

# POL-UA 700: International Politics

## Spring 2012

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### Overview

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with basic concepts and methods that are essential to understanding international relations. It highlights incentives and institutions that shape the strategic interactions of states, intergovernmental organizations, and non-state groups in the international arena. The course will touch on issues ranging from violent conflict to foreign aid, but privileges analysis over historical description and will challenge students' skills of logic and deduction.

### Requirements

There are two weekly lectures for this course, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45pm, Silver Center 703. You will also be required to attend a weekly section, where you will go over questions from lecture and the readings and problem set, if any, assigned for that week.

Problem sets will be assigned during most weeks, and they will generally be due a week after they are assigned. They will account for 20% of the course grade. Participation in section will count for 10% of the final grade.

The midterm exam will be on March 7 and will count for 30% of the course grade. The final exam will be on May 9 and will count for the remaining 40% of the course grade.

### Readings

The required text for the course is Bruce Bueno de Mesquita's *Principles of International Politics*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (BdM). Please purchase the 4<sup>th</sup> edition, which is substantially different from previous editions. You will also need the accompanying workbook *Applying the Strategic Perspective: Problems and Models*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, by Leanne C. Powner. Additional textbook-related resources are available at <<http://bdm.cqpress.com>>.

A second textbook that is recommended, but not required for the course is Avinash K. Dixit, David H. Reiley, Jr., Susan Skeath, *Games of Strategy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (DRS). This is an introductory game theory textbook, which may be helpful to students as the course introduces a variety of game theoretic concepts and results.

Both textbooks as well as the workbook are available for purchase at the NYU bookstore. The textbooks have also been placed on reserve at Bobst library.

All other required or suggested readings for the course are available online. All links should work if you are connected through NYU's network. If you are connecting from off-campus, preface links that require an NYU log-in with the following: <https://ezproxy.library.nyu.edu/login?URL=>

Suggested readings are meant for students who wish to learn more about a specific topic, and you will not be expected to have read these chapters or articles.

## Schedule

**January 23:** Introduction and course logistics

**January 25:** Historical trajectories in international relations

Required readings: BdM, Appendix A

Robert Jackson (1999), "Sovereignty in World Politics: A Glance at the Conceptual and Historical Landscape," *Political Studies* 47(3): 431-456, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1467-9248.00211>>

Suggested readings: Hendrik Spruyt (1994), "Institutional Selection in International Relations: State Anarchy as Order," *International Organization* 48(4): 527-557, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706895.pdf>>

J. Samuel Barkin and Bruce Cronin (1994), "The State and the Nation: Changing Norms and the Rules of Sovereignty in International Relations," *International Organization* 48(1): 107-130, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706916.pdf>>

**January 30:** The scientific method

Required reading: BdM, Appendix B

Suggested readings: Gary King, Robert O. Keohane and Sidney Verba (1994), *Designing Social Inquiry*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, ch. 1, <<http://press.princeton.edu/chapters/s5458.pdf>>

Gabriel Almond and Stephen Genco (1977), "Clouds, Clocks, and the Study of Politics," *World Politics* 29(4): 489-522, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2010037.pdf>>

**February 1:** Classic theories of international relations

Required readings: BdM, Introduction and pp. 116-137

Robert D. Kaplan (2012), "Why John J. Mearsheimer Is Right (About Some Things)," *The Atlantic Monthly* 309(1): 80-89, <<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/01/why-john-j-mearsheimer-is-right-about-some-things/8839>>

Suggested readings: Kenneth Waltz (2000), "Structural Realism After the Cold War," *International Security* 25(1): 5-41, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2626772.pdf>>

Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane (1985), "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions," *World Politics* 38(1): 226-254, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2010357.pdf>>

Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink (1998), "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601361.pdf>>

**February 6:** Strategic interaction and rational choice

Required reading: BdM, pp. 68-81

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 2

**February 8 and February 13:** Normal-form games

Required reading: BdM, pp. 83-87

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 4

**February 15:** Extensive form games

Required reading: BdM, pp. 87-98

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 3

**February 20:** President's Day, no class

**February 22:** Uncertainty and games of incomplete information

Required reading: BdM, pp. 98-106

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 9

**February 27:** Spatial models and the median voter theorem

Required reading: BdM, pp. 45-68

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 16

**February 29:** Domestic politics and international relations

Required reading: BdM, ch. 1

Suggested reading: Robert Putnam (1988), "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games," *International Organization* 42(3): 428-460, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706785.pdf>>

**March 5:** Review session

**March 7:** In-class midterm

**March 12 and March 14:** Spring recess

**March 19 and March 21:** Choosing war

Required readings: BdM, pp. 109-116 and ch. 5

James D. Fearon (1995), "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706903.pdf>>

Suggested reading: Robert Powell (2002), "Bargaining Theory and International Conflict," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5: 1-30, <<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.polisci.5.092601.141138>>

Thomas C. Schelling (1956), "An Essay on Bargaining," *American Economic Review* 46(3): 281-306, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1805498.pdf>>

**March 26:** Choosing peace

Required reading: Barbara F. Walter (1997), "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement," *International Organization* 51(3): 335-364, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2703607.pdf>>

Suggested reading: Stephen John Stedman (1997), "Spoiler Problems in Peace Processes," *International Security* 22(2): 5-53, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2539366.pdf>>

**March 28:** Democratic peace

Required reading: BdM, ch. 6

Suggested reading: Kenneth Schultz (1999), "Do Democratic Institutions Constrain or Inform? Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War," *International Organization* 53(2): 233-266, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601389.pdf>>

**April 2 and April 4:** Terrorism

Required reading: BdM, ch. 7

Suggested reading: Ethan Bueno de Mesquita (2005), "The Quality of Terror," *American Journal of Political Science* 49(3): 515-530, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3647729.pdf>>  
Ethan Bueno de Mesquita (2005), "Conciliation, Counterterrorism, and Patterns of Terrorist Violence," *International Organization* 59(1): 145-176, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3877881>>

**April 9 and April 11:** Military intervention and democratization

Required reading: BdM, ch. 8

Suggested readings: James D. Fearon and David D. Laitin (2004), "Neo-Trusteeships and the Problem of Weak States," *International Security* 28(4): 5-43, <[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international\\_security/v028/28.4fearon.pdf](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/international_security/v028/28.4fearon.pdf)>

Jeremy Weinstein (2005), "Autonomous Recovery and International Intervention in Comparative Perspective," Center for Global Development, Working Paper No. 57, <<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2731>>

**April 16:** Foreign aid

Required reading: BdM, ch. 9

Suggested reading: William Easterly (2009), "Can the West Save Africa?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 47(2): 373-447, <<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jel.47.2.373>>

**April 18:** Sanctions

Required readings: David A. Baldwin (2000), "The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice," *International Security* 24(3): 80-107, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2539306.pdf>>

Suggested reading: George Tsebelis (1990), "Are Sanctions Effective? A Game-Theoretic Analysis," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 34(1): 3-28, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/174132.pdf>>

**April 23 and April 25:** Trade

Required reading: BdM, ch. 10

Suggested readings: Joseph E. Stiglitz (2002), "Globalism's Discontents," *The American Prospect* 13(1), <<http://www.prospect.org/article/globalisms-discontents>>

Jagdish Bhagwati (2002), "Coping with Antiglobalization," *Foreign Affairs* 81(1): 2-7, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20032998.pdf>>

**April 30:** International institutions

Required reading: BdM, ch. 11

Suggested reading: DRS, ch. 11 and ch. 12

Kenneth W. Abbott and Duncan Snidal (1999), "Why States Act through Formal International Organizations," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1): 3-32, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/174551.pdf>>

**May 2:** Human rights

Required reading: Andrew Moravcsik (2000), "The Origins of Human Rights Regimes: Democratic Delegation in Postwar Europe," *International Organization* 54(2): 217-252, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601297>>

Suggested reading: Oona A. Hathaway (2002), "Do Human Rights Treaties Make a Difference?" *Yale Law Journal* 111(8): 1935-2042, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/797642>>

**May 7:** Review session

**Final exam: Wednesday, May 9, 12:30pm-1:50pm**