The core graduate course in international relations is designed to explore the main issues and research strategies in the study of international security and international political economy. Readings, therefore, include review articles, important research papers and books providing alternative approaches to the subject. The one required book is Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson, and James D. Morrow, *The Logic of Political Survival* (hereafter BdM2S2). Those who want a broad overview of the field and who expect to teach international relations in the future should also consider familiarizing themselves with at least one of the following introductory textbooks (in alphabetical order lest you think I might have a preference): *Global Politics* (James Ray); *Principles of International Politics* (Bruce Bueno de Mesquita), or *World Politics: Menu for Choice* (Bruce Russett).

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the week’s readings, with special emphasis on the way in which hypotheses are developed, the fundamental elements of research design, and with ideas about how the research questions in the readings might be better examined or about future directions in research on the topic under discussion. Critiques of the reading assignments should focus on any problems in logic or evidence and should offer concrete and feasible ideas about how to improve on the research.

Each student will write one short paper (about 5 pages) and one longer paper (whatever length is appropriate to convey the motivation, develop the research design, and provide either formal proofs or empirical tests of key propositions). The two papers can be on the same or on different topics. The short paper should focus on situating an original research idea within its relevant literature. The paper should briefly discuss the research design, the structure of the theory if original, data sources if relevant, and present quick-and-dirty (i.e., simple) tests of one or more hypotheses using data available for downloading from the web or other sources. The final, longer paper should derive hypotheses either from arguments in the literature or from an original formal model and provide careful statistical analyses of testable claims that follow from the argument. This paper should not simply be a rehash of research by others, but a significant original research undertaking.

January 23: Introduction to the Core Issues
Erik Gartzke, “War is in the Error Term,” *International Organization* (Summer 1999)

January 30: System Structure and Conflict: Neo-Realism
Kenneth Waltz, “Evaluating Theories,” APSR (December 1997)

February 6: System Structure and Conflict: Power Transition

February 13: National Interest & War
War and Reason, Chapters 2-3 and 6;

February 20: Presidents Day: No Class

February 27: Alliances, Deterrence and War

March 6: Individual Decision-Makers & National Policy
BdM2S2, Chapters 3, 8, 9

March 13: Spring Recess

March 20: Individual Decision-Makers and Audience Costs:

Short Paper Due on March 20th.

March 27: Democratic Peace: Systemic, National, & Leadership/SIE Explanations
BdM2S2, Chapter 6

April 3: International Trade

April 10: International Currency & Banks Regulation
William Clark and Mark Hallerberg, “Mobile Capital, Domestic Institutions, and Electorally Induced Monetary and Fiscal Policy,” *American Political Science Review* (June 2000)
David LeBlang and Shanker Satyanath, “Institutions, Expectations, and Currency Crises,” *IO*.

April 17: International Organizations and Compliance

April 24: Presentation of Class Research Results

May 1: Presentation of Class Research Results continued; Concluding Remarks

Final research paper due. (I do not object to giving an incomplete if extra time is needed and significant progress has been made on the paper. I prefer a good paper to an on-time paper.)