

Seminar in International Relations and World Politics: Domestic Politics and International Conflict

GVPT 409L

Professor Croco (scroco@gvpt.umd.edu)

Monday, Wednesday 5:00-6:15

Office hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Office: 2101c Morill Hall

Course Description

In recent years, scholars of international politics have begun to consider how features of a state's domestic political landscape (e.g., political institutions, elections, public opinion, etc.) interact with the state's behavior on the world stage. This new approach gave rise to several novel research agendas, all of which suggested that the line between "low politics" and "high politics" is not as clear as scholars previously believed. Instead, the internal politics of a state can have a profound effect on how the state behaves internationally just as international events can affect citizens back home. The purpose of this class is to explore this bidirectional effect by examining recent political science research that asks questions about how domestic politics and international politics influence one another.

Since there is no textbook as of yet 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. If I sense the class is not completing the readings, pop quizzes will occur.

Course Readings

The vast majority of the readings have been posted as PDF's on the ELMS/Blackboard website. You will also be required to buy two books, which have been ordered from the campus bookstore.

- *Democracies at War* by D. Reiter and A. Stam
- *Rise to Globalism* by Ambrose and Brinkley

Graded Components

Midterm: 25%

Paper: 20%

Presentation: 10%

Peer Review: 10%

Participation (including pop quizzes): 10%

Final Exam: 25%

This course will largely consist of one paper, one presentation and two exams.

- The 5-7 page paper will require students to examine the interaction of the domestic and international political spheres during a war involving the United States. The wars will range from WW2 to the current war in Iraq. Students will be assigned randomly to a particular war, but they are free to choose the topic (subject to my approval.)
- Upon completing their paper, students will be required to prepare a 5-6 minute presentation on their research, which will be given to the class in the final weeks of the course.
- The final will **not** be cumulative; it will consist of material covered since the midterm
- All exams will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice and essay questions.

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. Students with more than **two** unexcused absences will lose half a letter grade off of their participation score for *each* class missed. Absences will be excused if accompanied by a note from a university official or medical professional.

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

Active and constructive class participation is also required. I strongly recommend writing down questions and insights as you do the readings to help foster a more fruitful class discussion.

The numbers in parentheses following the readings are the number of pages for each piece. Please use this information to plan accordingly for weeks with heavier reading.

You will also be required to review the papers and presentations of at least two other students. Please take this seriously as it is worth 10% of your grade (easily the difference between two full letter grades.)

Assignments turned in late will be docked 5 percentage points for each day past the deadline, including the day it was due. For example, a paper that was due at 3pm on day X and turned in at 5pm later that day will receive a 5 percentage point reduction.

Students are also *strongly* encouraged to meet with me during office hours to discuss the course readings and assignments. I am happy to sit with students and read drafts of their papers (as many times as the student wants) *provided that* the date is before November 3. After this date, I will no longer read drafts. I will only answer questions.

Important Dates

Monday, October 6: Paper topics due.

Wednesday, October 15: MIDTERM

Wednesday, November 5 Rough drafts of papers due to peer reviewers and one draft to me. I would really encourage you to have these drafts be as close to “final” as possible.

Wednesday, November 12: In-class review. Have your comments ready for the papers you reviewed.

Monday, November 17: Papers due.

November 19- December 8: In-class presentations.

Thursday, December 18: FINAL EXAM. 4-6 PM

Assignments, Exams and Readings

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

Week 1

Wednesday, September 3: Introduction

Week 2

Monday, September 8: Introduction to Basic Statistics or “How to read a political science journal article.” (32)

- Leanne Powner “Reading and Understanding Political Science” (4)
- Ben Valentino, Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay “Draining the Sea: Mass Killing and Guerilla Warfare” *International Organization* (2004) (28)

Wednesday, September 10: 9/11 and Political Science (18)

- Scott Gartner “Ties to the Dead: Connections to the Iraq War and 9/11 and Presidential Approval” *American Sociological Review* (2008) (5)
- Leonie Huddy, Stanley Feldman, Charles Taber and Gallya Lahav “Threat, Anxiety and Support of Antiterrorism Policies.” *American Journal of Political Science* (2005). (13)

Week 3

Monday, September 15: The Rally ‘Round the Flag Effect (39)

- Terrence Chapman and Dan Reiter “The UN Security Council and the Rally ‘Round the Flag Effect.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2004). (20)
- George Edwards and Tami Swenson “Who Rallies? The Anatomy of a Rally Event.” *Journal of Politics* (1997). (9)
- Marc Hetherington and Michael Nelson “Anatomy of a Rally Effect: George W. Bush and the War on Terrorism” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2003). (5)
- Brian Gaines “Where’s the Rally? Approval and Trust of the Presidents, Cabinet, Congress and Government Since September 11.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2002). (5)

Wednesday, September 17: Why do Democracies Win the Wars They Fight? (104)

- Reiter and Stam *Democracies at War* Chapter 2 (2002)
- Reiter and Stam *Democracies at War* Chapter 3 (2002)
- Reiter and Stam *Democracies at War* Chapter 5 (2002)

Week 4

Monday, September 22: How Do Democracies Interact With Other States? (48)

- Bruce Russett and Zeev Maoz “Normative and Structural Causes of the Democratic Peace.” *The American Political Science Review*. (1993) (14)
- Randall Schweller “Domestic Structures and Preventative War” *International Security* (1994) (34)

Wednesday, September 24: How Do Democracies Behave in Wars? (78)

- Ben Valentino, Paul Huth and Sarah Croco “Covenants Without the Sword.” *World Politics* (2006). (38)
- Alex Downes “Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Causes of Civilian Victimization in War.” *International Security* (2006). (40)

Week 5

Monday, September 29: Coercion of Civilians (59)

- Robert Pape *Bombing to Win* Chapter 2 (32)
- Michael Horowitz and Dan Reiter “When Does Aerial Bombing Work?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2001). (27)

Wednesday, October 1: NO CLASS

Week 6

Monday, October 6: Leaders Leading Public Opinion (66)

- Chris Gelpi, Jason Reifler and Peter Feaver. “Success Matters”. *International Security* (2007) (39)
- Scott Shane “Bush’s Speech on Iraq War Echoes Voice of an Analyst” *The New York Times* December 4, 2005. (3)
- John Zaller “Strategic Politicians, Public Opinion and the Gulf Crisis.” in *Taken By Storm* (1994). (24)

PAPER TOPICS DUE

Wednesday, October 8: How does public opinion inform leader behavior? (49)

- Reiter and Stam *Democracies at War* Chapter 6 (2002)
- Reiter and Stam *Democracies at War* Chapter 7 (2002)

Week 7

Monday, October 13: The Media and International Relations (62)

- Adam Berinsky and Don Kinder “Making Sense of Issues Through Media Frames: Understanding the Kosovo Crisis.” *Journal of Politics* (2006) (14)
- Matt Baum “Soft News and Foreign Policy” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (2007) (28)
- Matt Baum “Circling the Wagons: Soft News and Isolationism in American Public Opinion.” *International Studies Quarterly* (2004). (20)

Wednesday, October 15: MIDTERM

Week 8

Monday, October 20: Casualties and Public Opinion (65)

- Scott Gartner and Gary Segura “War, Casualties and Public Opinion.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* volume 42.3 (1998) (34)
- Scott Gartner “Secondary Casualty Information” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* (2008) (11).
- Adam Berinsky “Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict.” *The Journal of Politics* volume 69.4 (2007) (20)

Wednesday, October 22: In-class writing workshop (13)

- Leanne Powner “Hook, Line and Sinker” (8)
- Leanne Powner “Common Errors” (5)
- Paper rubric

Week 9

Monday, October 27: Wartime Elections 1 (TBD)

- Adam Berinsky *America at War* Chapter 8 (2008) (TBD)
- Timothy Cotton “War and American Democracy: Electoral Costs of the Last Five Wars.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (1986). (18)

Wednesday, October 29: Wartime Elections 2 (TBD)

- Sarah Croco *Peace at What Price* Chapters 2-4. (TBD)

Week 10

Monday, November 3: Audience Costs (26)

- James Fearon “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes” *The American Political Science Review* (1994) (10)
- Michael Tomz “Domestic Audience Costs in International Relations: An Experimental Approach” *International Organization* (2007) (16)

Wednesday, November 5: Domestic Signaling (43)

- Matt Baum “Going Private” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2004) (27)
- Ken Schultz “Domestic Opposition and Signaling in International Crises” *The American Political Science Review* (1998). (16)

***Rough Drafts Due to Peer-Reviewer Bring a printed copy of the paper to class for each reviewer and one for me.**

Week 11

Monday, November 10: The Cuban Missile Crisis (37)

- Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley *Rise to Globalism* Chapter 10 (19)
- Tim McKeown “The Cuban Missile Crisis and Politics as Usual” *The Journal of Politics* (2000) (18)

Wednesday, November 12: In-class review

****Bring typed feedback on your assigned papers to class!****

Week 12

Monday, November 17: Domestic Politics of Intervention (47)

- Gourevitch selection from *We Wish to Inform You Tomorrow We Will Be Killed With Our Families* (1999) (18)
- Alan Kuperman “Rwanda in Retrospect” *Foreign Affairs* (2000) (24)
- Scott Straus “Darfur and the Genocide Debate” (2005) *Foreign Affairs* (5)

****Papers Due In Class****

Wednesday, November 19: World War 2 (TBD)

- Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley *Rise to Globalism* Chapter 1 (14)
- Adam Berinsky *America at War* Chapter 3 (2008) (TBD)
- “Americans Stirred by New War but Set on Staying Neutral” *Newsweek* Sept. 11, 1939. 25-27. (2)
- WORLD WAR 2 presentations

Week 13

Monday, November 24: Korea and the Beginning of the Cold War (53)

- Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley *Rise to Globalism* Chapters 7 and 8 (36)
- John Mueller “Trends in Popular Support for the Wars in Korea and Vietnam” *The American Political Science Review* (1971) (17)
- KOREAN WAR presentations

Wednesday, November 26: Campus Anti-War Protests (50)

- Kenneth Heineman *Campus Wars* (1994) (selected pages) (24)
- Melvin Small *Antinarrators* (2002) (selected pages) (20)
- “The Rebellion of the Campus” *Newsweek* May 18, 1970 28-34. (6)

Week 14

Monday, December 1: Vietnam (77)

- Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley *Rise to Globalism* Chapters 11 and 12. (63)
- John Robinson “Public Reaction to the Protest: Chicago 1968” *The Public Opinion Quarterly* (1970). (9)
- “The Battle of Chicago” *Newsweek* Sept. 9, 1968. 28-9. (2)
- “Lots of Law, Little Order” *Newsweek* Sept. 9, 1968. 38-41. (3)
- VIETNAM WAR presentations

Wednesday, December 3: Persian Gulf War (35)

- Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley *Rise to Globalism* Chapter 17 (17)
- Daniel Hallin and Todd Gitlin “The Gulf War as Popular Culture and Television Drama” *Taken By Storm* (18)
- PERSIAN GULF WAR presentations

Week 15

Monday, December 8: Iraq and the road ahead (TBD)

- John Mueller “The Iraq Syndrome” *Foreign Affairs* (2005) (6)
- An additional short reading will be added during the semester.
- IRAQ WAR presentations

Wednesday, December 10: Final Review

- Come prepared with questions.

**FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY DECEMBER 18. 4PM-6PM
LOCATION: TBA**