

Domestic Politics in International Relations

GOVT 4000.103 Major Seminar

Friday 10:10 AM—12:05 PM

Fall 2015 v. 2.0

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Office Hours Tuesday 2:30-4:00 PM and by appointment

Sign up at <https://calendly.com/jessicachenweiss/oh>

Course Overview

How do states make foreign policy decisions? What factors influence states' international behavior and prospects for war and peace? This seminar has two main goals: to familiarize students with the burgeoning literature on the relationship between domestic politics and international relations, and to help students bridge the academic and policy gap in international relations. Topics will include regime type, war, and peace; diversionary conflict; public opinion; nationalism and democratization; individual leaders' personality traits and time in office; perceptions and misperceptions; signaling; international cooperation; and trade and economic policy. Each week will include applications to current events and debates. To put theory into practice, the course will culminate in a foreign policy simulation in the Asia-Pacific, featuring a security crisis between the United States and China.

Requirements

1. Class participation (20%): This is a seminar course in which students will be expected to contribute to weekly discussion of the readings as well as active participation in the final simulation. More than one missed session can be made up through an additional response paper.
2. Written assignments:
 - a. 3 response papers, 2-3 pages (20% each)
 - b. 1 policy brief, 7-8 pages (20%)

Response Papers

Each student will submit three response papers analyzing a subset of the week's readings. Response papers should be no longer than 3 double-spaced pages and should address the following kinds of questions:

- What are the central arguments of the readings, and are the arguments logically consistent and complete? To what extent are the arguments from different readings complementary or contradictory?
- What evidence does the author use to test, support, or illustrate the argument? Do you find the evidence compelling? If not, what kind of evidence would be more convincing?
- How do these readings speak to important debates or current developments in world affairs? Do these readings raise important questions for understanding contemporary foreign policy issues? Students are encouraged to reference one or more outside news reports or policy commentary in

discussing the readings.

Response papers are due 24 hours before class. Please circulate to the entire class. Unexcused late assignments will be docked a half-letter grade per day the assignment is late.

Policy Brief

To prepare for and wrap up the simulation, each student will be asked to write a 7-8 page policy brief analyzing the most important foreign policy issues facing your chosen country, due at the end of the semester, Dec. 17. The policy brief will ask you to a) conduct outside research to learn about the most pressing foreign policy issues facing your nation and b) to apply the theories learned in the class to understanding your country's foreign policy. Detailed instructions for the briefs will be passed out later in the semester.

Simulation

During the last class session, you will act as part of a delegation representing an individual country during a simulated foreign policy crisis. During the simulation period, your delegation will meet as a group to discuss strategy as well as conduct bilateral discussions, including short policy speeches.

Schedule

The readings for each week indicate the material that will be discussed during that session. Therefore, it is essential that students come to class having already read the material for that session. All of the course readings will be made available via hyperlinks in this syllabus or as course reserves via Blackboard.

❖ *denotes supplementary recommended, not required reading*

Session 1 (Aug. 28): **Introduction**

Happy Labor Day! ** no class September 4 **

Session 2 (Sept. 11): **Contending Perspectives and Levels of Analysis**

- Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976), Chapter 1, p. 13-31.
- Jack Levy, "[The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace.](#)" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 1998.
- Maoz, Zeev, and Bruce Russett. "[Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986.](#)" *American Political Science Review*. 87.3 (1993).
- Scott Sagan. "[Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb.](#)" *International Security*, 21:3, 1996.

Session 3 (Sept. 18): **Two-Level Games**

- Robert Putnam, "[Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of 2-Level Games,](#)" *International Organization*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (1988), pp. 427-460.
- James D. Fearon, "[Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes,](#)" *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88, No. 3 (1994), pp. 577-592.

- Jessica Chen Weiss. “[Authoritarian Signaling, Mass Audiences, and Nationalist Protest in China](#)” *International Organization*, Vol. 67, No. 1 (2013), pp 1-35.
- Susan L. Shirk, “The Domestic Context of Chinese Foreign Security Policies,” chapter 20 in *Oxford Handbook of the International Relations of Asia*, ed. Pekkanen et al, 2014.

Session 4 (Sept. 25): **Regime Type: Democracy**

- Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam, *Democracies at War*, 2004. Chapter 1.
- Jonathan Caverley, *Democratic Militarism: Voting, Wealth, and War*. Chapter 1.
- Tomz, Michael and Jessica Weeks. 2013. “[Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace](#).” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 107, No. 4.
- Jason Lyall, “[Do Democracies Make Inferior Counterinsurgents?](#)” *International Organization* 64, Winter 2010, pp. 167-92.

Session 5 (Oct. 2): **Regime Type: Autocracy**

- Debs, Alexandre, and Hein E. Goemans. 2010. “[Regime Type, the Fate of Leaders, and War](#).” *American Political Science Review* 104: pp. 430–445.
- Jessica Weeks, “[Strongmen and Straw Men: Regime Type and the Initiation of International Conflict](#).” *American Political Science Review* (2012)
- Brian Lai and Dan Slater. “[Institutions of the Offensive: Domestic Sources of Dispute Initiation in Authoritarian Regimes, 1950–1992](#).” *American Journal of Political Science*, Volume 50, Issue 1, pages 113–126, January 2006.

Session 6 (Oct. 9): **Leaders**

- Saunders, Elizabeth. “[Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy](#).” *International Security* 34(2): 119-161 (Fall 2009).
- Horowitz, Michael and Allan Stam. 2014. “[How Prior Military Experience Influences The Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders](#).” *International Organization* 68(3).
- Colgan, Jeff. “[Domestic Revolutionary Leaders and International Conflict](#).” *World Politics* vol. 65, issue 04, pp. 656-690.
- Scott Wolford, 2007. “[The Turnover Trap: New Leaders, Reputation, and International Conflict](#).” *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (4): 772-88.

Session 7 (Oct. 16): **Perceptions and Misperceptions**

- Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*, Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1976, chapter 6.
- Yarhi-Milo, Keren. 2013. “[In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Organizations Assess Intentions](#).” *International Security*. 38.1: 7-51.
- Lebow, Richard Ned. 1983. “[Miscalculation in the South Atlantic: the origins of the Falkland War](#),” *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 6(1): 5-35.
- Kevin Woods, James Lacey, and Williamson Murray, “[Saddam’s Delusions: The View from the Inside](#).” *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2006).

Session 8 (Oct. 23): **Domestic vulnerability and diversion (I)**

- Oakes, Amy. 2006. "[Diversions War and Argentina's Invasion of the Falkland Islands.](#)" *Security Studies*. 15(3): 431-463.
- Mansfield, Edward and Jack Snyder. 2002. "[Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War.](#)" *International Organization* 56(2): 297-337.
- Vipin Narang and Rebecca M. Nelson. 2009. "[Who Are These Belligerent Democratizers? Reassessing the Impact of Democratization on War.](#)" *International Organization*, 63, pp 357-379.
- Lind, Jennifer. (2011) "[Democratization and Stability in East Asia.](#)" *International Studies Quarterly*, 55: 409-436.

Session 9 (Oct. 30): **Domestic vulnerability and diversion (II)**

- Brett Ashley Leeds, and David R. Davis, "[Domestic Political Vulnerability and International Disputes,](#)" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 41, No. 6 (1997), pp. 814-834.
- M. Taylor Fravel, "[Regime Insecurity and International Cooperation: Explaining China's Compromises in Territorial Disputes.](#)" *International Security* 30 (2):4, 2005.
- Levy, Jack S. 1989. "[The Diversions Theory of War: A Critique.](#)" In *Handbook of War Studies*, ed. Manus I. Midlarsky. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. pp. 259-88.
- Tir, Jaroslav, and Shane P. Singh. "[Is It the Economy or Foreign Policy, Stupid? The Impact of Foreign Crises on Leader Support.](#)" *Comparative Politics* 46.1 (2013): 83-101.

Session 10 (Nov. 6): **Domestic Effects of International Conflict**

- Adam Berinsky. 2009. *In Time of War*. Chicago University Press. Chapter 7.
- Jennifer Merolla and Elizabeth Zechmeister. *Democracy at Risk: How Terrorist Threats Affect the Public*. Chapter 4.
- Marc Hetherington and Elizabeth Suhay. 2011. "[Authoritarianism, Threat, and Americans' Support for the War on Terror.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(3) 546-560.
- Tarrow, Sidney G. *War, States, and Contention: A Comparative Historical Study*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015. Chapter 7 ("The War at Home, 2001-2013")

**** No Class Nov. 13 ****

Session 11 (Nov. 20): **Domestic Politics and Alliances**

- Leeds, B. A., Mattes, M. and Vogel, J. S. (2009), "[Interests, Institutions, and the Reliability of International Commitments.](#)" *American Journal of Political Science*, 53: 461-476.
- Cha, Victor D. "[Abandonment, entrapment, and neoclassical realism in Asia: the United States, Japan, and Korea.](#)" *International Studies Quarterly* 44.2 (2000): 261-291.

Debating US grand strategy:

- Barry Posen, "Pull Back: The Case for a Less Activist Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs* January/February 2013.
- Stephen Brooks, John Ikenberry and William Wohlforth. "[Don't Come Home, America: The Case against Retrenchment.](#)" *International Security*, Vol.37, No. 3 (Winter 2012/2013): 7-51.

- Stephen Walt, “More or Less: The Debate on U.S. Grand Strategy,” *Foreign Policy*, January 2, 2013.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Session 12 (**Monday, Nov. 30, 4:30-6:00 PM**): **Domestic Politics and Economic Policy**

- Kenneth Scheve and David Stasavage. 2012. “[Democracy, War, and Wealth: Lessons from Two Centuries of Inheritance Taxation.](#)” *American Political Science Review*, 106, pp 81-102.
- Flores-Macias, Gustavo A., and Sarah E. Kreps. “[Political Parties at War: A Study of American War Finance, 1789–2010.](#)” *American Political Science Review* 107.04 (2013): 833-848.
- Edward Mansfield and Diana Mutz. 2009. “[Support for Free Trade: Self-Interest, Sociotropic Politics, and Out-Group Anxiety.](#)” *International Organization* 63: 425-457.
- Helen V. Milner and Dustin H. Tingley. 2011. “[Who Supports Global Economic Engagement? The Sources of Preferences in American Foreign Economic Policy.](#)” *International Organization*, 65, pp. 37-68.

Session 13 (Dec. 4): Simulation (1-page position papers due in class; policy memos due Dec. 17)