

Strategy and Defense Policy
Politics G53.2701: Spring 2003

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita
bbd2@nyu.edu, x8-3521

Office Hours: Monday 10-12 and whenever I am in my office. Feel free to stop by.

This course explores theories about conditions that promote cooperation or conflict in international affairs. The main objective is to identify strategies that promote cooperative solutions to international disputes and to evaluate those strategies in terms of their historical effectiveness. We examine both external and internal factors that influence relations between states. The primary emphasis is on the application of rigorous theoretic models and evidence as tools for assessing defense strategy. Seminar sessions will build on and expand beyond the required readings.

Students are encouraged to prepare one-page to two-page papers every other week. I require at least four such short papers from each student *spread* across the semester. These very short papers should present a quick and dirty test of a hypothesis in the next week's reading or a related hypothesis formulated by the student, including a basic justification of the hypothesis, relevant data, and test. Alternatively, short papers can develop a theoretical argument that leads to a new proposition that could be tested in a subsequent short paper. The short papers serve as a useful stimulus for identifying a topic for the semester research paper. Students are required to prepare a research paper of up to 35 pages (i.e., an appropriate length for submission to a peer-reviewed journal) that develops and/or tests one or more hypotheses about international cooperation or conflict. Of course the paper can be shorter. I will be happy to discuss the paper with each student and will happily read preliminary drafts or sections. Research papers are due on April 23rd with the expectation that students will present their research findings during the final class session on April 30th. I do not object to giving an incomplete if the paper is not finished by the end of the semester provided that there is sufficient progress on the paper that the student can present core theoretical ideas or data analysis by the end of April.

The core readings for the course are: Robert Powell, *In the Shadow of Power* (hereafter Powell) and Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Alastair Smith, Randolph M. Siverson, and James D. Morrow, *The Logic of Political Survival* (hereafter LPS). In addition, we read a number of journal articles and portions of other books. Everything should be read with an eye on identifying core assumptions, the logical link between assumptions and hypotheses and evidence.

January 22: Intro: Modeling and Rationality

Required Reading: James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* (Summer 1995); Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, "War and Rationality," in Manus Midlarsky, ed. *Handbook of War Studies*, 3rd edition (forthcoming).

Suggested Readings: Robert Jackman, "Rationality and Political Participation." *American Journal of Political Science*, 1993; Frank Zagare, "Rationality and Deterrence," *World Politics* 1990.

January 29: Balance of Power: Theory

Required Reading: Powell, Chapter 2; Emerson Niu and Peter Ordeshook, "A Theory of the Balance of Power in International Systems," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 30 (Dec. 1986):685-715; Powell, Robert. 1994. "Anarchy in International Relations Theory: The Neorealist-Neoliberal Debate," *International Organization* 48 (2): 313-344; Milner, Helen V. 1998. "Rationalizing Politics: The Emerging Synthesis of International, American, and Comparative Politics." *International Organization* 52 (Autumn): 759–86.

Suggested Readings: Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* ; Edward Vose Gulick, *Europe's Classical Balance of Power*; Colin Elman and John Vasquez, eds. *Realism and the Balancing of Power: A New Debate*.

February 5: Balance of Power: Evidence

Required Reading: D. Scott Bennett and Allan C. Stam, "A Universal Test of an Expected Utility Theory of War," *International Studies Quarterly* (September 2000); Bueno de Mesquita and Lalman, "Empirical Support for Systemic and Dyadic Explanations of International Conflict," *World Politics* October 1988; Curtis Signorino, "Strategic Interaction and the Statistical Analysis of International Conflict," *American Political Science Review* 1998; Alastair Smith, "Testing Theories of Strategic Choice," *American Journal of Political Science* 1999.

Suggested Readings: James Morrow, "A Continuous-Outcome Expected Utility Theory of War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 1985

February 12: Domestic Audiences and National Foreign Policy

James Fearon, "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review* 1994; Smith, "International Crises and Domestic Politics," *APSR* 92 (Sept. 1998): 623-38.

February 19: Holiday

February 26: Testing Audience Costs

Kenneth Schultz, "Looking for Audience Costs," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* February 2001; Alastair Smith, "Diversionary Foreign Policy in Democratic Systems," *International Studies Quarterly* 40 (March 1996): 133-53; Peter Partell and Glenn Palmer, "Audience Costs and Interstate Crises: An Empirical Assessment of Fearon's Model of Dispute Outcomes," *International Studies Quarterly*, June 1999; Christopher Gelpi and Michael Griesdorf, "Winners or Losers?: Democracies in International Crises, 1918-1994," *American Political Science Review* 2001.

March 5: Leader Survival and Institutions

LPS, Chapters 2-3.

March 12: Spring Recess

March 19: Democratic Peace: Constraints or Norms or Both

Required Reading: LPS, Chapter 6; Zeev Maoz and Bruce Russett, "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review*, 1993; Kenneth Schultz, "Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises," *American Political Science Review* (December 1998).

March 26: Democratic Peace: Evidence

Required Readings: Bruce Bueno de Mesquita et al, "Testing Novel Implications from the Selectorate Theory of War," *World Politics* 56 (April 2004), 363-88; Patricia Lynne Sullivan and Scott Sigmund Gartner, "Disaggregating Peace: Domestic Politics and Dispute Outcomes," *International Interactions* 32 (Jan-March, 2006): 1-26; Erik Gartzke, "Preferences and the Democratic Peace," *International Studies Quarterly* (June 2000).

April 2: Domestic Institutions, Political Survival, and War

Required Reading: LPS, Chapters 8-9; Christopher Gelpi and Joseph Grieco, "Democracy, Leadership Tenure, and the Targeting of Militarized Challenges," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* December, 2001; Chiozza, Giacomo and Hein E. Goemans. 2003. "Peace Through Insecurity: Tenure and International Conflict," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47 (August): 443-67; Chiozza, Giacomo and Hein E. Goemans. 2004. "International Conflict and the Tenure of Leaders: Is War Still *Ex Post* Inefficient?" *American Journal of Political Science* 48 (July): 604-19.

April 9: Foreign Aid as a Tool of Domestic and Foreign Policy

Required Readings: BdM and Smith, "Political Survival and the Logic of Aid," ms.; Alberto Alesina and David Dollar. 2000 "Who Gives Foreign Aid to Whom and Why?" *Journal of Economic Growth*, March 2000, 5(1), pp. 33--63.

April 16: Foreign Aid, Military Intervention and Endogenous Institution Change

Required Readings: BdM and Smith, "Political Development and the Threat of Revolution," ms.; Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, "Leader Survival and Endogenous Changes in Governance," ms.; BdM and George Downs, "Intervention and Democracy," *International Organization* 60, 3 (July 2006):627-49.

April 23: Student Presentations

April 30: Conclusions

Papers Due