

**Political Science 306-501: Contemporary Political Problems and Issues
War and Conflict Resolution**

Spring 2008
MWF 1:15pm-2:05pm
Allen 1015

Instructor: Shuhei Kurizaki
Office: Allen 2031
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 845-3302
Email: kurizaki@polisci.tamu.edu
Web: <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/faculty/3kurizaki>

Course description: Why do states and peoples go to war? Conversely, how can war be avoided? Do we need to increase the risk of war to avoid war? In this course we will examine some of the major theoretical explanations of the causes of war and conflict resolution. Topics include (but are not limited to) the logic of military coercion, balance of power, power transition theory, informational theory of alliance, the long cycle and great power war, deterrence, arms races and arms control, territorial disputes and issue (in)divisibility, diversionary war theory, the democratic peace, the CNN effect, civil wars, and terrorism.

The overall objective is to provide students with a solid knowledge base of theories of war and peace as well as analytical skills to make their own judgment. The course is *not* designed to inform you about, or debate, current events. It is designed to provoke critical thinking and rigorous analysis of contemporary events. By the end of the semester, students will be expected to be able to interpret and analyze various historical and contemporary events using the analytical tools and perspectives developed in class.

Course structure: The course meets three times per week for a 50-minute lecture. The course is organized around four major themes: (1) the fundamental logic of war; (2) structural theories of war; (3) domestic theories of war; (4) contemporary issues. I will post most of the lecture slides on the course web page, along with the (evolving) syllabus and additional readings.

Readings. The course readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. Most of journal articles and book chapters are available from the electronic reserves and/or online databases through the library. Occasionally, some readings will be made available on the course web page.

Prerequisite/Expectations: This course is intended as an advanced undergraduate course for social science majors (political science, economics, sociology, international studies, etc.) with some background in basic international relations theory (realism, liberalism, etc.). Having said that, there is no formal prerequisite for this course.

Note that the readings and lectures are not substitutes: they are designed to complement each other. Although I will put most of the lecture slides on the web page, it is essential that students come to class and take notes. Students are expected to have read the assigned material before coming to class. Often these readings provide background and breadth for the lectures rather

than reiterating the lecture material. Conversely, I will use material for lecture that is not covered in the readings. In other words, lectures will build on and expand beyond the required readings. Exams will draw on materials from both lectures and readings.

Course requirements: There will be three exams: two in-class exams and the final. The exams consist of identification, short-answer, and/or essay questions. The final grade for this course will be determined by the following rules.

- The final grade for this course will be determined by your total scores on all of the three exams. Each exam is worth 100 points, and your final grade is based a total of 300 possible points for the course.
- If you miss an exam (in-class exams or final), you will receive a 0 on the missed exam, and there will be no other penalties.
- The following scale will be used for calculating final grades for this course.
 - 90% to 100% = A
 - 80% to 89% = B
 - 70% to 79% = C
 - 60% to 69% = D
 - 0% to 59% = F
- Each of three in-class examinations covers the material from the corresponding segment. The final exam is cumulative and comprehensive.
- Please note that I do not curve grades. There will be no extra credit assignments.

I do not give makeup exams, except in the case of extreme sickness, family emergency, or an excused absence. All makeup examinations must be made up within a week of your return to class, or you will receive a 0 on the missed exam. I also require some form of documentation as to why you missed the exam. If you are seeking an excused absence from an exam, you must notify me by the end of the next working day after the absence to ensure full rights. You are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to me within one week of your return to substantiate the reason for the absence. Note that I do not accept Xeroxed copies of medical excuses from students.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room 126 of the Koldus Building, or call 845-1637.

Academic Dishonesty: As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of the person. It does not matter from where the material is borrowed — a book, an article, material off the web, another student's paper — all constitute plagiarism unless the source of the work is fully identified and credited. It is important when using a phrase, a distinctive idea or concept, or a sentence from another source to credit

explicitly that source either in the text, a footnote, or endnote. If you have any questions, please consult the Texas A&M student honor code. More specific information on the Aggie honor code can be found at <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments: *This is only an outline of the topics. All dates are tentative and subject to change.* Any changes will be announced in class and will be reflected in the online version of syllabus, which should be consulted regularly.

Jan 14 Mon Organization and Introductions

- The syllabus

Jan 16 Wed What is War?

- John A. Vasquez. *The War Puzzle*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1 (esp. pp. 21-39).

Jan 18 Fri Anarchy

- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. pp. 3-19.
- Kenneth N. Waltz. 1959. *Man, the State, and War*, New York: Columbia University Press, Chapters 6 and 7. (On Reserve)

Jan 21 Mon No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

Jan 23 Wed Anarchy (cont'd)

Jan 25 Fri Ultima Ratio

- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. pp. 20-28.
- Excerpt from Thucydides "Melian Dialogue" *History of the Peloponnesian War*, in Karen Mingst and Jack Snyder. *Essential Readings in World Politics*. Norton, pp. 2-3.

Jan 28 Mon The Logic of Military Power

- Robert Art. 1980 "To What Ends Military Power." *International Security*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 3-35. SKIP the section on nuclear weapons on pp. 14-27. (available at www.jstor.org)
- Thomas C. Schelling. 1966. "The Diplomacy of Violence" in *Arms and Influence*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Jan 30 Wed Balance of Power and War

- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. Chapters 3.1 and 3.2.
- Kenneth N. Waltz. 1988. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 615-628. (available at www.jstor.org)

Feb 1 Fri Power Transitions and War

- Jacek Kugler and A.F.K. Organski. 1993. "The Power Transition: A Retrospective and Prospective Evaluation." In *Handbook of War Studies*, edited by Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (On Reserve)
- Robert Gilpin. 1988. "The Theory of Hegemonic War." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 591-613. (Available at www.jstor.org)

Feb 4 Mon The Long Cycle and Great Power War

- George Modelski and William R. Thompson. 1993. "Long Cycles and Global War." In *Handbook of War Studies*, edited by Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (On Reserve; also available on the course website)

Feb 6 Wed Conventional Deterrence

- Paul Huth. 1988. "Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War." *American Political Science Review* Vol. 82, No. 2 (June), pp. 423-443. (Available at JSTOR)
- Paul Huth. 1999. "Deterrence and International Conflict: Empirical Findings and Theoretical Debates." *Annual Review of Political Science*, Vol. 2, pp. 25-48. (available on the course website)

Feb 8 Fri Nuclear Deterrence

- Robert Powell. 1990. *Nuclear Deterrence Theory: The Search for Credibility*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2 (available on the course website)
- Scott D. Sagan and Jeremi Suri. 2003. "The Madman Nuclear Alert: Secrecy, Signaling, and Safety in October 1969." *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 150-183.
- (optional) Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. pp. 139-150.

Feb 11 Mon Nuclear Proliferation

- Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz. 1995. *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed*. New York: Norton. Chapters 1-2 plus pp. 144-153.
- Robert Powell. 2003. "Nuclear Deterrence Theory, Nuclear Proliferation, and National Missile Defense." *International Security*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (Spring), pp. 86-118.

Feb 13 Wed Alliance and War

- Vasquez. *The War Puzzle*, pp. 162- 177.
- Brett Ashley Leeds. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 47, No. 3 (July), pp. 427-439.

Feb 15 Fri Alliance Formation

- James D. Morrow. 2000. "Alliances: Why Write Them Down?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 3:63-83.

Feb 18 Mon Alliance Reliability

- Morrow. "Alliances: Why Write Them Down?"
- Brett Ashley Leeds. 2003. "Alliance Reliability in Times of War: Explaining State Decisions to Violate Treaties." *International Origination* Vol. 57, No. XXX (Fall), pp. 801-827.

Feb 20 Wed Review for Exam #1

FEBRUARY 22 FRIDAY EXAM #1

Feb 25 Mon Robert McNamara: Bombing to End the War and Morality

- No reading assignment

Feb 27 Wed Arms Races and War

- Vasquez. *The War Puzzle*, pp. 177- 183.

- Susan Sample. 2000. "Military Buildups: Arming and War" in *What Do We Know about War?* edited by John A. Vasquez. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Arms and Alliances

- James D. Morrow, "Arms Versus Allies: Trade-Offs in the Search for Security" *International Organization*, Vol. 47, No. 2. (Spring, 1993), pp. 207-233.
- James D. Morrow. 2000. "Alliances: Why Write Them Down?" *Annual Review of Political Science*

Feb 29 Fri Diversionary War

- Jack S. Levy. 1993. "The Diversionary Theory of War: A Critique." In *Handbook of War Studies*, edited by Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.
- Kurt Taylor Gaubatz. 1991. "Election Cycles and War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (June), pp. 212-244.

Mar 3 Mon The Democratic Peace

- David L. Rousseau; Christopher Gelpi; Dan Reiter; Paul K. Huth. 1996. "Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace, 1918-88." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 90, No. 3. (September), pp. 512-533.
- Immanuel Kant. "To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch," in Karen Mingast and Jack Snyder, eds., *Essential Readings in World Politics*. New York: Norton. pp. 393-396.

Mar 5 Wed Democratization and War

- Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder. 1995. "Democratization and War." *Foreign Affairs* May/June.
- Shuhei Kurizaki. 2004. "Dyadic Effects of Democratization on International Disputes" *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (February), pp. 1-33. (available on the course website)

Mar 7 Fri Democracies Win Wars

- Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam. 2002. *Democracies At War*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2-3.

SPRING BREAK

Mar 17 Mon Economic Interdependence and War

- Richard Rosecrance. 1986. *The Rise of the Trading State*. New York: Basic Books, Chapter 2.

Mar 19 Wed International Institutions and War

- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. pp. 87-96.

Mar 21 Fri Territorial Disputes and the Issue Indivisibility

- Vasquez. *The War Puzzle*, Chapter 4 (esp. from pp. 133).

Mar 24 Mon Review for Exam #2

MARCH 26 WEDNESDAY EXAM #2

- Mar 28 Fri The Cuban Missile Crisis I: Why Leaders Go on TV and Cause a Public Crisis
- Read the Wikipedia entry on Robert McNamara: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_McNamara
- Mar 31 Mon Civil War: The Origin
- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*. pp. 157-160.
 - Fearon, James, and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War." *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.
 - Barry Posen, "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict," in Mingast and Snyder.
- Apr 2 Wed Civil War: Logic
- James D. Fearon, "Commitment Problems and the spread of Ethnic Conflict," Chapter 5 in David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild, (eds.), *The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict: fear diffusion, and escalation*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998, 107–126.
 - Barry Weingast and Rui de Figueiredo, "Rationality of Fear: Political Opportunism and Ethnic Conflict," in Jack Snyder and Barbara Walter (eds.), *Civil wars, insecurity, and intervention*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
 - James D. Fearon and David D. Latin. 1996. "Explaining Interethnic Cooperation." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 90, No. 4 (December), pp. 715-735.
- Apr 4 Fri No Class (Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association)
- Apr 7 Mon Civil War: Solution?
- Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars." *International Security* Vol. 20 No. 4 (Spring): 136-175.
 - Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "Partition as a Solution to Ethnic War: An Empirical Critique of the Theoretical Literature." *World Politics* Vol. 52, No. 4 (July), pp. 437-483.
 - Barbara Walter. 1997. "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement." *International Organization* 51 (3): 335-364.
- Apr 9 Wed Intervention I
- Nye. *Understanding International Conflict*, pp. 157-174.
 - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and George W. Downs. 2006. "Democracy and Intervention." *International Organization*, Vol. 60, No. 3 (July), pp. 627-649.
- Apr 11 Fri Intervention II: Domestic Politics
- Kenneth A Schultz, "Tying Hands and Washing Hands: The U.S. Congress and Multilateral Humanitarian Intervention," in Daniel Drezner, ed., *Locating the Proper Authorities: The Interaction of Domestic and International Institutions* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2003), pp. 105-42.
- Apr 14 Mon Intervention III: Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding
- Michael Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis. 2000. "International Peacebuilding: A Theoretical and Quantitative Analysis." *American Political Science Review* 94 (4): 779-802.
 - Virginia Page Fortna. 2004. "Interstate Peacekeeping: Causal Mechanisms and Empirical Effects." *World Politics* Vol. 56, No. 4 (July)
- Apr 16 Wed Genocide in Rwanda

- Samantha Power. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide." *The Atlantic Monthly*, September 2001.
- Valentino's piece in Perspectives of Politics on genocide.

Apr 18 Fri Terrorism I: The Clash of Civilizations?

- Samuel P. Huntington. 1993. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer), pp. 22-49.
- Giacomo Chiozza. 2002. "Is There a Clash of Civilizations?: Evidence from Patterns of International Conflict Involvement, 1946-97." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(6):711-734.

Apr 21 Mon Terrorism II: The Rationality of Terrorism

- David A. Lake. 2002. "Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century." *Dialog-IO* (Spring), pp. 15-29.
- Robert Paper. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 3 (August), pp. 343-361.

Apr 23 Wed Conclusion: What Do **You** Know About War and Conflict Resolution?

- Robert Jervis. 2002. "Theories of War in an Era of Leading-Power Peace: Presidential Address, American Political Science Association, 2001." *American Political Science Review* Vol. 96, No. 1 (March), pp. 1 -14.

Apr 25 Fri Review for Final Exam

MAY 8 FINAL EXAMINATION 8AM-10AM