

Political Science 467 - Spring 2022

International Security

T-TH 1:30-2:45 PM MST in Farmer Education Building room 320

Contact Information

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Course Description and Objectives

This course introduces students to the major theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of international security. Our primary aim is to understand causes of peace and conflict between states (international conflict), within states (civil conflict), and between a state and non-state actors (e.g., terrorism). Though we will cover a variety of approaches, we will focus on the scientific approach to the study of peace and conflict, with attention to deductive theory building and systematic empirical testing. We will pay close attention to the challenges associated with applying the scientific method to the study of security, as well as the tools developed to overcome these challenges.

Learning outcomes

- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to distinguish between narrative and scientific approaches to the study of international security
- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to apply the scientific approach to the study of international security
- Upon completion of this course, students will be able to describe and explain correlates and causes of peace and conflict

Course Assignments

Reading

Readings are intended to supplement lecture. Many readings consist of peer-reviewed, scholarly articles, some of which use sophisticated methods. Students can largely skim over technical information while focusing on the substance—the research question, argument, and findings—of each academic reading. A few required readings are (relatively) recent blog posts and journalistic articles relevant to the curriculum.

In addition to the required readings each week, supplemental readings used to develop the lecture—typically academic articles and book chapters—will be posted to Canvas. While students can feel free to ignore the supplemental readings, these studies will offer greater depth for those with particular interest in a given topic.

All readings will be made available as PDF documents uploaded to Canvas or as web sources linked in this syllabus. **Students do not need to purchase any materials for this course.**

Quizzes

We will have a quiz on Canvas most weeks (see schedule below), with a total of twelve quizzes covering lecture and readings. Student have flexibility in when to begin quizzes but must complete them in one timed session of no more than ten minutes. Quizzes will be made available following class on Thursday, and will typically be due on the following Monday at 5 PM—except where noted in the schedule below. Quizzes typically will consist of five multiple choice questions that require students to apply course material to hypothetical scenarios, not simply memorize and repeat information.

Final exam

The final exam will be offered remotely via Canvas. It will be made available at 6 AM on Monday, May 2 and due no later than 11:59 PM on Friday, May 6. It will consist of 50 primarily multiple choice questions, some of which will be “remixed” quiz questions. Students will have 100 minutes to complete the exam from the time they begin. The exam must be taken in one sitting.

Extra credit presentations

Students can replace one quiz grade with an extra credit presentation either uploaded to Canvas, or presented live in class during weeks 12, 13, or 16. Presentations should take approximately ten minutes: five minutes summarizing a contemporary foreign policy issue, and five minutes either to demonstrate how theories discussed in class apply, or argue why they don't. The instructor will announce deadlines to sign up for extra credit projects throughout the semester. Further information will be posted on Canvas.

Grading

Students have two options for course grades:

Option 1: students may count their top eight (8) quiz grades (weighted equally) as 50% of the course grade, and the final exam as the remaining 50%.

Option 2: students may count all twelve (12) quiz grades (weighted equally) for 100% of the course grade.

Student who elect to do an extra credit presentation can replace their lowest quiz grade with it. Students who are satisfied with their quiz grades and opt to take option 2 can skip the final. For students who take the final, the higher grade among the two grading options will be assigned. Late assignments are not accepted without (1) a credible excuse for delay and (2) advance notice that an extension is needed. See below for exceptions following from COVID accommodations. Final grades translate to letter grades in accordance with the standard ASU grade scheme:

A+	100%	to 97.0%
A	< 97.0%	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0%	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0%	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0%	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0%	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0%	to 76.0%
C	< 76.0%	to 70.0%
D	< 70.0%	to 60.0%
E	< 60.0%	to 0.0%

Schedule

Part 1: Introduction

Week 1 (January 11 and 13): Course introduction

Readings This syllabus!
Also check out informative online media such as [Political Violence at a Glance](#), [The Monkey Cage](#), [War on the Rocks](#), [Foreign Policy](#)

Quiz **opens** Tuesday, Jan. 11 at 1:45 PM
due Friday, Jan. 14 by 5 PM

Week 2 (January 18 and 20): Definitions: political violence, armed conflict, and war

Topics Inter- vs. intra- vs. extra-state conflict; positive vs. negative peace; MIDs; crises; events; terrorism; state violence; trends over time

Readings Pettersson et al. 2021 JPR article
[Web article: "Is the World Getting Safer?"](#)

Quiz **opens** Thursday, Jan. 20 at 1:45 PM
due Monday, Jan. 24 by 5 PM

Part 2: The study of conflict

Week 3 (January 25 and 27): Origins, "grand" theories, and systemic causes of war and peace

Topics The security dilemma; Woodrow Wilson and the origins of modern IR in WWI; collective security; balance of power theory; power transition theory; hegemonic stability theory

Readings Levy and Thompson 2010 ch 2
[Web article: "Why Race Matters in International Relations"](#)
[Web article: "Oh God, Not the Peloponnesian War Again"](#)

Quiz **opens** Thursday, Jan. 27 at 1:45 PM
due Monday, Jan. 31 by 5 PM

Week 4 (February 1 and 3): The scientific approach

Topics Science vs. narrative; science vs. critical approaches; science vs. conspiracy theories; rationalism vs. constructivism; logic and inquiry; deduction vs. induction; (avoiding) bias; levels of analysis; the Correlates of War project; dangerous dyads; territory disputes

Readings Geller in Diehl, ed. 2004 ch 9
[Web article: "I'm a data scientist who is skeptical about data"](#)

Quiz **opens** Thursday, Feb. 3 at 1:45 PM
due Monday, Feb. 7 by 5 PM

Week 5 (February 8 and 10): Bargaining and information

Topics	The bargaining model of war; private information and incentives to misrepresent; commitment problems; terrorist strategy
Readings	Fearon 1995 IO article
Quiz	opens Thursday, Feb. 10 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Feb. 14 by 5 PM

Week 6 (February 15 and 17): The conflict process

Topics	Deterrence; alliances; rivalry; recurrent conflict; reputation; faits accompli; battles and information updating; peacekeeping; third-party intervention; selection effects in conflict research
Readings	Leeds 2003 AJPS article Web article: "The Fait Accompli and Persistent Engagement in Cyberspace"
Quiz	opens Thursday, Feb. 17 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Feb. 21 by 5 PM

Week 7 (February 22 and 24): International cooperation

Topics	Collective security; coordination vs. enforcement; compliance vs. cooperation; absolute vs. relative gains; the shadow of the future; domestic implications
Readings	Martin 1992 IO article De Vries, Hobolt, and Walter 2021 IO article
Quiz	opens Thursday, Feb. 24 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Feb. 28 by 5 PM

Part 3: Substantive issues

Week 8 (March 1 and 3): Regime type

Topics	Democratic norms vs. institutions, information vs. constraint; audience costs; democratization and war; public opinion on the democratic peace; authoritarian variation
Readings	Tomz and Weeks 2013 APSR article
Quiz	opens Thursday, Mar. 3 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Mar. 14 by 5 PM

Week 9: Spring Break. No class

Week 10 (March 15 and 17): Economics and interconnectedness

Topics	The liberal/capitalist/commercial peace; opportunity costs vs. costly signals; globalization; networks; does conquest pay?
Readings	Kinne 2012 JOP article Web article: "The Exaggerated Threat of Oil Wars"
Quiz	opens Thursday, Mar. 17 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Mar. 21 by 5 PM

Week 11 (March 22 and 24): Economics and interconnectedness pt II

Topics	Dependence and coercion; economic competition; populism; migration; pandemics
Readings	Farrell and Newman 2019 IS article Web article: "COVID-19, Food Access, and Social Upheaval"
Quiz	opens Thursday, Mar. 24 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Mar. 28 by 5 PM

Week 12 (March 29): Catch-up, review, presentations

Note: no class March 31 for ISA conference

Week 13 (April 5): Catch-up, review, presentations

Note: no class April 7 for MPSA conference

Week 14 (April 12 and 14): Identity and culture

Topics	Role theory; the clash of civilizations (and critiques); colonialism; ethnic violence; genocide; issue indivisibility
Readings	Web article: "Are Muslim countries more violent?" Web article: "The Dutch Are Uncomfortable With Being History's Villains, Not Victims"
Quiz	opens Thursday, Apr. 14 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Apr. 18 by 5 PM

Week 15 (April 19 and 21): Leader (un)popularity, citizen grievance, and the police state

Topics	Diversions theory of war; "old" vs. "new" civil wars; civil unrest and accommodation vs. repression; militias; police militarization; state failure
Readings	Web article: "Standing By: Right-Wing Militia Groups & the US Election" Web article: "The Biggest Warning from the Facebook Whistleblower" Web article: "Is 2020 the New 1968?"
Quiz	opens Thursday, Apr. 21 at 1:45 PM due Monday, Apr. 25 by 5 PM

Week 16 (April 26 and 28): Catch-up, review, presentations

Final Exam on Canvas: Opens Monday, May 2 at 6 AM. Due no later than Friday, May 6 at 11:59 PM

Course Expectations

Attendance and participation

Students are expected to attend class prepared to take part in discussion. Although attendance and participation are not graded, active attention and participation is vital to master course material. Lecture slides will be posted, but these are merely outlines to guide a deeper discussion. As not all lecture material is covered in the readings, absences and inattention are likely to have a negative impact on performance.

Classroom behavior

This course will, at times, involve the discussion of controversial and sensitive ideas. Students should treat everyone with respect. Try to extend the benefit of the doubt to those who hold different opinions. The instructor is expected to facilitate learning, to answer questions appropriately, to be fair and objective in grading, to provide timely and useful feedback on assignments, to maintain adequate office hours, and to treat students as he would like to be treated in their place.

On the same theme of respectfulness, please avoid talking or otherwise engaging in distracting behavior during class. Turn off or silence all cellphones (no vibration or sound). Students may use laptop computers/tablets as long as these devices are muted. However, students may not distract others with videos, websites, etc. If in doubt, consider whether your behavior could be detrimental to the learning of students around you.

Furthermore, ASU's policy on threatening behavior applies:

"All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on-or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances."

Title IX

ASU's standard Title IX policy applies:

"Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately."

Technology requirements

Students will need access to computers with internet access. Weekly quizzes and the final exam will be conducted on the course Canvas site. All communications will occur through Canvas and/or ASU email addresses. For students without their own equipment and/or internet service, ASU offers a number of on-campus computer labs.

Copyright statement

Lectures are copyrighted by the instructor. Most if not all readings are also subject to copyright by the authors and/or publishers. Students may not upload to any course material that is not the student's original work, unless first complying with all applicable copyright laws. The instructor reserves the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement.

Recording policy

Following from the copyright statement above, students may not record class activities (lecture, discussion, etc.) without advance, written permission from the instructor. If authorized, recordings may be used only for personal, educational purposes. In no instance may recordings be posted to the internet. Unauthorized dissemination of recordings through any medium is forbidden, and will be considered an honor code violation.

Incompletes

Under normal (i.e., non-COVID-related) circumstances, an incomplete grade is an exception applicable only if two criteria are simultaneously met: (1) the student is unable to complete the course due to a serious personal illness or tragedy, which is adequately documented; (2) the student has completed 50% of the course requirements.

Academic integrity

The standard College of Liberal Arts and Sciences statement on academic integrity applies to this course:

"Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>."

Accommodating students with disabilities

The standard College of Liberal Arts and Sciences statement on accommodation applies to this course:

"Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services office should contact SAILS immediately. The SAILS Tempe office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. SAILS staff can also be reached at (480) 965-1234 (V) or (480) 965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: <https://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc>."

Important COVID information

In accordance with ASU policy (issued August 11, 2021), students are asked to wear masks in the classroom.

Further, students will not be penalized for missing class as a result of illness, self-isolation, or quarantine due to (possible) COVID exposure. Please get in contact with the instructor to discuss accommodations as soon as possible if any of these situations apply. Note that all ASU faculty and instructors are required to report to the Dean of Students any positive COVID test results of which we become aware.

Given the ongoing Omicron outbreak as the semester begins, all lectures for Spring 2022 will be simultaneously broadcast on Zoom. A link to our class sessions can be found on Canvas.

More information about ASU COVID mitigation policies can be found [here](#).