



Northeastern University

POLS7348

Strategies of Conflict in International Relations

- Spring 2016 -

M: 6:15 - 8:15pm ~ 160 Richards Hall

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Office Hours: TBA

Objective

Presents students with the opportunity for in depth theoretical inquiry into conflict between states. Building off established background in International Relations, this course provides students with a deeper understanding of state decisions relating to war and diplomacy. The basic functions and objectives of various modes of conflict will be explored through the consideration of scholarly articles and books on the topic. In a seminar format, we will encounter the dynamics of conflict through various manifestations of interstate conflict including, but not limited to, sanctions, war, surrogate war, proxy war, diplomacy, negotiation, and bargaining. This course will have several goals:

- A complex understanding of interstate conflict as it occurs in the international sphere.
- Bolster Research, Analytical, and Presentation skills
- Gain experience in reviewing and analyzing literature
- Gain experience in leading class discussions and debate

Reading Materials

Required Materials

Texts:

Brams, Steven. *Negotiation Games: Applying Game Theory to Bargaining and Arbitration.*

ISBN: 978-0415308953

D'Agati, Philip. *Cold War and the 1984 Olympic Games: A Soviet-American Surrogate War.*

ISBN: 9780761854517

Reynolds, David. *Summits: Six Meetings that Shaped the Twentieth Century.*

ISBN: 9780691114811

Schelling, Thomas. *Strategy of Conflict.*

ISBN: 978-0674840317

Zagare, Frank. *Games of July: Explaining the Great War.*

ISBN: 9780521437738

Articles:

Articles are listed under their weekly topic headings.

All Articles are available through Blackboard and on the Library Website unless otherwise noted.

Films:

World War II: When Lions Roar

Grading and Requirements

All assignments should be passed in by the assigned deadline. If you need to pass an assignment in late or if you need to miss an exam, please talk to me PRIOR to the due date. Consideration for missed/late exams/papers that I am notified about after the due date will only be accepted with proper documentation. Assignments late without permission or documentable reason may not be graded, at the discretion of the professor.

Analysis Paper and Presentation: 30%

Final Analysis: 30%

Simulation & Reflection: 20%

Participation & Attendance: 20%

[Please note: BOTH Attendance and Participation are mandatory. Excessive absences, without cause, may result in a lowering of your final grade.]

Simulation:

Will take place during and after class on Monday April 11 from 6:15pm - 10:30pm.

Course and Department Policies

Academic Honesty Statement:

Warning. The Department of Political Science takes very seriously the issue of academic honesty. Any student who appears to violate the University's Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy (see www.osccr.neu.edu/policy.html) may be referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a proven violation involves an exam or course assignment, the student shall receive a failing grade for the assignment, in addition to sanctions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. Individual faculty, with the support of the Department, can impose harsher penalties as they deem necessary.

The Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy includes cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and other types of dishonest activities. Plagiarism is defined broadly as taking ideas, concepts, or actual words of another person and passing them off as your own work. Of particular note in recent years is the increase in cut-and-paste plagiarism, which involves downloading phrases from websites or other Internet sources. Your instructor will clarify specific guidelines on fair use of material for this class, but you should regard this as your official warning.

Amendments

The Instructor reserves the right to change this Syllabus during the semester. In the event that the syllabus is changed, the class will be informed at the next session of the class. Students are expected to maintain an up-to-date version of the Syllabus for their personal reference.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Excluding excused absences, students are expected to miss not more than 2 classes or meetings. The professor retains the right to lower any student's grade for failure to meet attendance expectations or failure to support the learning environment through regular attendance and participation. This includes attendance at all presentations.

Extensions & Late Assignments

Requests for extensions will only be considered prior to the due date of an assignment. Assignments will not be accepted late unless they are accompanied by documentation detailing circumstances covered under University Policies.

TRACE Surveys

All students are required to participate in the TRACE evaluation process. TRACE is accessible through the MyNEU Portal and can be filled out on most electronic devices.

Assignment Guidelines

Analysis Paper 1:

The analysis paper will be on the assigned reading(s) of a topic of the week. In the first week of class, every student will have be able to choose a week's topic for this paper. The student will be required to do the following:

- 1). Write a well thought out analysis of the readings for that week. The student should explore the topic as described in the required readings and draw on other sources of information, such as referenced authors, reviews, or further readings of the author. As part of this assignment, the student should evaluate the argument of the principle thesis and conclusions of the readings for that week. The paper should be between 8-10 pages, dbl spaced, 12pt font. The paper is due the week we discuss your selected readings/topics in class.
- 2). During the class session applicable to your paper, we will start by having the students present their opinions and analysis of the readings. Class will include a discussion of the readings, focusing on elements that the students and I consider noteworthy. Students should explore reviews of the book(s) and are expected to investigate at least one significant source cited by the author in order to further augment class discussion. Students working in teams should select their own source, avoiding duplication. It is highly recommended that students provide a paper or electronic handout for everyone in the room to facilitate discussion.

Final Analysis:

Students will receive a final analysis question on a date announced in class, requiring them to respond by drawing on theoretical and methodological concepts presented throughout the semester in required readings, lectures, and class discussion.

- 1). Take the necessary time to think about the question(s) provided. After which, please offer a well thought out, well written, and compelling response to the question. Remember that your answer **MUST** respond to all parts of the question. As this assignment is simultaneously a test of your knowledge of the concepts covered thus far **AND** an analysis and review of the assigned readings you must be mindful of your use of the assigned readings while responding to the question. **ALL** readings should be incorporated into your answer in some appropriate manner.
- 2). Length of the assignment is contingent upon your writing style and the manner in which you approach the question. I recommend that you aim for a response of roughly 12 pages dbl spaced with a reasonable size/type font.

Simulation & Reflection:

Students are required to participate in a one-class session simulation where application of concepts, techniques, and strategies in diplomacy, negotiation, and bargaining are applied. The week before the simulation will include class time devoted to understanding the structure of the simulation, its guidelines, and how to effectively participate. For the simulation, students will be paired into small discussion groups to promote a larger pool of ideas and potential outcomes in the simulation.

After the simulation is over, each student participant will write a 5-7 page analysis of the simulation which will require the student to report the events of the simulation and then apply concepts from the class to aspects of the simulation. In the paper, students should explain decisions they undertook and how those decisions relate to concepts and theories in the course. As the outcome of the simulation is entirely contingent on the events of the simulation, we can ask how specific strategies that were applied to the simulation resulted in the final outcome. All papers should include this analysis and conclude with a demonstration of your understanding as to how the end of the simulation was a direct result of the choices – an interpretation of those choices – of all participants.

Schedule

Week 1: January 11

Topic:

Introduction, Course Outline
Assignments Explained
Power, Objectives,
Choice, Decision Making, Structures

Reading:

None

Week 2: January 18, No Class ~ MLK Day

Topics:

Economic Coercion & Power

Reading:

“The Sanctions Debate and the logic of Choice” *International Security*. 24 (1999) David Baldwin.
“Authoritarian Responses to Foreign Pressure: Spending, Repression, and Sanctions.” *Comparative Political Studies*. 45 – Abel Escriba-Folch
“Conflict Expectations and the paradox of economic coercion.” *International Studies Quarterly*. 43 (1998) – Daniel Drezner
“Bargaining, Enforcement, and Multilateral Sanctions: When is Cooperation Counterproductive?” *International Organization* 54 (2000) Daniel Drezner
UNSCR 1730 (<http://www.statewatch.org/terrorlists/docs/UN-SCres-1730.pdf>)

Week 3: January 25

Topic:

The Choice For War
Bargaining & War

Reading:

“The Melian Dialogues” Thucydides.
“Rationalist Explanations for War” *International Organization* 49 (1995) – JD Fearon
“War as a Commitment Problem” *International Organization* 60 (2006) – Robert Powell
“The Principles of Convergence in Wartime Negotiations” *APSR* 47 (2003) – Branislav Slantchev
“An Expected Utility Theory of International Conflict” *The American Political Science Association* Vol. 74, No. 4. (Dec 1980) pp. 917 - 931 – Bruce Bueno de Mesquita
“Causes, Beginnings, and Predictions: The Power Transition” In *The War Ledger* by A.F.K Organski and Jacek Kugler. (On Blackboard Only)
Strategy of Conflict, Ch. 1 - 3.

Week 4: February 1

Topic:

Direct and Indirect Conflict
Surrogates, Proxies,
Deterrence Games

Reading:

Cold War and the 1984 Olympic Games, All
“Characteristics and Causes of Proxy Warfare” In *My Enemy’s Enemy: Proxy Warfare in International Politics*. – Geraint Hughes (Available through Google Books)
“Inducing Deterrence through Moral Hazard in Alliance Contracts.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol 58(2) 2014. P. 307 – Brett Benson, Adam Meirowitz, Kristopher Ramsay
Games of July, Ch. 2 - 3.

Week 5: February 8*Topic:*

Alliances, Coalitions
Bandwagoning

Reading:

“Alliance Formation and War” *International Studies Quarterly*. 39 (1995) – Alastair Smith
“The Big Influence of Small Allies,” *Foreign Policy* 2 (1971) – Robert Keohane.
“Negotiation as Coalition Building” *International Negotiation* 1 (1996) – Chris Dupont
“Bandwagoning for Profit.” *International Security* Summer, 1994, Vol 19 Issue 1, p72-107, 36p. –
Randall Schweller
Games of July, Ch. 4 - 8.
The North Atlantic Treaty (On Blackboard)

Film: World War II: When Lions Roar

Week 6: February 15, No Class ~ President's Day*Topic:*

Reputation, Mediate, and Summitry

Reading:

Summits: Six Meetings that Shaped the Twentieth Century – David Reynolds
“Asymmetric Information, Mediation, and Conflict Management” *World Politics* 58 (2006) – Robert
Rauchhaus
“When is Shuttle Diplomacy Worth the Commute? Information Sharing through Mediation” *World
Politics* 62 (2010) – Fey & Ramsay

Week 7: February 22*Topic:*

Simulcraft
End of Semester Simulation Details

Reading:

Simulation Research
Strategy of Conflict, C. 4- 8.
“Uncertainty, Shifting Power, and Appeasement.” *American Political Science Review* Vol. 90 No. 4
(Dec., 1996), pp 749 - 764. – Robert Powell.

Week 8: February 28*Topic:*

Diplomacy
Bargaining and Negotiation
Communication

Reading:

“Old and New Diplomacy: A Debate Revisited.” *Review of Int's Studies* 14 (1988) 915-211 – Sasson
Sofer
“Diplomacy” and “The Future of Diplomacy” In. *Politics Among Nations*. – Hans Morganthau
(Blackboard Only)
“How to Promote Cooperation.” In *Evolution of Creation*. – Robert Axelrod (Blackboard Only)
“Diplomatic Calculus in Anarchy: How Communication Matters” *APSR* 104 (2010) – Robert Trager
“Beyond Two-Level Games: domestic-international interaction in the intermediate-range nuclear forces
negotiations.” *International Organization* 47 (1993) – Jeffrey Knopf

"More Effective Choice in the Prisoner's Dilemma." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24(3) (1980) Pp. 379-403. – Robert Axelrod

Week 9: March 7, No Class ~ Spring Break

Week 10: March 14

Topic:

Bilateral Diplomacy
Multilateral Diplomacy
Strategic Negotiation

Reading:

"Interests, Power, and Multilateralism" *International Organization* 46(4) (1992) – Lisa Martin
"Multilateralism with Small and Large Numbers" *Int'l Organization* 46 (1992) – Miles Kahler
"Negotiations in Networks in the European Union" *International Negotiation* Vol3(3) (1998) –
Elgström ; Sannerstedt ; Jönsson ; Bjurulf ; Strömvik
"Rational Appeasement" *International Organization* 58 (2004) – Daniel Treisman
"Why States Act Through Formal International Organizations" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(1)
1998. – Kenneth Abbot and Duncan Snidal.

Week 11: March 21

Topic:

Diplomacy & Security
Bargaining & War
Arbitration & Convergence

Reading:

Conflict Among Nations: Bargaining, Decision-Making & System Structure in International Crisis
by Glenn Snyder & Paul Diesing Read: Ch. 1 & 2 (Ch. 3 optional)
Negotiation Games, Ch. 1 - 5
"When States use Armed Force" – Dan Kritsiotis. In *Politics of International Law*.
Ed. Christian Reus-Smit

Week 12: March 28

Topic:

Crisis Bargaining
Coercive Bargaining
Deadlocks in Negotiation

Reading:

"The Politics of Deadlocks." – Gamble. In Narlikar, Amrita. *Deadlocks in Multilateral Negotiations*.
"The Diplomacy of Violence" In *Arms and Influence* – Schelling
"Goliath's Curse: Coercive threats and Asymmetric Power." *International Organization* 64 (2010)
– Todd Sechser
"Showing Restraint, Signaling Resolve: Coalitions, Cooperation, and Crisis Bargaining" *American
Journal of Political Science* 58 (2014) – Scott Wolford.
"Efficient Secrecy: Public versus Private Threats in Crisis Diplomacy." *APSR* 101 (2007) – Shuhei
Kurizaki
"Equilibrium Behavior in Crisis Bargaining Games" *American Journal of Political Science* 34 (1990) –
Jeffrey Banks
"Uncertainty and Incentives in Crisis Bargaining" *American Journal of Political Science* 55(1) (2011)
– Mark Fey & Kristopher Ramsay

Week 13: April 4*Topic:*

Power
Reputation
Signaling

Reading:

- “Negotiation Arithmetic: Adding and Subtracting Issues and Parties” *International Organization* 37 (1983) – James Sebenius
- “Domestic Political Audience Costs and the Escalation of Disputes” *American Political Science Review*. 88 (1994) – James Fearon
- “Signaling Difficulties with Linkage in Crisis Bargaining” *Int’l Studies Quarterly* 36 (1992) – JD Morrow
- “Cheap Talk Diplomacy, Voluntary Negotiations, and Variable Bargaining Power” *Int’l Studies Quarterly* 55 (2011) – Kristopher Ramsay
- “Using Game Theory to Link domestic and International Politics.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 41, 1: 4-11. (1997) – Robert Pahre and Paul A Papayoannou
- “Bargaining over Objects that Influence Future Bargaining Power.” (1996) – Fearon (Blackboard Only) *Negotiation Games*, Ch. 8 - 9

Week 14: April 11

Diplomacy, Negotiation, and Bargaining Simulation

Week 15: April 18, No Class ~ Patriot’s Day**Week 16: April 25***Topic:*

Simulation Reflection

Reading:

None