Course Description
This course serves as an introduction to graduate-level study in the field of International Relations (IR). The aim is to provide an introduction to the study of IR while integrating key methodological concepts and relevant, current research. Students will develop a broad understanding of IR 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 IR. Students are expected to complete all required readings and are encouraged to tackle the recommended works. The course is divided into four 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.

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 also expected to guide the class discussion for that particular week. In addition, students will complete a number of course-related homework exercises that will account for another 20% of the course grade. The remaining 20% will be determined by class participation and preparedness.

Required Readings
The course text is 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

Jan. 24     Course Introduction/Theory and Critical Thinking

  • Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 1, 2

I. Threats of War

Jan. 31     Balance of Power

  • Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 3, 4

Recommended
  o Claude, Inis. 1962. Power and International Relations. New York: Random House. (Ch. 2, 3)
  o Thucydides. History of the Peloponnesian War, (Book V)

Feb. 7     Alliances

  • Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 15

Recommended
Feb. 14  Deterrence

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 11

Recommended

Feb. 21  No Class—President’s Day

Feb. 28  Terrorism

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 11 (review)

II. Conflict and War

Mar. 7  Hegemonic Stability Theory/Power Transitions

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 16
Recommended


**Mar. 14**  No Class—Spring Recess

**Mar. 21**  Crisis Escalation and Bargaining

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 17

Recommended


**III. Prospects for Peace**

**Mar. 28**  Cooperation and Compliance

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 14

Recommended


**Domestic Politics and Conflict**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 5

Recommended

**Democratic Peace/Democracies and War**

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 12

Recommended
IV. International Political Economy

Apr. 18 International Trade

- Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 13

Recommended

Apr. 25 Money and Finance


Recommended
May 2  

Globalization


Recommended