

**Seminar in International Relations and World Politics:
International Security and Research Design
GVPT 409D Fall 2009**

Contact Information

Professor S. E. Croco (scroco@umd.edu)
Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:15
Office hours: Tuesday, 11am-1pm
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Course Information

The goal of this course is to give you an introduction to existing theories of war and peace, **and** the means by which political scientists evaluate these theories. Although the primary focus of this class is on substantive topics, there will also be a second yet *equally important* focus on issues of research design (e.g., hypothesis specification and testing, dataset construction, etc.) By the end of this class you should be able to speak intelligently about how current IR research is carried out. Although this may seem like a daunting proposition, my goal in this class is to demonstrate to you that you do not need a Ph.D. in political science to deconstruct and refine existing political science research. All you need is curiosity and a little background information.

Since there is no textbook that deals with this specific topic, the readings will be drawn almost entirely from scholarly journals and books. Although these works will contain statistical analyses and formal models involving calculus, you will never be asked to understand the math behind these methods. What you will be required to do is read to understand the author's *argument*. I will provide an introduction about how to read scholarly articles on the second day of class. I will also post questions for you to keep in mind as you read on the class website.

Please know that this class will involve a **large** amount of reading. I *strongly* encourage you to stay current with the week's readings.

Course Readings

The readings have been posted as PDF's on the ELMS/Blackboard website.

Graded Components:

First Exam: 27%
Second Exam: 27%
Third Exam: 27%
Participation (in class): 4%
Online Discussion Boards: 10%
Attendance: 5%

Individuals found guilty of academic dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent of the policies and guidelines established by the University. For more on the student honor code, please see <http://www.shc.umd.edu>.

Attendance is mandatory.

In accordance with the University's policy on the observance of religious holidays, it is the student's responsibility to inform me of any absences due to these holidays well in advance and **in writing** within the first two weeks of the semester.

Students are also *strongly* encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the course readings.

Students are required to post to the online discussion boards throughout the semester.

There is a minimum of 15 original posts and 20 responses to other posts (you cannot reply to your own posts unless you are responding to something someone else wrote about your post). Each original post should be approximately 250 words long. Original posts should also start their own threads unless you are replying to a prompt posted by me (see below). Replies should be a minimum of 150 words.

For an original post to count, it needs to be submitted by the time class starts on the day we go over the readings discussed in the post. So, for example, if you are writing a post about Susan Hyde's "The Observer Effect", your post must be online by 9:30 am on September 22. There is no time limit on replies (though you cannot do all 20 in the last 2 weeks of class). You can make more than one post per day, provided each post talks about a different reading and that each post says something different (i.e., you can't make the same point twice about two different readings).

To reward hard work and discourage "phoning it in," I'll grade your posts on a four-point scale (4= exceeds expectations, 1= poor). Late entries and entries that are half-hearted, confusing, or mechanically messy will receive no credit. Here's what the point system means:

1. Poor: an entry almost devoid of original thought, perhaps full of mechanical errors and/or opaque language
2. You can do better: the entry has some merit, but little original thought and/or much unclear or unpolished writing
3. Meets requirements: your entry reads well and contributes usefully to the class discussion.
4. Exceeds Expectations: either in the quality of analysis and/or quality of writing

Posts can be on any of the following topics (though don't feel limited to these):

- A connection you saw between a current event and the phenomenon discussed in a reading.
- Take a research technique the author described in the reading and think of a different research question you could apply it to.
- Something you really didn't like about how the author tried to answer a research question. How could they have improved their research design?
- Did anything in the reading challenge your understanding of how things work?
- You can also make posts about discussions we had in class. These posts must be made by the end of the week in which the original discussion took place (i.e., by 5pm of that Friday).
- I will also occasionally post ideas for you to react to. These reactions will count as original posts.

You can also post questions you have about the readings in the “questions” thread for each day (these will not count as original posts, though). I will try to check these threads, but the primary purpose of them is to encourage a discussion between students.

None of the exams are cumulative.

There is no extra credit, save a few bonus questions at the end of exams. Do not ask if you can do an extra project if you are unsatisfied a grade you received on an exam. The answer is an unequivocal no. This policy applies to all students, even those that are graduating this term.

“CHOICES” is a class activity, not a reading.

Important Dates

Thursday, October 6: First exam.

Thursday, November 5: Second exam.

Thursday, December 10: Third exam.

Assignments and Readings

Readings are due the day they are listed for (e.g., have “Draining the Sea” and “Reading and Understanding” read when you walk into class Sept. 8).

Week 1

Tuesday, Sept 1: Introduction to the Class

- Questions from news articles due.

Thursday, Sept 3: NO CLASS

Week 2

Tuesday, Sept. 8 Stats 1: The Basics

- Ben Valentino, Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay “Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerilla Warfare” *International Organization* (2004)
- Leanne Powner “Reading and Understanding Political Science”

Thursday, Sept. 10 Stats 2: Causal Inference

- Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner “Where Have All the Criminals Gone?” *Freakonomics*. (2005).
- Levitt and Donohue “Further Evidence that Legalized Abortion Lowered Crime” *Journal of Human Resources* (2004)

Week 3

Tuesday, Sept. 15 Selection Effects

- Irfan Nooruddin “Modeling Selection Bias in Studies of Sanctions Efficacy” *International Interactions* (2002).
- Scott Gartner and Randolph Siverson “War Expansion and War Outcome” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (1996).

Thursday, Sept. 17 Working With Data

****Meet in the LeFrack, Computer Lab 5*****

- Ben Valentino, Paul Huth and Sarah Croco “Bear Any Burden?”

Week 4

Tuesday, Sept. 22 Field Experiments

- Gerber and Green “Do Phone Calls Increase Voter Turnout” *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2001)
- Susan Hyde “The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a National Experiment.” *World Politics* (2007)

Thursday, Sept. 24 Treaties

- Downs, Rocke and Barsoom “Is the Good News About Compliance Good News About Cooperation?” *International Organization* (1996).
- Leeds, Long and Mitchell “Re-Evaluating Alliance Reliability” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2000)
- Ben Valentino, Paul Huth and Sarah Croco “Covenants Without the Sword.” *World Politics* (2006).

Week 5

Tuesday, Sept. 29 Audience Costs

- Michael Tomz “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach” *International Organization* (2007)
- Jessica Weeks “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve” *International Organization* (2008).

Thursday, Oct. 1 Nuclear Weapons

- Singh and Way “The Correlates of Nuclear Proliferation” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2004)
- Scott Sagan “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons?” *International Security* 1996-7.
- Fuhrmann “Taking a Walk on the Supply Side: the Determinants of Civilian Nuclear Cooperation” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2009)
- **CHOICES**

Week 6

Tuesday, Oct. 6 FIRST EXAM

Thursday, Oct. 8 Survey Experiments

- Adam Berinsky “Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict.” *Journal of Politics* (2007)
- Ben Valentino & Nick Valentino “An Army of the People? National Guard and Reserve Casualties and Public Support for War”

Week 7

Tuesday, Oct. 13: The Media and IR

- Adam Berinsky and Don Kinder “Making Sense of Issues Through Media Frames: Understanding the Kosovo Crisis.” *Journal of Politics* (2006)
- Matt Baum “Circling the Wagons: Soft News and Isolationism in American Public Opinion.” *International Studies Quarterly* (2004).

Thursday, Oct. 15 Human Rights

- Lebovic and Voten “The Cost of Shame: International Organizations and Foreign Aid in the Punishing of Human Rights Violators” *Journal of Peace Research* (2009)
- Hafner-Burton “Sticks and Stones: Naming and Sharing the Human Rights Enforcement Problem” *International Organization* (2008)

Week 8

Tuesday, Oct. 20 War and Accountability

- Hein Goemans “Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2000).
- Bennett and Stam “The Declining Advantage of Democracy” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (1998)

Thursday, Oct. 22 The Importance of Individual Leaders

- Sarah Croco “Peace at What Price?”
- Iqbal and Zorn “The Political Consequences of Assassination” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2008)

Week 9

Tuesday, Oct. 27 Rogue States

- Caprioli and Trumbore “Rhetoric versus Reality: Rouge States in Interstate Conflict” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2005)
- Deborah Ball and Theodore Gerber “Russian Scientists and Rogue States: Does Western Assistance Reduce the Proliferation Threat?” *International Security* (2005)

Thursday, Oct. 29 Terrorism 1

- Tessler and Robbins “What Leads Some Ordinary Arab Men and Women to Approve of Terrorist Acts Against the United States?” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*. (2007)
- Savun and Phillips “Democracy, Foreign Policy and Terrorism” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (forthcoming *Journal of Conflict Resolution*) (2009)

Week 10

Tuesday, Nov. 3 Terrorism 2

- Leonie Huddy, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber and Gallya Lahav “Threat, Anxiety and Support of Antiterrorism Policies.” *American Journal of Political Science* (2005).
- **CHOICES**

Thursday, Nov. 5 SECOND EXAM

Week 11

Tuesday, Nov. 10 The UN

- Chapman and Reiter “The UN Security Council and the Rally ‘Round the Flag Effect” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2004)
- Voten “The Political Origins of the Security Council’s Ability to Legitimize the Use of Force” *International Organization* (2005).

Thursday, Nov. 12 NO CLASS

Week 12

Tuesday, Nov. 17 Casualties

- Chris Gelpi, Jason Reifler and Peter Feaver. “Success Matters”. *International Security* (2007)
- Scott Shane “Bush’s Speech on Iraq War Echoes Voice of an Analyst” *The New York Times* December 4, 2005.
- Karol and Miguel “The Electoral Costs of War” *The Journal of Politics* (2007).

Thursday, Nov. 19: The Origins of Civil Wars

- Salehyan and Gleditsch “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War” *International Organization* (2006)
- Ross “How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from 13 Cases”. *International Organization* (2004)

Week 13

Tuesday, Nov. 24 Democracies and Other States

- Maoz and Russett “Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace” *The American Political Science Review* (1993)
- Schweller “Domestic Structure and Preventative War” (1992)
- Reiter and Stam Chapter 2 “Democracies at War”

Thursday, Nov. 26 NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Week 14

Tuesday, Dec. 1 Understanding Interstate Relations in Africa

- Jeffrey Herbst *States and Power in Africa*. Chapters 2-5 (NOTE: This is a lot of reading, so plan ahead. But it’s fun reading!)

Thursday, Dec. 3 Mass Killing 1

- Gourevitch selection from *We Wish to Inform You Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families* (1999)
- Alan Kuperman “Rwanda in Retrospect” *Foreign Affairs* (2000)
- Paul Huth “Major Power Intervention in International Crises” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (1998)

Week 15:

Tuesday, Dec. 8 Mass Killing 2

- Ben Valentino “Final Solutions: The Cause of Mass Killing and Genocide.” *Security Studies* (2000).
- CHOICES

Thursday, Dec. 10 THIRD EXAM