

SOCS 633

PEACE VERSUS POWER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE MODERN AGE

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Spring 2020
Tuesday 7:00-9:30 p.m.
Room 422 PAC

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I. Course Description

While globalization and international organizations have currently integrated the world into networks of peace; ethnic, religious and regional conflict have driven nations and groups further apart. This coexistence of conflict and cooperation marks the evolution of the international system. This course represents an attempt to understand the foundations of this coexistence through an analysis of the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the study of international politics. The principal actors, structures, and processes of international relations will be analyzed in a theoretical and historical context. Major topics include: nationalism and the national interest, power, diplomacy, game theory and bargaining, the causes of foreign policy, nuclear weapons and international security, underdevelopment, globalization, international organizations, international resource management, the environment, trade, and transnational actors.

II. Requirements

Final course grades will be two research papers on subjects to be announced, responsibility, memos, and class participation. It is essential that you keep up with the readings so as to enhance participation, as well as avoiding excess reading before assignments. The lectures and discussions will be based upon the readings for the day. Preparation questions that highlight the major issues to discuss are provided in the syllabus in each section below. Responsibility encompasses all aspects of participation in the course: attendance, timeliness in giving in assignments and coming to class, corresponding in a timely manner, supporting an equitable load in group projects, and all other expectations related to the responsible execution of duties connected to this course.

Disability Resources

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To

receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860/685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Grades will be assigned based on the following weights:

Participation	20%	
Responsibility	20%	
Memos	20%	
Paper 1	20%	March 24
Paper 2	20%	TBA

III. Readings

All the readings on this syllabus will be required. All of the readings except the books for purchase can be accessed online through ERES on the Olin Library homepage. Most readings (except for books recommended for purchase) will also be available online in electronic reserve (ERES).

Access to the readings will be password protected. The password for this course is

“govt155”

The following books will be used extensively and are recommended for purchase:

**Robert Art and Robert Jervis, Eds., International Politics, 13th Edition

**Bruce Russett , Harvey Starr,, and David Kinsella, World Politics, 10th Edition

Giulio Gallarotti, Cosmopolitan Power in International Relations

Giulio Gallarotti, The Power Curse

Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days

**readings from Art/Jervis and Russett/Starr/Kinsella are spread

throughout the course, hence it would be especially convenient to own these particular books

IV. Course Outline

1. BASIC CONCEPTS, PROCESSES, AND THE NATURE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

January 28

A. The Changing World Today: Global Society versus National Society

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapters 3

Walter LeFeber, "Michael Jordan and the New Global Capitalism"

Sam Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations"

Discussion Questions: There is debate over the nature of our changing world system. Some see globalization as creating a new age in which nations are withering in the face of a growing international society. Others, like Huntington, believe other forces which are far less harmonious will mark our future. What do you think?

B. Theories of International Politics

1. International Anarchy and Realism

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapter 13

Art and Jervis, International Politics,
pp. 1-9, 19-27, 48-77

Discussion Questions: The Realist school of international politics has traditionally looked to Hobbes' Leviathan as an intellectual precursor. In Chapter 13 Hobbes paints a picture of what a community would be like without central organization or rule. How would you describe this state-of-nature existence? What is anarchy all about? Can we draw realistic parallels between this state of nature and the world of international politics?

2. Alternatives to Realism

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 21-28

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 28-40, 78-86

Discussion Questions: What are the alternatives to Realism? Are idealism and feminism a better way to approach world politics?

In class experiments on realism and feminism.

February 4

C. The Means of Foreign Policy

1. Power

Hans Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations, Chapter 3

Giulio Gallarotti, The Power Curse

Giulio Gallarotti, Cosmopolitan Power in International Relations

Discussion Questions: Is Morgenthau correct in saying a general national interest exists for all nations, and that this national interest can be defined in terms of the accumulation of power? What is this power of which he speaks? If this were true, would it make the world a more dangerous place or peaceful place? What would Gallarotti, who talks about how power-seeking can backfire and strategies for gaining optimal influence, say about the idea of power accumulation? How did the Bush administration show that the quest for hard power can weaken a nation? What lessons can you derive from these readings in building your own strategy for making American strong?

2. The Use of Force and Balance of Power

Robert Kagan, "Power Failure"

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 195-217, 229-245, 376-392

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 79-88

Discussion Questions: What is a balance of power? When will nations prefer to bandwagon as opposed to balance according to Walt? What are the necessary conditions for a balance of power? Do we have a balance of power today? In the nuclear age, is the large scale use of force still a useful means of statecraft?

Assignment: Much of the class will be a meeting among the President's top advisors to suggest a foreign and domestic policy that will maximize America's strength. You are an advisor and should prepare a 2-page memo, based on the information you have about what makes a nation powerful, laying out your strategy to achieve such strength. We will try to carve out a winning group strategy in class.

February 11

D. Strategic Interaction: Bargaining and the Games States Play
1. Game Theory

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma"

Robert Axelrod, The Evolution of Cooperation,
Chapters 1,4

Discussion Questions: We will discuss our experience in the simulation game. Think fully about how the Prisoner's Dilemma can be used to explain world politics. What reasons can you give for why you followed the strategy that you did? What relation does this have to international politics?

2. Bargaining

Thomas Schelling, The Strategy of Conflict,
Chapter 2 up to p. 46 and Chapter 3 up to p. 58

Russett, Starr, Kinsella World Politics, pp. 89-97

Discussion Questions: Schelling presents numerous strategies for bargaining. Especially interesting are his concepts of "the power through binding oneself," "the advantage of the last clear chance," and the whole idea of the rationality of irrationality. What are these strategies? How can they be used to win a chicken game?

In class simulation on bargaining.

2. DETERMINANTS OF FOREIGN POLICY

February 18

A. The Levels of Analysis

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 1

Discussion Questions: What is the whole concept of levels of analysis? How does Waltz' 3 levels (which he calls images) explain war? Russett and Starr present an alternative "menu" of levels. Which of Russett and Starr's levels do Waltz' levels correspond to?

B. Structural Causes of Foreign Policy

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapters 4

John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Miss the Cold War"

Discussion Questions: How does the structural level explain foreign policy? What are its advantages and disadvantages? How would you explain the Gulf War on a structural level? Why does Mearsheimer say we will miss the Cold War? Do you agree with his argument?

February 25

C. Domestic Causes of Foreign Policy

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 5

Woodrow Wilson, excerpts from Public Papers, in Wolfers and Martin, Anglo-American Tradition

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 139-152

Discussion Questions: Woodrow Wilson, former teacher and football coach at Wesleyan University, argued that a democratic world (i.e., where all nations are governed by democratic principles) was a safe world. Michael Doyle has recently restated the argument in terms of the passivity of liberal states. What is the logic of their argument? What are the strengths and weaknesses? Consider the evidence too (pay attention to Doyle's use of the evidence). In democracies, popular views are supposedly the primary shapers of foreign policy. Is this true of the U.S.? Does the U.S. have a truly democratic foreign policy?

D. Bureaucratic Politics

Morton Halperin and Arnold Kanter, "The Bureaucratic Perspective"

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, pp. 135-142

Discussion Questions: What are the main principles of the bureaucratic politics approach to explaining foreign policy

March 3

E. Decision Making and Psychological Sources of Foreign Policy

1. Psychological Theories of Foreign Policy

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 6

Discussion Questions: The decision-making level of analysis explains foreign policy by looking at the belief systems and thought processes of leaders. Hence, it proposes that we learn about foreign policy through a familiarity with the psychology of leaders. What are the principal psychological processes that affect foreign policy decisions?

2. Psychological Sources and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Robert Kennedy, Thirteen Days

Discussion Questions: Which of these psychological processes were especially visible and important in the Cuban Missile Crisis case?

Assignment: The class will be devoted to re-deciding a response to missiles in Cuba. Please prepare a 2-page memo laying out your suggested response for President Kennedy.

First Paper due March 24

March 24

3. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

The class will watch the documentary "War Plans."
The film discusses the problem of national security
in the nuclear age.

We will discuss the film and the following readings:

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 203-228, 259-274

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapters 7, 8

Michael Mandelbaum, The Nuclear Future, Chapter 1,2

John Mueller, "Nuclear Weapons"

Anna Simons, "Soft War=Smart War? Think Again"

Discussion Questions: What is the best nuclear strategy for nations to follow in order to assure ongoing peaceful relations? There has been a long debate between MAD (mutual assured destruction) advocates and counter-force (aim at and destroy weapons rather than cities). MAD proponents argue that you minimize peace when you aim at cities (i.e., when you hold the other nation's population hostage). Which do you think is a more stabilizing strategy? Where is the best place to aim your weapons? Moreover, what should our plan be if we begin fighting a war? Which targets would we attack first? What kind of retaliation can we expect? Some people (e.g., MAD advocates) might argue that the best plan is no plan because other nations will be convinced that the war will get out of hand and therefore be deterred from starting hostilities. (In this case, "no plan" would signal an irrational conduct of war which would be akin to using the strategy of the rationality of irrationality in a Chicken game). Can nuclear deterrence be better modeled as Chicken or Prisoner's Dilemma?

Assignment: We will spend much of the class in a meeting among the President's top security advisors. Prepare a 2-page memo constructing a security strategy for the U.S. that will maximize its security over the next several decades. We will try to carve out a winning group strategy in class.

March 31

4. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

A. The Structure and Role of the United Nations in Historical Perspective

We will be watching the documentary "The United Nations in a Revolutionary World." The film explores the growth of the UN and primary functions of the UN system in an historical context.

B. Determinants of the Growth of International Organization

Harold Jacobson, Networks of Interdependence,
Chapters 1, 3

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapters 9, 10

Discussion Questions: Inspect the graph which shows the growth of international organization over the last two centuries. Based on these trends you see, what forces would you say cause the growth of international organization. For example, notice the sharp rise in the number of international organizations after World War I and World War II. Based on this one, would you say that international organizations tend to increase sharply in number after major wars (why is this?) Look over the graph carefully and try to come up with other explanations of the growth and timing of international organization.

C. Competing Theories of International Organization

Harold Jacobson, Networks of Interdependence,
Chapter 4

Discussion Questions: How would you describe or characterize the four major theories of international organization: federalism, functionalism, neofunctionalism, and neo-Marxism? Which best describes the growth of international organization over the last two centuries?

5. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

April 7

A. Theories of International Political Economy

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 282-298

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 11

Discussion Questions: Gilpin describes and analyzes the three major theories of international economic relations: liberalism, Marxism, and mercantilism. What are the major tenets of each theory? Which theory best describes international economic relations today?

B. Trade: The U.S.-Japanese Dimension

The class will watch "Talking Tough to Tokyo" a broadcast of a roundtable discussion among trade specialists about the current state of Japanese-U.S. trade relations and prospects for future U.S. trade policy.

We will discuss the film in light of the following readings:

Steven Hanke "U.S.-Japanese Trade: Myths and Realities"

Jacob Schlesinger, "U.S. Chip Makers"

Discussion Questions: We can learn a good deal from present day Japanese-U.S. trade relations: there is no question that they represent a microcosm of international trade relations. The main source of friction has been the enormous bilateral trade deficit the U.S. presently runs against Japan (over the past 10 years, U.S. has been consistently buying 50 billion more in goods from Japan than Japan buys from the U.S.). Where is the main cause of this uneven trade relationship? Many in the U.S. contend it stems from unfair and restrictive trade practices in Japan (barriers, and export subsidies). Many in Japan contend it stems from the growing uncompetitiveness of American industry. What do you think? What should be done about the problem?

April 14

C. OPEC

Stephen Krasner "Oil is the Exception"

C. Fred Bergsten "The Treat is Real"

Moises Naim, "The Devil's Excrement"

Daniel Yergin, "It's Still the One"

Michael Grunwald, "Seven Myths about Alternative Energy"

Discussion Questions: OPEC is the most powerful international resource cartel in history. It has survived the ongoing problem of cheating among its member states (i.e., countries producing more than their quotas) and, more recently, have survived two devastating wars among its members (Iran-Iraq and the Gulf War). What has been the secret of its success? More specifically, why has OPEC achieved and maintained the strength it has enjoyed? Furthermore, can we expect the cartel to last into the future, or are its days numbered? What can governments do to reduce their dependence on OPEC?

D. The Tragedy of the Commons: Preserving Our Global Environment

Art and Jervis, International Politics, pp. 480-490

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 14

Assignment: We will work in groups of three to forge a sustainable energy policy for the world. Prepare a 3-page team memo.

April 21

E. Underdevelopment

We will watch the documentary "The Tools of Exploitation" from the film series "The Africans." The film, on reserve at the Science Library, explores the roots of economic underdevelopment in Africa.

Why poverty exists:

Russett, Starr, Kinsella, World Politics, Chapter 13

Theotonio Dos Santos, "The Structure of Dependence"

Peter Kilby, "The Internal Forces Afflicting Africa"

Bauer and Yamey, "Against the New Economic Order"

Possible Solutions:

Amartya Sen, Development and Freedom, Chapters 1,2

Marguerite Robinson, The Microfinance Revolution, pp. 6-45

Joyce Jacobson, “A Key Global Challenge: Reducing Losses due to Gender Inequality”

Elizabeth M. King, The Challenge of Women and Development

N. Anne Hill and Elizabeth King, “Women's Education and Economic Well-Being”

Assignment: We will work in groups of three to devise development plans for specific nations. Prepare a presentation but no memo is due for this.

Last Paper Due Date TBA

April 28, May 5

Presentations on research project