

**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)
Monday: 2-4:45pm, Woods 1130
Office hours: Monday, 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. There are two sets of readings for each class. The first set will be discussed before the break and the second set will be discussed after.

I STRONGLY DISCOURAGE JOINING THIS CLASS AFTER THE SECOND WEEK OF THE COURSE. Because we only meet once a week, the class will cover a large amount of ground very quickly. If a student decides to join late, it is the **student's responsibility** to catch up with the required material.

Course Readings

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

Graded Components:

First Exam: 29%
Second Exam: 29%
Third Exam: 29%
Participation in class: 6%
Attendance: 7%

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. You are allowed two absences. If you miss class, you do not need to provide a note. However, after the first two absences, you will lose 5% of your attendance grade for each day missed. Starting the second week of class, students who arrive at class after I have taken attendance (i.e., after the first few minutes) will be marked as absent.

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. I am serious about the "in writing" part. Provided the student informs me in writing, missing class for religious holidays will not count against the two allowed absences.

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

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.

The bar is extremely high for a 100% in class participation. Most students do not get a 100. Last semester, out of 25 students, 4 got a 100 while 8 got a 0. The average participation score was a 48.4%.

Any challenges to an exam grade must be submitted *in writing no sooner* than one week after I have handed the exams back.

I only write letters of recommendation for students who earn solid (i.e., 93% and above) A's in the class. Do not ask me for a letter until you know your final grade.

Pop quizzes are possible and will count towards your participation grade.

Important Dates

Monday Mar. 1: First exam.

Monday, Apr. 12: Second exam.

Monday, May 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 Feb. 1).

Week 1

Monday Jan. 25: Introduction to the Class

Week 2

Monday Feb. 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”

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

Monday Feb. 8

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).

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 4

Monday Feb. 15

Suvery Experiments

- Adam Berinsky “Assuming the Costs of War: Events, Elites, and American Public Support for Military Conflict.” *Journal of Politics* (2007)
- Sarah Croco “The Flip-side of Flip-Flopping”

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).

Week 5

Monday Feb. 22

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)

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 and Tim Groeling “Shot by the Messenger: Partisan Cues and Public Opinion Regarding National Security and War” *Political Behavior* (2009)

Week 6

Monday Mar. 1 FIRST EXAM

Week 7

Monday Mar 8

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)

Rogue States

- Caprioli and Trumbore “Rhetoric versus Reality: Rouge States in Interstate Conflict” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2005)

Week 8

No class: Spring Break

Week 9

Monday Mar. 22

War and Accountability

- Hein Goemans “Fighting for Survival: The Fate of Leaders and the Duration of War.” *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2000).
- Sarah Croco “Peace at What Price?”

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).

Week 10

Monday Mar. 29

The Origins of Civil Wars

- Salehyan and Gleditsch “Refugees and the Spread of Civil War” *International Organization* (2006)
- Lujala, Paivi, et al. “A Diamond Curse? Civil War and a Lutable Resource.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2005)

Understanding Interstate Relations in Africa

- Jeffrey Herbst *States and Power in Africa*. Chapters 2-4 (NOTE: This is a lot of reading.)

Week 11

Monday Apr. 5

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)

Terrorism 2

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

Week 12

Monday Apr. 12 SECOND EXAM

Week 13

Monday Apr. 19:

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).

Benefits of the UN?

- Thacker “The High Politics of IMF Lending” *World Politics* (1999)
- Dreher et al “Development Aid and International Politics: Does Membership on the UNSC Influence World Bank Decisions.” *Journal of Development Economics* (2009)

Week 14

Monday Apr. 26

Universal Jurisdiction

- Kissinger, “The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction”
- Roth, “The Case for Universal Jurisdiction” *Foreign Affairs* 2001
- “The Pinochet Dilemma”

The ICC

- U.S. Notification of Intent Not to Become a Party to the Rome Statute *American Journal of International Law*
- Neier “Waiting for Justice: The US and the ICC”
- Tucker “The International Criminal Court Controversy” *World Policy Journal* 2001
- Nooruddin and Payton “Dynamics of Influence in International Politics: The ICC, BIAs and Economic Sanctions.” *Forthcoming Journal of Peace Research*

Week 15

Monday May 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)

Mass Killing 2

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

Week 16

Monday May 10 THIRD EXAM