

Political Science 597: Conflict and Cooperation in World Politics

Winter 2007

Instructor: Jon Myers <myers.620@osu.edu>

Office hours: Mondays 10:30am - 2:30pm @ 2120 Derby Hall

Course Description. Is international war obsolete? Or is it inevitable? Could democracy, international trade and international organizations provide foundations for unprecedented international cooperation? What does the future hold for nationalism, terrorism, and the many other -isms of contemporary international relations? This class will give you the intellectual foundations to form answers to these and other vexing questions in world politics.

Although we will spend several weeks studying influential theories of international politics, our main focus will be their relevance for understanding current events and issues. Our readings will be from a collection of essays and excerpts, and we will be reading the original arguments themselves, not a summary or textbook. Our goal is to engage, compare, and critique these original arguments, and use them to strengthen our own understanding of international politics.

Course Requirements. You must attend every class session and complete the assigned readings beforehand. You should keep yourself aware of current events in international politics, and we will discuss strategies for this in class. Graded assignments include: (a) 2 midterm exams, (b) a final exam, and (c) consistent attendance and quality participation. Exams will test course readings as well as information covered during class sessions. Lectures and discussions will presume that you have already read the materials for that day. The course will be a mix of lecture and discussion, and participation is strongly encouraged. Failure to attend regularly will lower your final grade, while consistent attendance and quality participation may boost it. Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm exams	20% each x 2
Final exam	40%
Participation	20% (including regular attendance)

Course Readings. The following required book is available at SBX and other local bookstores. If you try to substitute a different edition, it will be missing key readings.

Richard K. Betts, editor. 2004. *Conflict After the Cold War, Updated Edition (2nd Edition)*. Longman (published June 15, 2004) ISBN: 032120946X

Academic Honesty. All work is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disabilities. Students certified by the Office for Disability Services will be accommodated appropriately, and they should inform me of their needs as soon as possible.

Please Note. Phone messages left at my Derby Hall office are highly unlikely to reach me in a timely manner. You are strongly encouraged to use email (myers.620@osu.edu) to reach me.

Course Rationale. Thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Our pace will vary as needed. If no specific assignment is given at the end of class, assume that we will cover the next three articles in Betts when next we meet. No class on January 15th and 22nd.

Topic 1 – The End of History—or Back to the Future? – Betts Part 1

Topic 2 – IR Theory: Realism – Betts Part 2

Topic 3 – IR Theory: Liberalism – Betts Part 3

Topic 4 – More Theory: Psychology and Constructivism – Betts Part 4

Midterm 1 - in class, Wednesday, January 31

Topic 5 – Economics, Interdependence and War – Betts Part 5
(save Lenin & Schumpeter for last)

Topic 6 – Ideology, Identity, and Ethnic Conflict – Betts Part 6

Topic 7 – Arms Races and the Offense-Defense Balance – Betts Part 7
(read Levy first, then Jervis and Sagan, then the other three)

Midterm 2 - in class, Wednesday, February 21

Topic 8 – Asymmetric Warfare: Guerillas and Terrorists – Betts Part 8

Topic 9 – Conflict over Migration and Resources – Betts Part 9

Topic 10 – Contending Visions of the Future – Betts Part 10

Final Exam – in class, see registrar's official schedule