**INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT**

**POLI:3512:0001**

**(030:165:001)**

**SPRING 2015**

**MW 3:30pm-4:45pm**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Alyssa Prorok

311 Schaeffer Hall

Phone: 319-335-3835

Email: [alyssa-prorok@uiowa.edu](mailto:alyssa-prorok@uiowa.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays, 12-3pm or by appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Kyu Young Lee

323 Schaeffer Hall

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Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:30pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the conditions that affect the propensity for and prevalence of war and peace in international relations. The course begins with an overview of the scientific study of interstate conflict and an introduction to major approaches (systemic, dyadic) to the study of interstate war. Later sections examine the causes of war and peace, solutions that have been offered to help prevent or limit war, and the outcomes/consequences of conflict. This course is designed to familiarize students with the factors that mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. By the end of the semester, students should be able to apply these factors in examining real-world scenarios, such as studying historical cases of war or assessing the prospects for future conflict in troubled areas of the world. This course fulfills a requirement for International Relations majors.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your course grade will be based on class participation, a mid-term exam, a final exam, two take-home written assignments, and a final research paper.

1. Class Participation (10%): Class participation grades will be based upon regular attendance in class. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester, at the start of class. If you are not in class or are tardy, you will not receive participation points for that day. Additionally, while the class will be primarily lecture-based, I encourage students make positive contributions to the class through comments/questions that build on, react to, challenge, or request specific clarifications on the readings. Classes will be more interesting, informative, and successful if you come to class ready to participate. At any time during the semester, if it seems that students are not doing the readings and coming to class prepared, the instructor reserves the right to institute pop reading quizzes. These will be incorporated into the participation grade.

2. Mid-Term Exam (25%): There will be one midterm exam in this class. This exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 11th**, during class. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

3. Final Exam (25%): A final exam will be held during exam week (specific date and time TBA). Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies. If an emergency arises, you will need to contact me **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

4. Small Writing Assignments (2, 10% each): There will be two short writing assignments during the semester (see calendar below for dates). These two short papers will become part of your final research paper due at the end of the semester. These assignments must be turned in to the appropriate dropbox folder on the course ICON page by the specified due date/time. Each assignment will ask you to apply concepts/theories covered in class to a specific conflict. These assignments will allow you to get feedback on your final paper during the semester. Further details will be provided in the first few weeks of class.

5. Research Paper (20%): You will write a research paper that applies concepts and theories discussed in class to an interstate war. The paper will focus on the causes of the war, and each student will be assigned to a specific conflict. I will distribute more detailed instructions for the paper early in the semester. The paper will be due on **Sunday, May 3rd by 11:59pm** via the appropriate dropbox folder on the course ICON page.

If for some reason you are dissatisfied with the final grade you receive on your paper, you may submit a written memo to the instructor explaining why you think the grade is unfair. This memo must be submitted within 48 hours of receiving the paper grade. The instructor will read the memo, re-read the paper, and then assign a new grade. The instructor reserves the right to assign a lower grade after rereading the paper a second time.

**GRADES**

The grading scale (in percentages) for the course is as follows:

99-100 A+

93-98 A

90-92 A-

87-89 B+

83-86 B

80-82 B-

77-79 C+

73-76 C

70-72 C-

67-69 D+

63-66 D

60-62 D-

59 or below F

A note on Collaboration: Collaboration is not allowed on the mid-term exam, final exam, or any of the written assignments. You are welcome to study together for the mid-term and final, but all work on the exams themselves, and all work on the written assignments, should be your own. If you have specific questions about this policy, please feel free to contact me for clarification.

**TEXTBOOKS**

Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and John A. Vasquez. 2013. *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press.

Levy, Jack S. and William R. Thompson. 2010. *Causes of War.* West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell.

\*\* Both of these texts are available at IOWA BOOK

Electronic links to journal articles and all other course readings will be provided on the course website (accessible with your Hawk ID at: icon.uiowa.edu).

**CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

You are welcome to use your laptops to take notes during class, although research shows that students tend to retain and comprehend information better when they take hand-written notes (<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/index.php/news/releases/take-notes-by-hand-for-better-long-term-comprehension.html>). Cell phone ringers should be turned off during class time.

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| **COURSE SCHEDULE** | | |
| **Topic/Date** | | **Readings** |
| **Week 1 (Jan 21st)** | | |
| Introduction |  | None |
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| **Week 2 (Jan 26th – 28th)** | | |
| Introduction to the Scientific Study of Warfare &  Conceptualizing and Measuring Conflict | | - Levy and Thompson, Chapter 1  - Sarkees, Meredith Reid. “The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars (Version 4 of the Data)”. |
| **Week 3 (Feb 2nd – 4th)** | | |
| Conceptualizing and Measuring Conflict &  System Level Theories | | - Jones, Daniel M., Stuart Bremer, and J. David Singer. “Militarized Interstate Disputes, 1816-1992: Rationale, Coding Rules, and Empirical Patterns.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 15(2). **READ pg. 163-182 ONLY**  - Levy and Thompson, Chapter 2 |
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| **Week 4 (Feb 9th - 11th)** | | |
| System Level Theories &  Dyadic Level Theories |  | - Mearsheimer, John. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics.* New York: WW Norton and Co. CHAPTER 9.  - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 2 (including editor’s commentary) |
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| **TOPICS FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS/FINAL PAPERS DUE WEDNESDAY, FEB 11TH** | | |
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| **Week 5 (Feb 16th)** | | |
| Dyadic Level Theories |  | - Levy and Thompson, Chapter 3  - Reiter, Dan. 2003. “Exploring the Bargaining Model of War.” *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-43. |
| **\*\*\* NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, FEB 18th due to the International Studies Association Annual Convention** | | |
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| **Week 6 (Feb 23rd – 25th)** | | |
| The Individual Level | | - Levy and Thompson, Chapter 5  - In-class movie: “The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S McNamara” (time permitting) |
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| **Week 7 (March 2nd – 4th)** | | |
| Dangerous Dyads: Territory | | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 3 (including editor’s commentary) |
| **WRITING ASSIGNMENT 1: Due 11:59pm Friday, March 6th** | | |
| **Week 8 (March 9th – 11th)** | | |
| Dangerous Dyads: Alliances | | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 4 (including editor’s commentary) |
| **IN CLASS MIDTERM EXAM: Wednesday, March 11th** | | |
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| **Week 9 (March 16th – 18th)** | |  |
| **NO CLASSES: SPRING BREAK** | | |
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| **Week 10 (March 23rd – 25th)** | | |
| Dangerous Dyads: Rivalries and Arms Races | | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 5 (including editor’s commentary)  - Colaresi, Michael and William Thompson. 2002. “Hot Spots or Hot Hands? Serial Crisis Behavior, Escalating Risks, and Rivalry.” *Journal of Politics* 64(4): 1175-1198.  - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 6 (including editor’s commentary) |
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| **Week 11 (March 30th – April 1st)** | | |
| Dangerous Dyads: Domestic Factors | | - Levy and Thompson, pg. 83-104; 117-120  - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 8 (including editor’s commentary)  - In Class Movie (time permitting): *Wag the Dog* |
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| **Week 12 (April 6th – 8th)** | | |
| Peaceful Dyads: Democratic Peace and Economic Interdependence | | - Levy and Thompson, pg. 104-117  - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 9 (including editor’s commentary)  - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 10 (including editor’s commentary) |
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| **Week 13 (April 13th – 15th)** | | |
| Peaceful Dyads: Liberal Peace (cont.) and Territorial Peace | | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 12 (including editor’s commentary) |
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| **WRITING ASSIGNMENT 2: Due 11:59pm Friday, April 17th** | | |
| **Week 14 (April 20th – 22nd)** | | |
| Peaceful Dyads: Nuclear Weapons | | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 13 (including editor’s commentary)  - In-class movie: “Dr. Strangelove” (time permitting) |
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| **Week 15 (April 27th – 29th)** | | |
| War Outcomes & Recurrence |  | - Mitchell and Vasquez, Chapter 14 (including editor’s commentary)  - Goemans, H.E. 2000. “Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44(5): 555-579. |
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| **Final Paper: Due Sunday, May 3rd by 11:59pm (turn in on dropbox on course ICON page)** | | |
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| **Week 16 (May 4th – 6th)** | | |
| War Outcomes (Cont.) |  | - Stanley, Elizabeth A., and John P. Sawyer. 2009. ”The Equifinality of War Termination: Multiple Paths to Ending War.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53(5):651-676.  - Croco, Sarah E. 2011. “The Decider’s Dilemma: Leader Culpability, War Outcomes, and Domestic Punishment.” *American Political Science Review* 105(3): 457-477. |
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| **FINAL EXAM: Date, time, and location TBA** | | |

**Teaching Policies & Procedures**

**Political Science DEO: Sara Mitchell, 341 Schaeffer Hall**

**Administrative Home**   
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS [*Student Academic Handbook.*](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/)

**Electronic Communication**University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (*Operations Manua*l, [III.15.2](http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/iii/15.htm#152). Scroll down to k.11.)

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See [www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/) for more information.

**Academic Honesty**The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences expects all students to do their own work, as stated in the [CLAS Code of Academic Honesty](http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code). Instructors fail any assignment that shows evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, also reporting the student's name to the College. A student reported to the College for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

**CLAS Final Examination Policies**

Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint**Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook.](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/x/#5) **DEO: Sara Mitchell, 343 SH, 335-2358**

**Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](http://www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

**Reacting Safely to Severe Weather**In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety [web site](http://police.uiowa.edu/stay-informed/emergency-communication/).

**Student Resources:** The Writing Center [www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/) and the Campus Information Center’s Tutor Referral Services <http://imu.uiowa.edu/cic/> at the IMU.

\*These CLAS policy and procedural statements have been summarized from the web pages of the [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/..) and The University of Iowa [*Operations Manual*](http://www.uiowa.edu/~our/opmanual/index.html).