

# International Cooperation and Conflict

Political Science Department - 4597.01

Spring 2014  
Tues/Thurs. 3:55-5:15  
Smith Lab 2150

Instructor: Ezra Schricker  
Office: 2002 Derby Hall  
Office Hours: Tues 2-3pm or by appointment

This course examines international politics through the lens of bargaining theory. Bargaining theory is a framework for thinking about situations in which two actors seek agreement over the price or distribution of some good. This framework can be applied to a wide variety of strategic interactions. For example, bargaining over the price of a used car. Or, bargaining over nuclear war in the Cuban Missile Crisis. Bargaining theory is formalized mathematically in the familiar games of Prisoner's Dilemma, Stag Hunt, Chicken, and many others. The focus of the class will be on the intuition, rather than the mathematics, behind these games and their real-world application to contemporary issues of international cooperation and conflict. We spend the first half of the course discussing influential theories of International Relations in order to develop a set of analytical tools for strategic thinking. The second half of the class is then spent discussing contemporary issues such as terrorism, counterinsurgency, sanctions, peacekeeping, and nuclear proliferation as well as the current crisis in Syria.

## Readings

All required readings for this course are articles or book chapters that will be made available online through Carmen.

## Course requirements

- I. Two exams: Midterm and Final (30%, 30%)
- II. Two essays (5 pages) [details below] (15% each)
- III. Class participation **and** regular attendance (10%)

## Exam Format

The exams are broken down into two parts. The first consists of multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions. The second part is a short essay section.

## Short Essays

Students will write 2 essays, one in the first half of the course, and another in the second half. Students will be assigned to write on a specific reading. Essays should be 5 double-spaced pages in length, Times New Roman font, and 1 inch margins. Papers should **make an argument** and **engage** with the reading in some fashion. Papers should **not** be a **summary** of the class readings. Papers are to be posted on Carmen no later than 11:59pm of the day before class and a **hard-copy** delivered to the instructor in-class.

## Themes and Assigned Readings

### Part 1: Perspectives on International Cooperation and Conflict

#### Week 1: Introduction

January 7: Syllabus / Meet and Greet / Discuss Essays

January 9: What is International Relations?

#### Week 2: Realism

January 14: Realism and Neo-Realism – Melian Dialogue, Hobbes, Waltz Ch. 5 and 6

January 16: Neo-Realism – Mearsheimer 2001, Ch. 1 and 2

#### Week 3: Rationalism and Bargaining

January 21: Rationalism – Becker 1986, Axelrod 1984: Ch.1

January 23: Bargaining I – Schelling 1956 Essay

#### Week 4: Bargaining Theory

January 28: Bargaining II - Arms and Influence Ch. 2

January 30: Bargaining III – Fearon 1995

#### Week 5: Institutionalism and Constructivism

February 4: Institutionalism – Keohane 1984, Ch. 6

February 6: “Anarchy is what states make of it” – Wendt 1992

#### Week 6: Constructivism

February 11: “Anarchy is what states make of it” – Wendt 1992

February 13: Constructivism wrap-up – Finnamore and Sikkink 1998

#### Week 7: Midterm 1

February 18: Midterm Review Session

February 20: Midterm

### Part 2: Contemporary Issues in International Cooperation and Conflict

#### Week 8: Bargaining Theory Applied: Syria

February 25: Syria – Watch Frontline Documentary, Read UN Report on Syria

February 27: MPSA Conference – No Class

Week 9: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency

March 4: Insurgency - Kilcullen 2005, Jordan 2009

March 6: Did the Surge work? - Biddle et al. 2012

Week 10: Spring Break

March 11: No Class

March 13: No Class

Week 11: Intervention in International Disputes

March 18: Peacekeeping and Sanctions – Fortna 2004, Baldwin 2000

March 20: Conflict Mediation – Beardsley 2008

Week 12: Weapons of Mass Destruction

April 1: Nuclear Proliferation – Sagan 1996

April 3: Suicide Terrorism – Pape 2003

Week 13: Causal Mechanisms and Selection Bias

March 25: Causal Mechanisms – Skim Fortna, Beardsley, Sagan

March 27: Selection Bias – Skim Jordan, Fortna, Baldwin, Beardsley, Pape

Week 14: Democratic Peace Theory

April 8: Fact and Fiction - Kant excerpt; Doyle 1983; Rosato 2003

April 10: Post-WW2 Stability – Ikenberry 1998

Week 15: Collective Action Problems

April 15: Collective Action Problems – Olson, Skim Ch. 1, Read pg. 53-66.

April 17: Final Review Session

Week 16: No Class

Last day of semester classes is Monday, April 21.

Final Exam: April 23-29 - TBA

## Policies

### University Objectives for Political Science 4597.01

#### Goals

Students demonstrate an understanding of a topic of interest through scholarly activities that draw upon multiple disciplines and through their interactions with students from different majors.

#### Expected Learning Outcomes

- (1) Students understand the benefits and limitations of different disciplinary perspectives
- (2) Students understand the benefits of synthesizing multiple disciplinary perspectives
- (3) Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to a topic of interest

#### Academic Misconduct

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own and will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university's Committee on Academic Misconduct. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of wrongdoing wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)).

#### Disability Services

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. We can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so. It is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; (<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>).