2): 219-238 (course website).

WEEK 9: THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL SECURITY**The Resource Curse and Security**

- Dinar, Shlomi. 2002. Water, Security, Conflict, and Cooperation. *SAIS Review*, 22(2): 229-253 (course website).
- Basedau, Matthias and Jann Lay. 2009. Resource Curse or Rentier Peace? The Ambiguous Effects of Oil Wealth and Oil Dependence on Violent Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research*, 46(6): 757-776 (course website).

Environmental Security

- Levy, Marc A. 1995. Is the Environment a National Security Issue? *International Security*, 20(2): 35-62 (course website).
- Gleditsch, Nils Petter. 1998. Armed Conflict and the Environment: A Critique of the Literature. *Journal of Peace Research*, 35(3): 381-400 (course website).

WEEK 10: INDIVIDUALS AND CONFLICT, PART I: INDIVIDUAL PERPETRATORS**Non-State Actors, Security, and Conflict****** Select one from each of the three categories***Failed States*

- Milliken, Jennifer and Keith Krause. 2002. State Failure, State Collapse, and State Reconstruction: Concepts, Lessons, and Strategies. *Development and Change*, 33(5): 753-774 (course website).
- Rotberg, Robert I. 2002. Failed States in a World of Terror. *Foreign Affairs*, 81(4): 127-140 (course website).

Private Military Companies

- Avant, Deborah. 2004. The Privatization of Security and Change in the Control of Force. *International Studies Perspectives*, 5(2): 153-157 (course website).
- Cameron, Lindsey. 2006. Private Military Companies: Their Status Under International Humanitarian Law and Its Impact on Their Regulation. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 88: 573-598 (course website).

Transnational Actors and Influences

- Smith, Paul J. 2000. Transnational Security Threats and State Survival: A Role for the Military? *Parameters*, Autumn: 77-91 (course website).
- Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. 2007. Transnational Dimensions of Civil War. *Journal of Peace Research*, 44(3): 293-309 (course website).

Terrorism and International Security**** First Paper draft due at the beginning of class.**

- Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. "The Causes of Terrorism." *Comparative Politics*, 13(4): 379-399 (course website).
- Paper, Robert. 2003. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 97: 343-361 (course website).

WEEK 11: INDIVIDUALS AND CONFLICT, PART II: INDIVIDUALS AS VICTIMS**Human Security**

- Paris, Roland. 2001. Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air? *International Security*, 26(2): 87-102 (course website).
- King, Gary and Christopher J.L. Murray. Rethinking Human Security. *Political Science Quarterly*, 116(4): 585-610.
- OPTIONAL: Elbe, Stefan. 2006. Should HIV/AIDS Be Securitized? The Ethical Dilemmas of Linking HIV/AIDS and Security. *International Studies Quarterly*, 50(1): 119-144.

Human Rights

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/udhr.html>
- Pease, Kelly Kate and David P. Forsythe. 1993. Human Rights, Humanitarian Intervention, and World Politics. *Human Rights Quarterly*, 15(2): 290-314 (course website).
- Straus, Scott. 2003. Darfur and the Genocide Debate. *Foreign Affairs*, 84(1): 123-133 (course website).
- For a list of all UN Agreements on Human Rights, see: <http://www.hrweb.org/legal/undocs.html>

WEEK 12: RESEARCH PROJECT MEETINGS

- **No Class – Individual Meetings with Prof. Lefler to discuss papers**
- **Start reading Fortna book.**

WEEK 13: RESPONDING TO INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT**Military Intervention and Peacekeeping**

- Fortna, Virginia Page. 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work? Shaping Belligerents' Choices after Civil War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

WEEK 14: INTERVENTION AND POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION

Intervention

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 6: Intervention, Institutions, and Regional and Ethnic Conflicts. In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 157-203.
- Dowty, Alan and Gil Loescher. 1996. Refugee Flows as Grounds for International Action. *International Security*, 21(1): 43-71 (course website).

Post-Conflict Reconstruction

**** Final Paper due at 11:59 PM. Submit to on-line course drop box.**

- Walter, Barbara F. 1997. The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement. *International Organization*, 51(3): 335-364 (course website).
- Feil, Scott. 2002. Building Better Foundations: Security in Post-Conflict Reconstruction. *The Washington Quarterly*, 25(4): 97-109 (course website).

WEEK 15: FINAL EXAM REVIEW

Final Exam Review

- Nye, Joseph. 2007. Chapter 9: A New World Order? In *Understanding International Conflicts*. 261-285.
- Bring notes and questions!

Film: *Disarm* (2005)

FINALS WEEK: FINAL EXAM DATE, TIME, LOCATION

- Material from weeks 8-15.
- Format: Short answer. Answer 7 questions from 10 possible choices.
- Please bring at least one blue book to the exam.