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Spring 2016

DIPL 2120 AB International Conflict and Security

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O'Mahoney, Joseph PhD, "DIPL 2120 AB International Conflict and Security" (2016). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 28.
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DIPL 2120 AB- Spring 2016

International Conflict and Security

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Class: Thursday 1100-1330 in Seminary Building 123
Office Hours: Wednesday 4.30pm to 6.30pm & By appointment

Course Description

This course explores central issues regarding the use of military force in international politics. Why do states turn to military force and for what purposes? What are the causes of war and peace? What renders the threat to use force credible? Can intervention in civil wars stall bloodshed and bring stability? How can states cope with the threat posed by would-be terrorists? What is the nature of counterinsurgency doctrine? What is the future of military force in global politics? Through theoretical readings, concrete historical cases, and contemporary policy debates, this course examines these questions and others. The themes covered in this class are often contentious, and fraught with ethical and moral issues, issues concerning the proper role of violence, and the value of human existence. Much of the course is discussion based, so civility, respect for others, and a respect for the value of free speech and a frank exchange of ideas are all important. As such, you should expect to hear ideas that may make you uncomfortable. I am responsible for ensuring that that we stick to ideas and not personal attacks, but all viewpoints are welcome as long as the presentation remains civil. That includes viewpoints that some might disagree with, or even find offensive.

Readings and Materials

Required readings are listed below for each class session. Most articles and book chapters will be posted online.

Thomas Schelling, 2008. *Arms and Influence, Revised edition*, Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0300143379

James Joll, 2006. *The Origins of the First World War, 3rd edition*, Routledge. ISBN: 9780582423794

Robert J. McMahon, 2003. *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0192801784

Michael MacDonald, 2014. *Overreach: Delusions of Regime Change in Iraq*, Harvard University Press. ISBN: 978-0674729100

Course Objectives

1. To familiarize students with the nature of strategic interaction between states and the major causes of international conflict, both historical and contemporary;

2. To enable students to analyze the main theories and concepts that scholars of international relations use to explain conflict between and among states and non-state actors;
3. To allow students to critically evaluate the ability of these theories and concepts to explain modern warfare, diplomacy, and other elements of international security.

Requirements and Grading

Participation	25%
Policy Papers	30%
Film Reaction piece	5%
Analytical Book Review	10%
Final Exam	30%

Participation - 25%

Active and informed participation in class discussion and activities is extremely important. The grade for participation includes the grade for in-class quizzes and debates. Students will be assigned discussion groups at the beginning of the semester. At the end of the semester, students will rate the other members of their discussion group on the quality of their participation and this will be factored into the grade.

There will be in-class debates throughout the semester. Students will sign up for 3 debate sessions and will write a paper on that topic (see below).

Also, students may not use their laptop or other electronic device during active class time (this does not include any mid-class breaks). There is research (citations available on request) which shows that, for example, using the internet for non-class-related activities like facebook or youtube not only leads to worse performance for the student doing these activities, but also *the students to either side and behind them*.

Papers - 30%

Students will write 3 papers (4-5 pages, typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins) on a list of approved topics throughout the semester. These topics are the same as the debate topics listed on the syllabus. These papers should address the readings assigned for the topic (additional sources are welcome but not necessary), lay out the core of at least one argument on the issue at hand and evaluate it critically. Papers should be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of the class covering the topic. If a paper is handed in more than 15 minutes after the start of class it will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade (for example from a B+ to B). Students should expect to be able to articulate and defend their arguments in public as part of a debate.

Film Reaction Piece - 5%

During the semester, students must watch one of the following five films. The Battle of Algiers by Gille Pontecorvo will be shown in class in week 12, April 21. The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is showing four other films during this semester; Saving Private Ryan (Jan 20), Fog of War (Feb 17), Waltz with Bashir (Mar 9), and Blackhawk Down (Apr 13). These films will be shown in the Diplomacy Room in the School of Diplomacy, starting just after 5pm. After watching the film, students will write a reaction paper (maximum 3 pages) on any aspect of the film they found interesting, enlightening, or troubling. The paper should be submitted on blackboard one week after the film is shown.

Analytical Book Review - 10%

Students will read the book *Overreach: Delusions of Regime Change in Iraq* by Michael MacDonald and then write a short paper explaining and critiquing some element(s) of the arguments presented therein. Papers should be 3 pages (typed, double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins) and submitted on blackboard on 5 May 2016.

Final Exam - 30%

This will be a take home exam. The exam will be distributed on a day in the exam week and will be due on blackboard 24 hours later. It is recommended that you spend at about 2 hours on the exam. For this exam you are expected to answer three essay questions. Two essays will cover 'narrower' questions that tend to focus on the readings from one or two classes. The final essay will be a 'broader' question that will incorporate readings from three or more classes..

Communications Policy

The primary mode of communication between you and I is email. I will endeavour to respond to email within 48 hours, but usually I will be able to do so within 24 hours.

Accommodations Policy

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at (973) 313-6003.

Academic Integrity

Thinking about cheating? Don't do it.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here:

<http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm>

<http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>

Please see me if you have any questions about the academic violations described in the Code in general or as they relate to particular requirements for this course.

Course Schedule

Many readings will be posted electronically. If you are unable to access a reading, please contact me in adequate time before the class session in which the reading is due. This schedule of readings may be changed with appropriate notice.

1. January 14 Introduction

Arnold Wolfers, 1962. "National Security as an Ambiguous Symbol," in his *Discord and Collaboration: Essays on International Politics*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 147-165.

Discussion: Critical Thinking and writing good papers.

2. January 21 Causes of War - Anarchy, Power, and Bargaining

Kenneth N. Waltz, 1989. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," in Rotberg and Rabb, eds., *Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, pp. 39-52.

Dan Reiter, 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War," *Perspectives on Politics*, 1(1), 27-43.

Case Study World War I

- James Joll, 2006. *The Origins of the First World War, 3rd edition*, Routledge, chapters 1-3, 7.
- **NOTE:** Students will be expected to contribute events and facts from the case in class. Students should make a list of interesting / important things that people or states did or said, with the date. Also very useful are things that you do not understand, or perhaps things whose significance you do are fully clear on.

3. January 28 Causes of War - Domestic and International Institutions

Bruce Russett, 1996. The Fact of the Democratic Peace, in Michael E. Brown, ed., *Debating the Democratic Peace* M.I.T. Press, 58-81.

Jack S. Levy, 1989. "Domestic Politics and War," in Robert I. Rotberg and Theodore K.Rabb, eds., *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars* Cambridge University Press, 79-99.

Case Study World War I

- James Joll, 2006. *The Origins of the First World War, 3rd edition*, Routledge, chapters 4-5.

Debate

Would the spread of democracy be a good thing for global peace and security? Can it be done?

- Michael McFaul and Francis Fukuyama, "Should Democracy be Promoted or Demoted?" *The Washington Quarterly* (winter 2007-2008), pp. 23-45.
- Gregory Gause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" *Foreign Affairs* (Sept./Oct. 2005), pp. 62-76.

4. February 4 Causes of War - Ideas and Norms

Martha Finnemore, 2003. *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force*, Cornell University Press, pp. 1-23.

Case Study The Cold War

- Robert J. McMahon, 2003. *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, chapters 1-4 (This looks like a lot of reading but the pages are very small).

Debate

Why haven't nuclear weapons been used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Should they be?

- Nina Tannenwald, 1999. "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization* 53(3): 433-468.

5. February 11 Causes of War: Psychology and Personality

Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, 2001. "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," *International Security* 25(4): 107-146.

Robert Jervis, 1989. "War and Misperception," in Robert I. Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb, eds., *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, Cambridge University Press, 101-126.

Case Study The Cold War

- Robert J. McMahon, 2003. *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, chapters 5, 7 and 8.

Debate

Is Barack Obama's Foreign Policy Different from George Bush's?

- Peter Feaver and Ionut Popescu, 2012. Is Obama's Foreign Policy Different From George W. Bush's?, E-IR <<http://www.e-ir.info/2012/08/03/is-obamas-foreign-policy-different-to-bushs/>>
- Gordon Adams, 2015. The Iran Long Game: Bush vs Obama, *Foreign Policy*, April 14 2015. <<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/04/14/the-iran-long-game-bush-vs-obama-nukes/>>
- Alfred McCoy, Barack Obama is a Foreign Policy Grandmaster, *The Nation*, September 15 2015, <<http://www.thenation.com/article/barack-obama-is-a-foreign-policy-grandmaster/>>

6. February 18 Fighting and Winning Wars

Stephen Biddle, 2004. *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* Princeton University Press, chap. 3 (pp. 28-51).

Debate

COIN (counterinsurgency) is touted as a form of warfare more sensitive to local politics. Is it more successful? More humane and less bloody?

- Thomas E. Ricks, "The Lessons of Counterinsurgency", *New York Times*, Thursday, February 16 2006.
- David J. Kilcullen, 2010. *Counterinsurgency*, Oxford University Press, pp. 1-50.
- Douglas Porch, 2011. "The Dangerous Myths and Dubious Promise of COIN," *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, 22(2): 239-257.

7. February 25 Coercion and Deterrence I

Thomas Schelling, 2008. *Arms and Influence, Revised edition*, Yale University Press, chapters 1 and 2.

Debate Will violence erupt in the Taiwan strait in the near future? Can the United States deter China from attacking Taiwan?

- Taiwan Relations Act (1979), Sections 2-3.
- "The One-China Principle and the Taiwan Issue," Peoples Republic of China, Feb. 2000 <http://www.gov.cn/english/official/2005-07/27/content_17613.htm >.
- Robert S. Ross, "The Stability of Deterrence in the Taiwan Strait," *National Interest* (Fall 2001), pp. 67-76.
- Scott Kastner, 2006. "Ambiguity, economic interdependence, and the US strategic dilemma in the Taiwan Strait", *Journal of Contemporary China*, 15(49): 651-669.

NOTE: NO CLASS MARCH 3 - SPRING BREAK

8. March 10 Coercion and Deterrence II

Thomas Schelling, 2008. *Arms and Influence, Revised edition*, Yale University Press, chapter 3.

Robert Jervis, *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution: Statecraft and the Prospect of Armageddon* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989) pp. 1-45.

Debate Can the West prevent states, like Iran, from acquiring nuclear weapons? Does it matter?

- Scott D. Sagan, "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb," *International Security* 21 (winter 1996/97), pp. 54-86.
- Kenneth Waltz, "Why Iran Should Get the Bomb", *Foreign Affairs*, (July/August 2012).
- Robert Jervis, "Getting to Yes with Iran: The Challenges of Coercive Diplomacy," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan./Feb. 2013), pp. 105-115.

NOTE: NO CLASS March 17

NOTE: NO CLASS March 24 - EASTER

9. *March 31 Intervention and Peacekeeping*

Michael W. Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis, 2006. *Making War & Building Peace: United Nations Peace Operations*, Princeton University Press, 1-26.

Virginia Page Fortna, 2008. *Does Peacekeeping Work?*, Princeton University Press, chapter 4.

Debate When should outsiders intervene?

- Samantha Power, Bystanders to Genocide, *Atlantic Monthly* (September 2001)
- Henry A. Kissinger, "The Perils of Intervention," *Washington Post*, 3 June 2012.
<<http://www.henryakissinger.com/articles/wp060312.html>>
- Anne-Marie Slaughter, "Syrian Intervention is Justifiable, and Just," *Washington Post*, 8 June 2012.

10. *April 7 Terrorism*

Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara Walter, 2006. "Strategies of Terrorism," *International Security*, 31(1): 49-80.

Max Abrahms 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy." *International Security* 32(4): 78 -105.

Debate: Was the US response after 9/11 appropriate? Wise?

- "The Foundation of the New Terrorism," *The 9/11 Commission Report*, chap. 2.
- John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart, "The Terrorism Delusion: America's Overwrought Response to September 11," *International Security* 37:1 (summer 2012), pp. 81-110.

11. *April 14 American Primacy*

Stephen Walt, 2006. *Taming American Power*, Introduction, and chapters 1 and 2.

Debate: Will the United States's hegemony endure? And is American primacy good for the world?

- Stephen Walt, 2011. "The End of the American Era", *National Interest*, November 1.
- Joseph M. Parent and Paul K. MacDonald, "The Wisdom of Retrenchment," *Foreign Affairs* 90, 6 (Nov/Dec 2011): 32-47.
- Stephen G. Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William C. Wohlforth. "Lean Forward: In Defense of American Engagement," *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 13).

12. *April 21 FILM: The Battle of Algiers*

13. April 28 The Future of Security

Michael MacDonald, 2014. *Overreach: Delusions of Regime Change in Iraq*, Harvard University Press.

Suggested Reading:

- John Podesta & Peter Ogden, "The Security Implications of Climate Change," *The Washington Quarterly* 31(1) (Winter 2007/08) pp. 115-138.
- Valeriano, Brandon and Ryan Maness. 2012. "The Fog of Cyberwar: Why the Threat Does not Live up to the Hype," *Foreign Affairs* (11.21.2012) Snapspot -

Peter Singer, "War of the Machines", *Scientific American*, July 2010.

- Joshua S. Goldstein and Steven Pinker, "War Really Is Going Out of Style", *New York Times Sunday Review*, December 17 2011.
<<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/18/opinion/sunday/war-really-is-going-out-of-style.html>>