International Relations
Department of Politics
G53.1700.001
Fall 2004, Thursdays 6:20-8:20

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Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to graduate-level study in the field of International Relations. The aim is to provide an introduction to the study of International Relations while integrating key methodological concepts and relevant, current research. Ideally, students will develop a broad understanding of International Relations theory, the ability to identify significant research and gain exposure to the various tools used in Political Science. These skills will serve as a foundation for later graduate study and research in the field.

Each week addresses one or more important issues in International Relations. Students are expected to complete all required readings and are encouraged to tackle the recommended works. The course is divided into 5 parts. The first considers threats of war and preventative measures. The next looks at the escalation and onset of war. The third examines attempts at cooperation and peace. International Political Economy, including trade and finance, is considered in part four. Lastly, the course concludes with a look at predictions of the future in International Relations.

Course Requirements

Students will complete three (3) critical reviews. Each review should be about 5 pages, double-spaced, and should focus on the journal readings for a given week. Critical reviews are due at the beginning of class and each is worth 20% of the overall course grade. Students are expected to guide the class discussion for that particular week. Students will also complete a number of course-related exercises. These exercises will make up an additional 20% of the course grade. The remaining 20% will be determined by class participation and preparedness.

Required Readings

The following texts are available at the NYU bookstore. Copies are also available, on reserve, at Bobst Library. A course pack, including all relevant journal articles, will be made available for purchase. Most journal articles can also be found at www.jstor.org.


**Course Outline and Readings**

**Sept. 9**  
**Course Introduction/Theory and Critical Thinking**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 1, 2

**I. Threats of War**

**Sept. 16**  
**Balance of Power**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 3, 4

Recommended
- Thucydides. *History of the Peloponnesian War*, (Book V)

**Sept. 23**  
**Alliances**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 15
Recommended

**Sept. 30**  
**Deterrence**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 11

Recommended

II. **Conflict and War**

**Oct. 7**  
**Hegemonie Stability Theory/Power Transitions**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 16
- Krasner, Stephen. “State Power and the Structure of International Trade” in Frieden & Lake

Recommended
Oct. 14  Crisis Escalation and Bargaining

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 17

Recommended

III. Prospects for Peace

Oct. 21  Cooperation and Conflict

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 14

Recommended

Oct. 28  Compliance/Enforcement

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 14 (review)

Recommended

Nov. 4 Domestic Politics and Conflict

• Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 5

Recommended

Nov. 11 Democratic Peace/Democracies and War

• Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 12

Recommended

IV. International Political Economy

Nov. 18 International Trade

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 13
- Ronald Rogowski “Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic Political Alignments” in Frieden & Lake

Recommended

Nov. 25 No Class—Thanksgiving Holiday

Dec. 2 Money and Finance

- Barry Eichengreen “Hegemonic Stability Theories of the International Monetary System” in Frieden & Lake
- Cohen Benjamin J. “The Triad of the Unholy Trinity: Problems of International Monetary Cooperation” in Frieden & Lake
- Frieden, Jeffery A. “Exchange Rate Politics” in Frieden & Lake

Recommended
Dec. 9  Globalization

- Cerny, Philip G. “Globalization and the Changing Logic of Collective Action” in Frieden & Lake
- Dani Rodrik “Sense and Nonsense in the Globalization Debate” in Frieden & Lake
- Jeffrey A. Williamson “Globalization and Inequality, Past and Present” in Frieden & Lake

Recommended

Tues.

Dec. 14  Predicting the Future

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 18