

POLS/INST 284 (34056, 34067)
Fall 2012
University of Illinois at Chicago

Ryan C. Maness
BSB 211
T/R 9:30-10:45am

International Conflict and Security

This course provides an introduction to and overview of the concepts and approaches used to analyze the causes of war, conflict, and peace in the international system. Emphasis will be placed on both systematic investigations of concepts/data and in-depth case studies to tell the story of conflict processes in the modern world.

The goal is to understand the typical path to war or peace. Why do some states choose force and conflict while others do not? What do we know about conflict from both empirical-data based investigations and traditional case based studies? We will also be covering recent relevant security issues and debates through contemporary book selections. We will not be covering internal or civil wars since these are wars of a different “type” and require a different theoretical background. Topics such as genocide, terrorism, and civil wars are covered in Professor Floros’ POLS 389 course this semester.

Required Books

- John Vasquez, *What Do We Know About War?*, Rowman and Littlefield, ISBN: 0847699277
- Greg Cashman and Leonard Robinson, *An Introduction to the Causes of War*. Rowman and Littlefield, ISBN: 0742555100

Required Depending on Choice or Assignment

- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Norton, ISBN 039332396X
- Hudson, Valerie and Andrea DenBoer, *Bare Branches: The Security Implications of Asia’s Surplus Male Population*, MIT Press, ISBN 0262582643
- Zakaria, Fareed, *The Post-American World*, Norton, ISBN 978-0393334807

Course Requirements

Grading Scale

A 90% and above B 80-89% C 70-79% D 60-69% F 59% and below

Mid-term (25%) and Final (30%)

Book Report and Analysis Paper (20%)

Participation (Includes attendance and book report discussions, 20%)

Data based article report (5%)

Office Hours and Contact Info

Office 1173 BSB
Phone: 773-368-8298 (Please call only if I do not respond to email within a reasonable time)
Office Hours: 12-2 pm Wednesdays
Email: rmaness@uic.edu

The Course

This course is geared towards understanding the causes and consequences of conflict. The main goal will be to understand how peace can be built and war can be avoided. The major overall theme of the course is the rejection of power politics as a political instrument.

The course will be split into three sections: the typical historical path to war, systematic interpretations of conflict, and discussion of contemporary security issues.

The historical path to war portion of the course will provide a historical background that will discuss the typical progress to war. The focus here will be on the actors and actions taken to that lead up to war. We will cover the major world wars along with the Iraq War (recent one), Six Day War, the African Wars, Iran and Iraq, and cyberwar. The story of war is the key to peace; we must understand the process of war and peace before we can attempt to delineate the correlates of the disease.

The systematic interpretations section will discuss and analyze quantitative explorations of security issues. What is the most likely path to war? Is religion a typical cause of war, or an outlier case that is not reflective of the course of human history? The goal is generalize why wars start; regardless of particular cases that may stand out for “famous” wars.

The final section of the course will analyze contemporary security issues like ethnic conflict, gender-population issues, international relations theory, and great power conflict. The class will be divided up into three sections and each will be responsible for one of the recommended reading selections.

Goals:

- To gain an understanding of the major social science findings regarding the causes of war and peace
- To learn how to think scientifically about social phenomena
- To be able to read statistical articles
- To learn how to make inferences from evidence
- To understand contemporary security debates regarding America’s place in the world.

News

Each day we will start off with the discussion of the news if events take place that is relevant to international conflict. Students should be prepared to bring up and discuss these events. Any reputable national news source is acceptable. I prefer the New York Times. Finding news events that are relevant will take time and skill. Some of these reports are buried in the news coverage of the day and it is your responsibility to find the relevant ones that other students may have missed. If you are active, subscribe to the feeds for the BBC (various sites), New York Times, Washington Post, and the Financial Times. Subscribing to Foreign Policy Magazine’s daily email summary is also suggested.

Course Requirements

The path to war section and the systematic interpretations part of the course will each be covered in exam form. Each exam will consist of three parts: short answer, identifications, and an essay. The essay will cover the major issue we discuss in class during the semester. You will be expected to write a coherent, well thought out essay regarding aspects of each class day. Identifications will require you to discuss issues, topics, or people of importance to the course. Short answers will be page long answers about an issue or topic.

For the contemporary security issues section, a book report and analysis will be required (**Due December 6th for all students**). You must choose one of the recommended books and be prepared to discuss the book when your section is the focus. You will be required to write a 6+ page paper (length unlimited) that reviews central themes of the book, discusses what is either right or wrong with the book, and how evidence or other course themes can be applied to the book. The last section of the course will feature an in-depth discussion of each book. You are required to attend the session for your book, failure to do so will severely impact your participation grade.

Your first assignment will be to write a one page summary (single spaced) of a 'data-based' article (**Due September 11th**). Your first reading assignment will be statistically based so that you become familiar with reading and interpreting results. You must consult a respected International Relations journal. Choose from International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Conflict Management and Peace Science, International Interactions, International Organization, or the Journal of Peace Research. Your report should summarize the article and then discuss what the findings mean for conflict studies. The article should be based on **statistical** research. This reading might be difficult but it is important you become accustomed to the writing and research style.

Participation

Participation is simply showing up **and** contributing to class. Either asking questions, bringing up news articles, following up on lecture points, or private conversations with the instructor (if you are more comfortable with that) all count towards your participation grade. I do not take attendance and feel that missing class will be reflected on your final grade because you will miss important material.

Security Issues Book Summaries

John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*:

Regarded as a new 'classic' in International Relations theory, Mearsheimer asserts that Great Powers strive and lust for power as opposed to security alone. Great powers seek hegemony and are doomed to failure since security is unachievable. He also looks at future threats and how they might "balance" against American power.

Valerie Hudson and Andrea DenBoer, *Bare Branches*

This book takes a societal based perspective and asks the question what happens when there are too many men in society? Will resource scarcity lead to conflict or will another outcome prevail? This leads one to ask what other states can do to deal with potential conflict that might arise with China as they rise to become a great power.

Fareed Zakaria, *The Post-American World*

This CNN host is a very popular public academic who studied at Harvard under the realist tradition. The book tackles the subject of America's place in the world where it is no longer the sole superpower. Who will be the challengers and why?

Course Outline

Introduction

1. What is War/Conflict/Peace?
2. Power Politics (Realism)
3. Issue Based Perspective
4. The Steps to War

Paths to War

1. World War I
2. World War II: Europe and Pacific
3. Six Day War
4. Iraq versus Iran
5. Iraq War (2003)
6. African Wars
7. Cyberwar

Systematic Investigations

1. What is the scientific study of war?
2. Causality
3. Territory
4. Alliances
5. Arms Races
6. Rivalry
7. Kantian Tripod (Democratic Peace, Trade, and IGOs)
8. Diplomacy in Action: Crisis Behavior
9. Peace, Norms, and the Concert of Europe

Security Issues

1. Great Power Politics
2. Population, Society, and Gender interacts with War
3. Resource Conflict
4. The Road to and from Iraq

Disclaimers

Writing Deficiency Policy - Students who exhibit writing deficiencies will be required to seek help from the Writing Center and provide documentation that they have done so. You may seek help from the Writing Center if you think it would help you even if I do not refer you.

Plagiarism:

When you write, you must do your own work and use a system of footnotes and references. If you do not do this, or if you copy material from the internet or other sources without attribution, you may be committing plagiarism. The UIC Student Code of Conduct defines plagiarism as "Appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work. This includes (1) paraphrasing another's ideas or conclusions without acknowledgement; (2) lifting of entire paragraphs, chapters, etc. from

another's work; and (3) submission as one's own work, any work prepared by another person or agency." Plagiarism is SERIOUS. Punishments include a failing grade on the paper or exam, or a failing grade in the course. Students can also be referred to the Dean of Students for a hearing to decide additional punishments. Plagiarism is also easy to avoid. If you find a paper or article that says exactly what you wanted to say, then use it, but cite it. We will discuss this again when the first paper assignment is distributed.

Acts of Misconduct A student is subject to University discipline for participating or conspiring in the following acts of misconduct. Academic misconduct is an offense against the University. Acts of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:

1. **Cheating.** Use or attempted use of any unauthorized assistance in taking an exam, test, quiz, or other assignment.
2. **Encouraging Academic Dishonesty.** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to persuade and/or influence another to violate the University's rules, policies, and regulations governing academic integrity.
3. **Fabrication.** Deliberate falsification or design of any material or excerpt in an academic assignment or exercise.
4. **Plagiarism.** Appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work. This includes (1) paraphrasing another's ideas or conclusions without acknowledgement; (2) lifting of entire paragraphs, chapters, etc. from another's work; and (3) submission as one's own work, any work prepared by another person or agency.

If the student's observed conduct or apparent behavior is such as to lead to suspicion of academic misconduct, the faculty member in whose course the alleged infraction occurred may adjust the grade downward (including F - failure) for the test, paper, or course, or other course related activity in question. In such instances the faculty member shall notify the student, the Department/Unit Head, the Dean of the College and the Office of the Dean of Students of the reason for such action in writing.

Course Schedule

- Aug 28 Introductions
- Aug 30 International Relations and Conflict, Making Sense of Statistics
Read: End of War and Human Nature (On Blackboard)
Read: Maness, Ryan C. 2011. "Is Perpetual Peace Possible in an Age of Terror?" Publication Forthcoming (On Blackboard)
- Sept 4 What is War and Conflict?
What is Peace?
Read: Clausewitz: War is an Instrument of Policy (On Blackboard)
Read: What Do We Know About War (WDK) preface and introduction
Singer Ch. 1 in (WDK)
- Sept 6 Sources of Conflict: Power Politics
Read: Morgenthau, Chapter 1(On Blackboard)
Read: Cashman and Robinson (C+R) Ch. 1
Sources of Conflict: Issue-Based Perspective
Read: Vasquez Ch. 17 in (WDK pg. 335-340)
- Sept 11 The Steps to War Theory, **Data-Based Article Reports Due**
Read: Vasquez (WDK, Chapter 17 all)
Read: Maness, Ryan C. and Brandon Valeriano. 2012. "Russia and the Near Abroad: Applying a Risk Barometer for War." Journal of Slavic Military Studies 25 (2):125-148. (On Blackboard)
- Sept 13 World War I
Read Cashman and Robinson Ch. 2
- Sept 18 WWI Continued
- Sept 20 Causes of WWII in Europe
Read: From "The Origins of the Second World War in Europe"by P.M.H. Bell 2nd Edition, First published 1986 by Longman Group UK Ltd Chapter 13: "From peace to the Eve of War 1932-1937."(On Blackboard)
Read: John A Vasquez "The Steps to War In Europe 1933-1941." In Frank P. Harvey and Ben D. Mor, eds. Conflict in World Politics: Advances in the Study of Crisis, War, and Peace (London: Macmillan, 1998), pp. 207-240(On Blackboard)
- Sept 25 WWII Europe Continued
- Sept 27 Causes of WWII in Asia
Read: C+R Ch. 3
- Oct 2 The Six-Day War

Read: C+R Ch. 4

- Oct 4 Iran and Iraq
Read: C+R Ch. 6
- Oct 9 Iraq War (2003)
Read: C+R Ch. 7
- Oct 11 The African Wars
Read: Brandon Valeriano (2011): Power Politics and Interstate War in Africa, African Security, 4:3, 195-221(On Blackboard)
- Oct 16 Cyberwar and Rivalry
Read: Sanger, David E. (2012) Mutually Assured Cyberdestruction? AND Obama Order Sped Up Wave of Cyberattacks on Iran. NY Times Articles (On Blackboard)
Read: Valeriano, Brandon and Ryan C. Maness. (2012) Cyberwar and Rivalry: The Dynamics of Cyber Conflict between Antagonists, 2001-2011, Publication Forthcoming in JPR (On Blackboard)
- Oct 18 **Midterm**
- Oct 23 What is the Scientific Study of War? The Scientific Method
Read: Headley Bull's International Theory: The Case for a Classical Approach versus J. David Singer's Incomplete Theorist (On Blackboard)
- Oct 25 Who Fights Whom?
Read: Bremer Ch.2 in What Do We Know About War (WDK)
- Oct 30 Sources of Conflict: Territoriality and Territorial Issues
Read: Hensel Ch. 4 (WDK)
Read: Huth Ch. 5 (WDK)
- Nov 1 Alliances
Read: Maoz Ch. 6 (WDK)
Read: Gibler Ch.7 (WDK)
Read: Vasquez Ch. 17 (WDK pg. 340-344)
- Nov 6 Arms Races and Military Buildups **Go Vote after Class!!!**
Read: Sample Ch. 8 (WDK)
Read: Vasquez Ch. 17 (WDK pg. 344-346)
- Nov 8 Rivalry
Read: Goertz and Diehl Ch. 9 (WDK)
Read: Wayman Ch. 10 (WDK)
Read: Vasquez Ch. 17(WDK pg. 350-354)

Read: Valeriano, Brandon and Ryan C. Maness (2012). "Why Won't It Die: Rivalry Persistence and the Case of the United States and Russia." Publication Forthcoming in Security Studies Quarterly (On Blackboard)

- Nov 13 Kantian Triad
Read: Ray Ch. 14 (WDK)
- Nov 15 Diplomacy in Action: Successes and Failures in Crises
Read: Leng Ch. 11 (WDK)
- Nov 20 Material Capabilities: Power and International Conflict
Read: Geller Ch. 12 (WDK)
- Nov 22` **No Class, Thanksgiving**
- Nov 27 Foreign Policy Decision Making
Peace, Norms and the Concert of Europe
Read: Raymond Ch. 13 (WDK)
- Nov 29 Tragedy of Great Power Politics
- Dec 4 Bare Branches
- Dec 6 Post-American World
Papers Due
- Dec 10-14 **Final (TBA)**