

Pro-Seminar in International Relations
PSCI 5810.001
Spring 2009
T 6:30–9:20 p.m.

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Description

This course is intended to provide the student with an introduction to the sub-field of international relations at the graduate level. In surveying the literature, the seminar will explore two dimensions of this sub-field of political science—its theoretical breadth, and the variety of approaches scholars employ to study research questions in the field. In terms of theory, we will cover traditional territory (e.g., realism vs. liberalism), as well as more recent theoretical innovations (e.g., the role of gender in understanding behavior in world politics.) In terms of approaches to research questions in international relations, we will read material ranging from mostly theoretical, to qualitative case studies, to large-N, quantitative studies.

Note: This course is designed for *political science graduate students*. In particular, the instructor assumes that each student has full knowledge of the material covered in PSCI 5340 (Graduate Scope & Methods) and PSCI 6320 (Introduction to Statistics), and that each student is capable of authoring a fully developed political science research project including a research question pertaining to international relations, literature review, theory, hypotheses, research design, and analysis including hypothesis tests.

Reading Materials

The following reading materials are necessary for the course, and are available at the UNT bookstore (they are also available in “pre-owned” condition via many web booksellers):

1. Robert Axelrod. *The Evolution of Cooperation*. Basic Books. 1985.

2. Cynthia Enloe. *The Morning After: Sexual Politics at the End of the Cold War* University of California Press. 1993.
3. Peter J. Katzenstein, ed. *The Culture of National Security*. Columbia University Press. 1996.
4. David A. Lake & Robert Powell, eds. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton University Press. 1999.
5. Richard Little. *The Balance of Power in International Relations: Metaphors, Myths and Models*. Cambridge University Press. 2007.
6. Fiona McGillivray & Alastair Smith. *Punishing the Prince: A Theory of Interstate Relations, Political Institutions, and Leader Change*. Princeton University Press. 2008.
7. Thomas L. Pangle & Peter J. Ahrens Dorf. *Justice Among Nations: On the Moral Basis of Power and Peace*. University Press of Kansas. 2002.
8. Bruce Russett & John R. Oneal. *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations*. W. W. Norton & Company. 2001.
9. James C. Scott. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press. 1999.
10. Paul D. Senese & John A. Vasquez. *The Steps to War: An Empirical Study*. Princeton University Press. 2008.
11. R. Harrison Wagner. *War and the State: The Theory of International Politics*. University of Michigan Press. 2007.

Seminars

The seminars will not be lectures. Rather, the seminars will consist of focused discussion by the students and the instructor of the weekly readings. The greater the degree to which the participants consider the weekly readings and their implications for political science, the more that participants will learn individually and collectively.

Student Responsibilities

Participation, Thought Papers & Facilitation

As noted above, the course is grounded in discussion, rather than lecture. Students *are expected to arrive to class having read the appropriate readings for the week*. To receive credit for participation in the seminar, each student should strive to accomplish the following when speaking during seminar:

1. Demonstrate mastery of the assigned readings;
2. Integrate verbal contributions with the reading material (i.e., stay “on point”);
3. Provide quality conversation topics that elicit seminar discussion when you are assigned to do so (quality trumps quantity); and
4. Integrate your thoughts and ideas with those of your colleagues.

Each week students are required to submit a “thought paper” via the UNT Blackboard system available at the following URL:

<http://ecampus.unt.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct>

Login using your UNT EUID and password. Each week, an assignment (basically, a reminder) for the subsequent thought paper will be distributed via the Blackboard notification system, so it is imperative that each student monitor their respective official UNT email addresses (i.e., the address to which UNT sends you official information electronically.) A thought paper consists of approximately 3–5 double-spaced pages in which the student identifies and discusses the main points in a reading, as well as outstanding questions and issues. The thought papers will be graded by the instructor, with grades appearing in Blackboard.

Each week, two students will be assigned to facilitate seminar by leading their colleagues in a discussion of a particular text. Good facilitation will focus on the elements of the study in question (e.g., research question, theory, research design, hypothesis tests, conclusions), as well as additional questions that a particular study raises (basically, the focus of the aforementioned weekly thought papers.) Poor facilitation will result in painful seminars, while excellent facilitation will result in intellectual stimulation and learning. General participation, weekly thought papers, and seminar facilitation collectively contribute 20% to each student’s final grade.

Semester Exam

There will be one exam (April 21). This exam will be essay in format, and will cover the seminar readings and discussion. The exam will contribute 40% to the student's final grade.

Semester Paper

Each student is responsible for writing a fully developed scientific study of a research question pertaining to international relations. Said study must contain the following elements: research question, theory, hypothesis, research design, and hypothesis test. For further elucidation regarding the elements of the standard social science project, see *A Guide to Writing Research Projects in Graduate Political Science Courses* located here:

<http://www.psci.unt.edu/enterline/projectguidev4b.pdf>

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor *throughout the semester* on issues large and small relating to individual projects. Note that the calendar includes due dates for posting via Blackboard the project research question, theory/hypotheses, and research design. As with the thought papers, the Blackboard system will alert students to said due dates.

Last, each student will be required to make a short presentation of their project during the final two weeks of the semester. Following these presentations, students will have the opportunity to revise their semester papers prior to their final submission on the evening of Tuesday, May 12. The semester paper will contribute 40% to each student's final grade.

Calendar

Week 1	20 Jan.	Introduction	
Week 2	27 Jan.	Background Pangle & Ahrensdorf	(?, ?)
Week 3	3 Feb.	Balance of Power Little	(?, ?)
Week 4	10 Feb.	Cooperation Axelrod	(?, ?)

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Week 5	17 Feb.	Liberalism Russett & Oneal	(?, ?)
Week 6	24 Feb.	Strategic Behavior Lake & Powell	(?, ?)
Week 7	3 March.	Political Leaders McGillivray & Smith <i>Research Question Due</i>	(?, ?)
Week 8	10 March	Territory Senese & Vasquez	(?, ?)
Week 9	17–23 March	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10	24 March	War Wagner <i>Theory/Hypotheses Due</i>	(?, ?)
Week 11	31 March	Gender Enloe	(?, ?)
Week 12	7 April	Constructivism Katzenstein <i>Research Design Due</i>	(?, ?)
Week 13	14 April	Policy Scott	(?,?)
Week 14	21 April	SEMESTER EXAM	
Week 15	28 April	Presentations I	
Week 16	5 May	Presentations II	
Week 17	12 May	Final Project Due/Wrap up	

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism

The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty. Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be the failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams. Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee. Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary course work may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal a decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

Statement of ADA Compliance

The Political Science Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. Please present your written accommodation request on or before the second week of classes.