**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

*Theory and Practice of International Security* is a seminar devoted to the security studies subfield of international relations (or, in the new Political Science graduate curriculum, the international side of the Security, Peace, and Conflict subfield). The course has four major goals: (1) to understand the major theoretical perspectives in security studies; (2) to survey some of the most important substantive areas and debates in the field with an emphasis on recent contributions; (3) to apply theories and arguments from the academic literature to contemporary policy problems; and (4) to help political science Ph.D. students prepare for their preliminary exams.

The first several class sessions focus on the traditionally dominant theories in international security: realism, liberalism, and constructivism. We will read contemporary statements of each of these perspectives. In the second part of the course, the focus shifts to substantive issues, such as reputation and the credibility of compellent and deterrent threats; military coercion; military effectiveness; nuclear proliferation; state death; religion and conflict; and the diffusion of military innovations.

Each week is built around a major recent work, and often includes critical perspectives. This course is by no means a comprehensive overview of the literature, but rather a selection of recent contributions that have made an impact on the field and how we think about international security.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course is organized into one two-and-a-half hour seminar meeting per week. Students are expected to attend every class session, do all of the required reading before class, and come prepared to discuss it. Grades will be based on the following criteria.

- **Class Attendance and Participation** (20%): Participation will be judged not only by the quantity of a student’s remarks, but also by their quality.

- **Reaction Papers** (20%): Two short (5 pages double-spaced maximum) papers critiquing the readings for class sessions of the student’s choice (a sign-up sheet will be circulated). Papers should be EMAILED to the instructor by 9.00AM on the day of class. These papers should not merely summarize the reading; rather, they should engage a common theme, develop a line of criticism, discuss theoretical, empirical, or methodological flaws or shortcomings or new directions for research.

- **Literature Review** (30%): 15-20 pages, HARD COPY due in instructor’s office by 5.00PM on Friday, April 22. Students must meet with the instructor to discuss their paper topic. Papers should critically engage a question, subject, or literature of the student's choice in the field of international security. All papers should summarize and organize the literature under discussion; identify the theoretical/empirical questions it attempts to answer; explain key concepts and arguments; discuss some of the major theoretical and empirical contributions; locate logical flaws, empirical or methodological shortcomings, and unanswered questions; suggest ways to repair those shortcomings or answer those unanswered questions; and suggest directions for future research. Alternative hypotheses, potential sources of additional data, or new research designs and strategies should be explored. Papers should also evaluate the extent to which research in the area is progressing or digressing.
• **Take-Home Final Examination** (30%): Open-book, open-note, take-home exam. Students will be given three sets of three questions and asked to answer one question in each category. The questions will be drawn from the literature we have read in class. Essays should not exceed 7 double-spaced pages each.
  
  o Political Science Ph.D. students will have 8 hours to complete the exam (date to be arranged), which mirrors the format of the graduate field exams. Completed exams should be EMAILED to the instructor by the pre-arranged deadline.
  
  o All other students: The exam will be distributed by email on Wednesday, April 27, at 5.00PM, and will be due on Monday, May 2, at 5PM, in HARD COPY at the instructor’s office.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to comply with the Duke Community Standard in their work for this course, meaning that you will not lie, cheat, steal, or otherwise conduct yourselves dishonorably, and will do something if you observe others engaging in such conduct (see http://www.registrar.duke.edu/bulletins/communitystandard/; for specific definitions, see http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/conduct/resources/academicdishonesty). All work you submit for this course must be your own. I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Suspected cases will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If you have questions about what constitutes proper use of published or unpublished sources, please consult “Plagiarism: Its Nature and Consequences” on the Duke Library website (http://www.library.duke.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.html), or ask the instructor.

**OTHER POLICIES**

- Late papers will be accepted only in cases of extraordinary personal or family emergency; if you find yourself in such a situation, consult the instructor as soon as possible
- Laptops are allowed in class for note-taking purposes, not for checking e-mail or surfing the web
- The only cell phones allowed in class are those that have been turned off

**BOOKS**

With one exception (Elizabeth Kier’s *Imagining War*), the following books – which are required reading for the course – are available for purchase at the Duke University Bookstore. All books are on reserve at Perkins Library.


**ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

Almost all of the journal articles listed in the required reading are available online from databases through the Duke University Library. To conserve on space, I have used a short-hand notation for journal titles:

- AJPS American Journal of Political Science
- APSR American Political Science Review
- ARPS Annual Review of Political Science
- FA Foreign Affairs
- FP Foreign Policy
- IO International Organization
- IS International Security
- ISQ International Studies Quarterly
- JCR Journal of Conflict Resolution
- JOP Journal of Politics
- JPR Journal of Peace Research
- JSS Journal of Strategic Studies
- POP Perspectives on Politics
- PSQ Political Science Quarterly
- SS Security Studies
- WP World Politics

Occasionally, an article is not available online, or I have assigned a section of a book. These are placed on E-Reserve, and are indicated by the term “e-res” in parentheses after the citation. These texts are easily obtained through the Blackboard site that has been established for the class. Click on “Blackboard” from the library’s main page, log in, go to the page for this class, and click on “E-Reserves.”

**GUIDE TO THE READINGS**

This syllabus is designed in part as a study aid for graduate students preparing for preliminary exams. To that end, I have included a substantial amount of recommended reading for each subject (and several additional subjects) in an appendix at the end of the syllabus. This reading is not required for class, nor are students expected to read it to complete their reaction papers (although they may wish to read certain selections anyway). However, it may prove helpful in getting started on literature review papers. In general, recommended readings are listed in reverse chronological order, with the most important selections marked by a star instead of the usual bullet point. To construct this list of readings, I have drawn heavily on resources that students studying for prelims may wish to consult, especially the syllabus for “International Security: A Survey of the Field,” by Ronald Krebs at the University of Minnesota (http://www.polisci.umn.edu/~ronkrebs). Another valuable resource is Jack Levy’s lengthy syllabus (currently 106 pages) for “Theories of War and Peace” at Rutgers (http://fas-polisci.rutgers.edu/levy/courses.html).
COURSE OUTLINE

1. **Offensive Realism**
   January 18
   
   Note: In this course, I assume that all students are familiar with Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1979). If you have not read it, please do so before the first class meeting.
   

2. **Defensive Realism**
   January 25
   

3. **Democratic Peace: Audience Costs**
   February 1
   

4. **International Institutions: UN Peacekeeping**
   February 8
   

5. **Interdependence: Multinational Corporations**
   February 15
   

6. **Norms, Culture, and Military Doctrine**
   February 22
   
7. **Reputation, Credibility, and Threats**
   **March 1**
   *Special Guest: Prof. Todd Sechser, University of Virginia*
   - Todd Sechser, “Goliath’s Curse: Coercive Threats and Asymmetric Power,” *IO* 64 (Fall 2010): 627-60 (online).

8. **NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK**
   **March 8**

9. **Coercion and Air Power**
   **March 15**
   **Note:** This class will have to be rescheduled.
   **Highly Recommended:** Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (Yale, 1966).

10. **State Death, Military Occupation, and Foreign-Imposed Regime Change**
    **March 22**

11. **Military Effectiveness**
    **March 29**

12. **Religion and Conflict**
    **April 5**
    - Ron E. Hassner, *War on Sacred Grounds* (Cornell, 2009).
13. Nuclear Proliferation
   April 12
   Special Guest: Prof. Matthew Fuhrmann, University of South Carolina
   - Matthew Kroenig, Exporting the Bomb: Technology Transfer and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons (Cornell, 2010).
   - Matthew Fuhrmann, “Spreading Temptation: Proliferation and Peaceful Nuclear Cooperation Agreements,” IS 34/1 (Summer 2009): 7-41 (online).

14. Diffusion of Military Power
   April 19

15. Dinner at Downes’s House: Other Research Frontiers
   April 26
APPENDIX:
RECOMMENDED READING ON TOPICS COVERED IN CLASS AS WELL AS FURTHER TOPICS AND DEBATES IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Offensive Realism


Recommended Critiques


Neorealism, Defensive Realism, Offense-Defense Theory

Thomas J. Christensen and Jack Snyder, “Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity,” IO 44/2 (Spring 1990): 137-68.

Recommended Critiques
Keir Lieber, War and the Engineers: The Primacy of Politics over Technology (Cornell, 2005).
Jeffrey W. Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, “Is Anybody Still a Realist?” IS 24/2 (Fall 1999): 5-55.
Alexander Wendt, Social Theory of International Politics (Cambridge, 1999).
Dan Reiter, “Exploding the Powder Keg Myth: Preemptive Wars Almost Never Happen,” IS 20/2 (Fall 1995): 5-34.

“Neoclassical” Realism

- Steven E. Lobell et al., eds., Neoclassical Realism, The State, and Foreign Policy (Cambridge, 2009).
- Randall L. Schweller, Deadly Imbalances: Tripolarity and Hitler’s Strategy of World Conquest (Columbia, 1998).

Democratic Peace

In General


Norms

- Spencer Weart, Never at War: Why Democracies Will Not Fight One Another (Yale, 1998).

### Institutions

### Extensions

### Critiques


---

**International Institutions**


Economic Interdependence

- Katherine Barbieri, “Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of Interstate Conflict?” *JCR* 33/1 (February 1996): 29-49.

Norms & Constructivism

• Alexander Wendt, *Social Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge, 1999).
• Jeffrey W. Legro, *Cooperation under Fire: Anglo-German Restraint During World War II* (Cornell, 1995).
Coercion/Compellence

- Thomas C. Schelling, Arms and Influence (Yale, 1966).

Military Effectiveness

- Responses to Biddle by Daryl G. Press, Thomas A. Keaney, and Thomas A. Mahnken and Barry D. Watts, and Biddle’s rejoinder, in IS 22/2 (Fall 1997): 137-74.
- John J. Mearsheimer, Conventional Deterrence (Cornell, 1983).

The Debate over Democracy and Military Effectiveness

Deterrence, Reputation, and Nuclear Weapons

Reputation
- Jonathan Mercer, Reputation and International Politics (Cornell, 1996).
Deterrence, General

Nuclear Deterrence

Nuclear Proliferation, Causes and Consequences
- “Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation,” Special Issue of *JCR* 53/2 (April 2009).


**Deterrence Debates**


**War Termination**


**War Termination, The Cold War**


**Shifting Power and War**

• Norrin M. Ripsman and Jack S. Levy, “Wishful Thinking or Buying Time? The Logic of British Appeasement in the 1930s,” *IS* 33/2 (Fall 2008): 148-81.


• Scott A. Silverstone, *Preventive War and American Democracy* (Routledge, 2007).


**Balancing After the Cold War/Soft Balancing**

What is the structure of the international system? Is it stable? Is “soft” balancing against the U.S. emerging? If so, how can the U.S. avoid it?


• Christopher Layne, “The Unipolar Illusion Revisited: The Coming End of the United States’s ‘Unipolar Moment’,” *IS* 31/1 (Fall 2006): 7-41.


Terrorism

This previously neglected field has moved into the mainstream since 9/11. This is an introduction to some of the academic literature.

- Bruce Hoffmann, Inside Terrorism, rev. and expanded ed. (Columbia, 2006).
- Robert A. Pape, Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism (Random House, 2005).
- Mia Bloom, Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror (Columbia, 2004).
- Marc Sageman, Understanding Terror Networks (UPenn, 2004).
- Daniel L. Byman, “Al-Qaeda as an Adversary: Do We Understand Our Enemy?” WP 56/1 (October 2003): 139-63.
- Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy (Brookings, 2001).

Grand Strategy

There was a big debate in the 1990s over what grand strategy the U.S. should adopt in the wake of the Soviet Union’s collapse. The Brown (1997) volume contains many of the important contributions. Art (2003) is a book-length statement of “selective engagement,” and Layne (2006) is the same for “offshore balancing.” This debate fell
by the wayside to some degree after 9/11, as it became the conventional wisdom that the U.S. had to take the fight to
the terrorists abroad. The debate started to reemerge as the situation in Iraq deteriorated.


**IR Perspectives on Ethnic Conflict, Civil War, Intervention, Occupation, and Peacekeeping**

This is by no means intended to be a comprehensive guide to the literature on these subjects, especially ethnic conflict and civil war. It is merely an introduction to some of the IR-influenced literature.

• Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder, eds., *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (Columbia, 1999).

**The First Image and War**

• Rose McDermott, *Political Psychology and International Relations* (Michigan, 2004).

**Domestic Politics and War**


**Diversionary War**


**Bureaucratic Politics and Organization Theory**

• Stephen Krasner, “Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland),” *FP* 7 (Summer 1972): 159-79.

**Civil-Military Relations**


**Public Opinion, Casualties, and the Use of Force**


Christopher Gelpi, Jason Reifler, and Peter D. Feaver, “Iraq the Vote: Retrospective and Prospective Foreign Policy Judgments, Candidate Choice, and Casualty Tolerance,” *Political Behavior* 29/2 (June 2007): 151-74.


Christopher Gelpi, Peter Feaver, and Jason Reifler, “Success Matters: Casualty Sensitivity and the War in Iraq,” *IS* 30/1 (Summer 2005): 140-77.


### Bargaining and War