

PS 6110: International Security

Middle Tennessee State University
Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and by appointment (<https://vlefler.youcanbook.me>)

Course Overview

This seminar adopts a conflict analysis approach to the study of international conflict processes and international security. It introduces students to Sandole's (1998) three-pillar model of conflict analysis that emphasizes diagnosis, context, and intervening remediation strategies. Throughout the semester, this course will also introduce students to pivotal and recent international security scholarship. The aim is to link practical, analytic approaches with the state-of-the-art theory and evidence on international conflict and security.

Required Readings

- We have no books required for this course, but there will be assigned readings from scholarly journals. You are responsible for obtaining these other reading assignments. I recommend Google Scholar, available through the MTSU Library. Scans or .pdfs of more difficult to obtain readings will be e-mailed to the class.
- For other, outside, reading, I also recommend the following blogs that study international relations and negotiation in the context of current events:

Political Violence @ a Glance
Lawfare: Hard National Security Choices
Duck of Minerva

Course Expectations

Notifications

All course information will be shared through e-mail. You should, therefore, also be in the habit of checking your MTSU e-mail. This is also the best way to contact me as I do not regularly check messages sent through D2L.

Coursework

Your final grade for this course will be based on your performance on class participation, leadership of one discussion topic, weekly papers, and a research project.

Attendance & Participation = 20%

Because we meet just once a week, it is expected that you will attend every class meeting. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend a meeting, let me know as soon as possible. Students will lose 10% of their Attendance & Participation grade for every unexcused absence.

You are expected to read all assigned readings before class and arrive prepared to discuss them. Students should feel free to ask questions and debate the topics at hand; you are strongly encouraged to participate even if you found the readings difficult or problematic.

Participation and Attendance will be assessed using the following scale:

Participation	
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Requirement</i>
A	The student had excellent attendance and made unusually strong contributions to the discussion. S/he demonstrated connections across the readings with questions and comments.
B	The student had good attendance and made good contributions to the discussion. S/he frequently asked important questions and/or exhibited an understanding of the material.
C	The student had fair attendance and occasionally contributed to the discussion. S/he asked questions and/or made comments that were primarily descriptive, rather than substantive or analytic.
D	The student had weak attendance and/or did not contribute meaningfully to the discussion.
F	The student did not attend or did not speak in class.

Weekly Reading Application = 20%

Throughout the semester, you will submit a total of 6 one-page critical applications of the weekly readings. The purpose of these critical applications is to begin practicing your skills as a conflict analyst. The application paper should, then, summarize a core take-away of the readings for the week and identify how they could be relevant in the processes or dynamics of a conflict that you want to understand better.

Ideally, you will select the conflict that you want to analyze for your research project before you submit your first critical application and use each short paper to begin drafting the analysis portion of your final project. You may, however, apply the readings to any relevant conflict.

You can use single-spacing, one-inch margins, and no smaller than 11-point font. Critical reading applications should be printed and are due at the beginning of the class for which the paper was written. Late reading critiques will not be accepted under any circumstances. You will be allowed to drop your lowest paper grade.

Conflict Analysis Project = 40%

You will be asked to complete an original conflict analysis this term. For this project, you will choose a research agenda that falls in an area topical to the class and produce an analysis of that topic using the conflict analysis model: diagnosis, context, and remediation.

Regardless of the research agenda you select, you want to be aware early on about the availability of information and data. You may use whatever methodology you feel is most appropriate to the topic and which you feel qualified to implement. It may take a little working ahead to determine if the data, information, or access you need is even available.

The project will be divided over three drafts. You will also present your work to the class later in the semester. The paper should be about 25-30 pages in length and be written in the professional style of the American Political Science Association.

Details for each assignment will follow separately.

Paper Components

1. *Conflict Background Map: Actors, Institutions, Events, and Interests*, due Monday, 09 October
2. *Conflict Analysis: Causal and Interdependent Processes, Dynamics, and Trajectories*, due Monday, 13 November
3. *Final Conflict Analysis Draft*, due Monday, 04 December

Conflict Analysis Panel Proposal = 20%, due Monday, 04 December

Last, as a class, you will submit a proposal for a conflict analysis panel based on the projects you all complete over the course of the semester. The proposal will conceive of a major lecture event, such as that which might be conducted by the Council of Foreign Relations or another think tank, and include a theme statement and propose a list of discussants who might provide comment on the speakers' (your) analysis in the context of the theme.

This proposal will be a collective product of the class and you will all be expected to contribute to the design and writing of this proposal. The goal is that this proposal will be submitted for approval and implementation by the Graduate Program.

All written components will be submitted electronically by 11:59 PM on the date they are due. Late papers will be penalized 10% for each day they are late; I will not accept any assignment more than one week after it is due. Late Final Drafts and Panel Proposals will not be accepted at all.

Grading

Based on the above expectations, grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A+	>97%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-96%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%
						F	<60%

Policies and Conditions

Grade Complaints

Complaints regarding graded assignments 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 reserves 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 available on the University 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 Disabled Student Services. Disabled Student Services will arrange with the student and instructor a plan to ensure the student has the opportunities for full participation in the class.

Inclement Weather and Class Cancellation

Sign up for RAVE alerts from MTSU at <https://www.getrave.com/login/mtsu> to receive notifications related to campus schedule changes. You should also check your e-mail prior to class to confirm any schedule changes. Last, if the weather is inclement and you do not feel that you can make it to class, inform me *as soon as possible*. Do not take unnecessary risks to attend class.

Get Connected to Your MTSU Political Science Department!

Students who are the most successful – in their courses, graduating on time, finding jobs and developing careers in the field, getting into law school and graduate school, and just getting the most out of their college years – are those who stay informed about all of the opportunities and events they can take advantage of, and stay connected to the Department and other students.

Please use these resources to both stay informed and stay connected – and succeed.

MTSU Political Science Facebook Page

We use Facebook to notify our students of upcoming events and opportunities (including internships and study abroad) for PS and IR majors and minors.

Please “like” the page so you are always in the loop: MTSU Political Science

Department of Political Science Webpage

This is a huge resource of information on majors, minors, program requirements, faculty contacts, the Student Handbook, Newsletters, and much more.

Please bookmark the site and check it often and whenever you have questions:

<http://www.mtsu.edu/politicalscience/>

PS/IR Student Services Page

This site provides easy access to info on advising, law school, grad school, careers and job search, study abroad, internships, and much more to help you succeed.

Please bookmark the site and really use it to get the most out of your time in the Department.

[http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-student services](http://www.mtsu.edu/ps-ir-student%20services)

Other Resource Tools

Much of this information – program requirements, Student Handbook, Newsletters, upcoming events, and so on – are available on the racks and bulletin board outside the Departmental Office in Peck 209.

Course Outline

Read all materials assigned for the date described in the meeting heading. Papers that apply conflict analysis approaches are designated with asterisks (**).

Week 1 (08/31/2017) – No Class, APSA Annual Meeting

- No Class – Dr. Lefler attending American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

Week 2 (09/07/2017) – Introduction

Week 3 (09/14/2017) – Conflict Analysis Research

- Chapters from *Conflict*, 2nd edition. 2008. Cheldelin, Sandra, Daniel Druckman, and Larissa Fast, editors. New York, NY: Continuum.
 - Cheldelin, Sandra, Daniel Druckman, Larissa Fast, and Keven Clements. Chapter 2: Theory, Research, and Practice. pgs. 9-37.
 - Sandole, Dennis J.D. Chapter 3: Typology. pgs. 42-57.
 - Rubenstein, Richard E. Chapter 4: Sources. pgs. 58-70.
 - Pearson d’Estree, Tamra. Chapter 5: Dynamics. pgs. 71-91.
 - Druckman, Daniel. Chapter 22: Toward Integrated Knowledge. 395-405.

Week 4 (09/21/2017) – Levels of Analysis in International Security

- Waltz, Kenneth Neal. 1954. Chapter 1: Introduction. In *Man, the State and War*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. pgs. 1-15.
- Bremer, Stuart A. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 36(2): 309-341.
- Hermann, Richard K. and Michael P. Fischerkeller. 1995. Beyond the Enemy Image and Spiral Model: Cognitive-Strategic Research After the Cold War. *International Organization*, 49(3): 415-450.
- ** Porto, Jaõa Gomes. 2002. Contemporary Conflict Analysis in Perspective. In *Scarcity and Security: The Ecology of Africa’s Conflicts*. Lind, Jeremy and Kathryn Sturman, editors. Pretoria, South Africa: Institute for Strategic Studies. 1-33.

Week 5 (09/28/2017) – Domestic Politics and War

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce and Randolph M. Siverson. 1995. War and the Survival of Political Leaders: A Comparative Study of Regime Types and Political Accountability. *American Political Science Review*, 89(4): 841-855.

Regime Type

- Weeks, Jessica L. 2012. Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict. *American Political Science Review*, 106(2): 326-347.
- Keller, Jonathan W. 2005. Leadership Style, Regime Type, and Foreign Policy Crisis Behavior: A Contingent Monadic Peace? *International Studies Quarterly*, 49(2): 205-232.

Diversionsary War

- Fordham, Benjamin O. 2002. Another Look at “Parties, Voters, and the Use of Force Abroad.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 46(4): 572-596.
 - Johnson, Jesse C. and Tiffany D. Barnes. 2011. Responsibility and the Diversionsary Use of Force. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 28(5): 478-496.
- ** Chen, Jie. 2001. Urban Chinese Perceptions of Threats from the United States and Japan. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 65(2): 254-266.

Week 6 (10/05/2017) – Issue-Based Explanations for War

Rivalry

- Goertz, Gary and Paul F. Diehl. 1995. Taking “Enduring” Out of Enduring Rivalry: The Rivalry Approach to War and Peace. *International Interactions*, 21(3): 291-308.
- Schrock-Jacobson, Gretchen. 2012. The Violent Consequences of the Nation: Nationalism and the Initiation of Interstate War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 56(5): 825-852.

Territory

- Vasquez, John A. 1995. Why Do Neighbors Fight? Proximity, Interaction, or Territoriality. *Journal of Peace Research*, 32(3): 277-293.

- 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.

Issue-Based Conflict Analyses

- ** Bigagaza, Jean, Carolyne Abong, and Cecile Mukarubuga. 2002. Land Scarcity, Distribution and Conflict in Rwanda. In *Scarcity and Security: The Ecology of Africa's Conflicts*. Lind, Jeremy and Kathryn Sturman, editors. Pretoria, South Africa: Institute for Strategic Studies. 51-84.
- ** Goldsmith, Paul, Lydia A. Abura, and Jason Switzer. 2002. Oil and Water in Sudan. In *Scarcity and Security: The Ecology of Africa's Conflicts*. Lind, Jeremy and Kathryn Sturman, editors. Pretoria, South Africa: Institute for Strategic Studies. 187-242.

Week 7 (10/12/2017) – Human Security: Development, Political Stability, and Environment

- Harff, Barbara and Ted Robert Gurr. 1989. Victims of the State: Genocides, Politicides and Group Repression Since 1945. *International Review of Victimology*, 1(1): 23-41.
- ** Ali, Maid E. 2013. Estimate of the Economic Costs of Armed Conflict: A Case Study From Darfur. *Defense and Peace Economics*, 24(6): 503-519.
- Bell, Sam R. and Andrew G. Long. 2016. Trade Interdependence and the Use of Force: Do Issues Matter? *International Interactions*, 42: 750-773.
- ** Taylor-Robinson, Michelle and Steven B. Redd. 2003. Framing and Poliheuristic Theory of Decision: The United Fruit Company and the 1954 U.S.-Led Coup in Guatemala. In *Integrating Cognitive and Rational Theories of Foreign Policy Decision Making: Advances in Foreign Policy Analysis*. Mintz, A., editor. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan. 77-100.
- Jones, Benjamin T, Eleonora Mattiacci, and Bear Braumoeller. 2017. Food Scarcity and State Vulnerability: Unpacking the Link Between Climate Variability and Violent Unrest. *Journal of Peace Research*, 54(3): 335-350.

Week 8 (10/19/2017) – Security Cooperation: Alliances and Collective Security

- 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(3): 427-439.

- Colaresi, Michael P. and William R. Thompson. 2005. Alliances, Arms Buildups and Recurrent Conflict: Testing a Steps-to-War Model. *Journal of Politics*, 67(2): 345-364.
- Betts, Richard K. 1992. Systems for Peace or Causes for War? Collective Security, Arms Control, and the New Europe. *International Security*, 17(1): 5-43.
- Kreps, Sarah E. 2008. Multilateral Military Interventions: Theory and Practice. *Political Science Quarterly*, 123(4): 573-603.
- ** Pickering, Jeffrey and Emizet F. Kisangani. 2006. Political, Economic, and Social Consequences of Foreign Military Intervention. *Political Research Quarterly*, 59(3): 363-376.

Week 9 (10/26/2017) – Nuclear Proliferation and International Security

- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1981. The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better. *Adelphi Papers*, No. 171. London: International Institute for Strategic Studies.
- ** Sagan, Scott D. 1994. The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons. *International Security*, 18(4): 66-107.
- Asal, Victor and Kyle Beardsley. 2007. Proliferation and International Crisis Behavior. *Journal of Peace Research*, 44(2): 139-155.
- Narang, Vipin. 2013. What Does It Take to Deter? Regional Power Nuclear Postures and International Conflict. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 57(3): 478-508.
- ** Allison, Graham T. 1969. Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis. *American Political Science Review*, 63(3): 689-718.

Week 10 (11/02/2017) – Civil War

- Cunningham, Kathleen Gallagher. 2013. Understanding Strategic Choice: The Determinants of Civil War and Nonviolent Campaign in Self-Determination Disputes. *Journal of Peace Research*, 50(3): 291-304.
- 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(4): 479-506.
- Elbadawi, Ibrahim and Nicholas Sambanis. 2002. How Much War Will We See? Explaining the Prevalence of Civil War. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 46(3): 307-334.
- Balcells, Laia and Stathis N. Kalyvas. 2014. Does Warfare Matter? Severity, Duration, and Outcomes of Civil Wars. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58(8): 1390-1418.

- ** Ball, Patrick, Wendy Betts, Fritz Scheuren, Jana Dudukovich, and Jana Asher. 2002. Killings and Refugee Flow in Kosovo, March - June 1999: A Report to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- ** Sharnt, Keren. 2014. How Conflict Begets Conflict: Activation of the Ethos of Conflict in Times of Distress in a Society Involved in Intractable Conflict. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 55: 252-261.

Week 11 (11/09/2017) – Terrorism

- Victoroff, Jeff. 2005. The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(1): 3-42.
- Bapat, Navin A. 2006. State Bargaining with Transnational Terrorist Groups. *International Studies Quarterly*, 50(1): 213-230.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2005. Conciliation, Counterterrorism, and Patterns of Terrorist Violence. *International Organization*, 59(1): 145-176.
- San-Acka, Belgin. 2014. Democracy and Vulnerability: An Exploitation Theory of Democracies by Terrorists. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58(7): 1285-1310.
- ** Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection? *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(4): 119-144.

Week 12 (11/16/2017) – Conflict Analysis Project Presentations

Week 13 (11/23/2017) – No Class, Thanksgiving

- No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14 (11/30/2017) – Information and Cyber Security

- Nye, Joseph S., Jr. 2010. Cyber Power. Research Monograph. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs.
- Manjikian, Mary McEvoy. 2010. From Global Village to Virtual Battlespace: The Colonizing of the Internet and the Extension of Realpolitik. *International Studies Quarterly*, 54(2): 381-401.
- Valeriano, Brandon and Ryan C. Maness. 2014. The Dynamics of Cyber Conflict Between Rival Antagonists, 2001-11. *Journal of Peace Research*, 51(3): 347-360.

- ** Farwell, James P. and Rafal Rohzinski. 2011. Stuxnet and the Future of Cyber War. *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, 53(1): 23-40.
- ** Dehlawi, Zakariya and Norah Abokhodair. 2013. Saudi Arabia's Response to Cyber Conflict: A Case Study of the Shamoon Malware Incident. *Intelligence and Security Informatics*. Manuscript.

Week 15 (12/07/2017) – No Class, Study Day

- No Class – University Study Day, Final Examination Period begins 08 December, 2017.