

Fall 2006 Political Science 599
Seminar in International Politics – Conflict Processes

Instructor

Professor Patrick James

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is an advanced seminar in international conflict. The range of material that might be included is vast, so an effort will be made to balance overall coverage with the need to look in more depth at some especially salient areas in the literature. The seminar unfolds in five parts. Each will be described in turn.

The first part, which consists of two classroom sessions, provides an overview of the course as a whole. In other words, the first session takes an initial look at conflict, crisis and war – the three main types of event that will be covered, in turn, during the remainder of the semester. This is followed in the second session by a video presentation, ‘Trinity and Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie’, which provides an interesting point of departure for discussion of international conflict, crisis and war.

The second part, which consists of four classroom sessions, covers international conflict in general. Some examples of general perspectives on international conflict, ranging from empirical to normative, are presented to give a sense of the variety of competing ideas that have accumulated with time. The next two sessions are devoted to ethnic conflict. Ethnopolitics is given priority among many possible subjects due to its centrality within international relations over the last decade and likely persistence into the future. The final session in this section is a showing of the movie ‘Green Street Hooligans’. This film provides an interesting perspective on group affiliation and violent conflict.

International crisis is covered in the third part of the course, which takes up three sessions. Crisis, as will become apparent, is a subset of conflict. It is an especially salient point among the more specific forms of conflict that might be isolated for further study. Put differently, crisis is the crucial breakpoint between conflict in general and full-scale war in particular. Analysis of international crisis will begin with sessions on crisis escalation and management and diversionary theory. These are highly active areas of research and can be linked together to obtain a better overall sense of the role of crisis in international relations. The third session focuses on terrorism, a subject within the crisis domain but with significant linkages to both conflict and war.

International war is the focus of the fourth part of the course and covers three sessions. War is a subset of crisis and, among all of the events that might be selected, has attracted the most attention from those who study conflict processes. Thus it makes sense to

organize and present a sample from the vast literature on war in terms of levels of analysis. The subsequent sessions include an overview on some general perspectives on war, factors that bring about war and factors that promote peace. Research on war in the last decade has converged increasingly on dyadic theories that feature political institutions, so that subject will receive special attention among the many others that might have been selected.

The fifth and final part of the course is a session that takes a final look at conflict, crisis and war. In sum, what have we learned in an overall sense?

Course Requirements

Take-Home Mid-term Examination (Oct. 11 – due Oct. 16 at 9 a.m.)	15%
Take-Home Final Examination (Nov. 29 – due Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.)	25%
Term Essay (due Nov. 29, two-page outline due Nov. 8)	30%
Seminar Leadership	15%
Class Participation	15%

Review sheets (i.e., study guides) will be provided on email so you can prepare effectively for the take-home mid-term and final exams. All of the material from the assigned readings, class discussions and video presentations will be tested on the exams. The mid-term will appear on email on October 11 and a ten-page, double spaced answer is due by 9 a.m. on October 16. The respective dates for the final exam are November 29 and December 7. The final exam will be 15 double spaced pages.

The term essay, limited to 25-double spaced pages, is due in class on November 29. The format is straightforward. I expect you to focus in greater depth on any one of the major subjects we cover on a weekly basis. A two-page outline and bibliography for your paper is due on November 8 or there will be a 20% penalty. This should be sent to me for review and approval via email. Please do visit with me as you begin to put together your outline. I expect to see a proposal for a paper that offers constructive criticism and some ideas for synthesis in a significant area of the literature on international conflict, crisis and war. The paper may take the form of a review essay, case study or aggregate data analysis; choice of method will depend upon the problem under study.

Each student will take a turn as seminar leader at one point during the semester. The date at which you will serve as seminar leader will be determined by a lottery held in the first class session. (Trades between students are permitted but must be approved in advance by the instructor.) The seminar leader is expected to (a) prepare a set of discussion points about the material that will go up on Blackboard on the Thursday preceding class; and (b) take primary responsibility for leading the discussion throughout the seminar session.

The discussion points are due to me (i.e., at patrickj@usc.edu by email attachment) at the beginning of the week before your session as seminar leader. For example, if you are seminar leader for November 15, your material is due on November 9.

A successful seminar will involve a mixture of discussion including both theory and its application to the real world. Thus the seminar leader should try to provide a series of provocative questions and issues that bring together the reading material for the week under more encompassing themes.

Your participation is very important to the success of this seminar. Thus a grade for participation in sessions other than those for which you are seminar leader also is included.

The material in the video presentations will be included on the exams. Thus it is important to attend class during those days as well.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60).

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or me, immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

Make-up Requirements

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either to me in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not qualify as excused under university guidelines, and who notify me ahead of time may, at my discretion, complete a requirement belatedly. Any requirement turned in on the day that it is due but after the time specified will face a 20% penalty. Each additional late day will mean a further 20% deduction.

Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalogue. Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Required Textbooks

Please buy the following books:

David Carment, Patrick James and Zeynep Taydas. 2005. Who Intervenes? Ethnic Conflict and Interstate Crisis. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press.

Vasquez, John A., ed. 2000. What Do We Know About War?. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Other Required Readings

All other reading will be made available through Blackboard.

Schedule

Part I: Overview

August	23	An Initial Look at Conflict, Crisis and War
	30	<u>Video Presentation</u> : 'Trinity and Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie'

Part II: International Conflict

September	6	Perspectives on International Relations and Conflict
		Margaret G. Hermann. 1998. "One Field, Many Perspectives: Building the Foundations for Dialogue." <u>International Studies Quarterly</u> 42: 605-624.

Michael Brecher. 1999. "International Studies in the Twentieth Century and Beyond: Flawed Dichotomies, Synthesis, Cumulation." International Studies Quarterly 43: 213-264.

Steve Smith. 2004. "Singing Our World into Existence: International Relations Theory and September 11 (Presidential Address to the International Studies Association, February 27, 2003, Portland, OR)." International Studies Quarterly 48: 499-515.

Patrick James and Murray Wolfson. 2003. "International Relations: A Perspective Based on Politics, Economics and Systems." Journal of International Relations and Development 6: 344-357.

13 Ethnic Conflict, I – Theory

Stuart J. Kaufman. 2001. Modern Hatreds: The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-48.

Stephen M. Saideman. 2001. The Ties That Divide: Ethnic Politics, Foreign Policy, and International Conflict. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, pp. 1-35.

Carment et al., pp. 1-42.

20 Ethnic Conflict, II – Evidence

Carment et al., pp. 43-232.

27 Video Presentation: 'Green Street Hooligans'

Part III: International Crisis

October 4 Crisis Escalation and Management

Michael Brecher. 1996. "Crisis Escalation: Model and Findings." International Political Science Review 17: 215-230.

Frank P. Harvey. 1998. "Rigor Mortis, or Rigor, More Tests: Necessity, Sufficiency, and Deterrence Logic." International Studies Quarterly 42: 675-707.

J. Joseph Hewitt and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. 1999. "One-Sided Crises in the International System." Journal of Peace Research 36: 309-323.

Paul R Hensel. 2001. "Contentious Issues and World Politics: The Management of Territorial Claims in the Americas, 1816-1992." International Studies Quarterly 45: 81-109.

Note: Study guide for take-home exam will be available on email today

11 Take-Home Exam Available on email at 9 a.m. on October 11 (due October 16 at 9 a.m.)

Note: No class will be held this week.

18 Diversionary Theory

Patrick James and John R. Oneal. 1991. "The Influence of Domestic and International Politics on the President's Use of Force." Journal of Conflict Resolution 35: 307-332.

Patrick James and Jean-Sébastien Rioux. 1998. "International Crises and Linkage Politics: The Experiences of the United States, 1953-1994." Political Research Quarterly 51: 781-812.

James Meernik. 2000. "Modeling International Crises and the Political Use of Force by the USA." Journal of Peace Research 37: 547-562.

Karl DeRouen, Jr. 2000. "Presidents and the Diversionary Use of Force: A Research Note." International Studies Quarterly 44: 317-328.

Jeffrey Pickering and Emizet F. Kisangani. 2005. "Democracy and Diversionary Military Intervention: Reassessing Regime Type and the Diversionary Hypothesis." International Studies Quarterly 49: 23-43.

25 Terrorism and Crisis

Walter Enders and Todd Sandler. 2005. "After 9/11: Is It All Different Now?" Journal of Conflict Resolution 49: 259-277.

Quan Li. 2005. "Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?" Journal of Conflict Resolution 49: 278-297.

Carlos Pestana Barros and Isabel Proenca. 2005. "Mixed Logit Estimation of Radical Islamic Terrorism in Europe and North America." Journal of Conflict Resolution 49: 298-314.

Navin A. Bapat. 2006. "State Bargaining with Transnational Terrorist Groups." International Studies Quarterly 50: 213-229.

Part IV: International War

November 1 Overview and Factors That Bring About War, I

Vasquez, pp. ix-xi, xiii-xvii, 3-53, 57-164.

8 Factors That Bring About War, II

Vasquez, pp. 165-277.

Note: Two-page outline of term essay is due in class

15 Factors That Promote Peace

John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett. 1997. "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." International Studies Quarterly 41: 267-294.

Patrick James, Eric Solberg and Murray Wolfson. 1999. "An Identified Systemic model of the Democracy-Peace Nexus." Defence and Peace Economics 10: 1-37.

Michael Mousseau and Yuhang Shi. 1999. "A Test for Reverse Causality in the Democratic Peace Relationship." Journal of Peace Research 36: 639-663.

John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett. 2000. "Why 'An Identified Systemic Model of the Democracy-Peace Nexus' Fails to Persuade." Defence and Peace Economics 11: 197-214.

Patrick James, Eric Solberg and Murray Wolfson. 2000. "Democracy and Peace: A Reply to Oneal and Russett." Defence and Peace Economics 11: 215-229.

Vasquez, pp. 281-316.

22 Class Cancelled: Thanksgiving Holiday

Part V: Conflict, Crisis and War

29 A Final Look at Conflict, Crisis and War

Vasquez, pp. 319-370

Nathaniel Beck, Gary King and Langche Zeng. 2000. "Improving Quantitative Studies of International Conflict: A Conjecture." American Political Science Review 94: 21-35.

Note: Term Essay Due In Class

Note: Take-Home Exam Available on email at 9 a.m. (due December 7 at 9 a.m.)