**POL 3090 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT**

*Spring Semester 2018*

*Department of Political Science*

*University of Cincinnati*

Instructor: Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov  
Instructor’s email: Ivan.Ivanov@uc.edu*

Class meeting time: MWF 11:15-12:10 am  
Office Hours: MWF 2:00-5:00 pm

Location: McMicken Hall 256  
Instructor’s Office: 1121 Crosley Tower

Instructor’s phone: 513-556-3318

* I prefer to contact me via email and I should be able to respond you within next 12-24 hrs.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This class introduces students to the study of international conflict within political science. It consists of four parts that survey various aspects of the topic – from definition and typologies of international conflicts to sources and causes of international conflict, as well as the dynamics and management of these conflicts. In the first part we will survey the evolution of the meaning of conflict with focus on inter- and intra-state as well as social, political, ethnic, identity and other dimensions. The second part looks into three major categories of explanations about the causes and sources of conflicts: (1) Meso-level (e.g., systemic, military, economic, and normative variables); (2) macro-level (regime type, nationalism, identity-related variables) and; (3) micro level (individual and psychological explanations). Furthermore, we will survey the dynamic of these conflicts that include cycles of escalation and de-escalation, as well as signaling, bargaining and deterrence. Finally, the course will focus on various techniques to managing (and possibly ending) conflicts that include intervention, mediation, early warning, preventive diplomacy, and post-conflict peace and reconciliation efforts. The students are expected to apply this theoretical knowledge by presenting contemporary cases and by participating in a group research project.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The course has several core objectives: (1) to give students a solid grounding in identifying key features and causal variables of modern conflicts; (2) to develop skills needed to explain causes, sources and dynamic of international conflicts and link these with major approaches to international relations and security studies; (3) to help students apply theoretical knowledge acquired in the course to identify effective policies and offer recommendations for conflict management and resolution; (4) to encourage students to develop basic research skills that include asking an interesting research questions and conducting research on contemporary cases of conflict and cooperation in international relations.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements:</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two in-class midterm exams</td>
<td>40% (2x20)</td>
<td>2/23 and 4/6</td>
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1 This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to add supplementary readings if necessary.
Group research: presentation and project 15% 4/13 and 4/20
Case Study (research and presentation) 10% 2/16; 3/9; 3/30; 4/18
Take home final exam 25% 4/23 @ 11:59 pm EST
Attendance and participation 10% throughout the semester

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86%</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>73-76%</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72%</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69%</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-66%</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62%</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Please note that grades represent NON-NEGOTIABLE assessments of a student’s comprehension of course material.

A NOTE ABOUT THE GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT

Students will be divided in groups of 5-6 students and required to submit policy paper or report of approximately 3,500-4,000 words during the last week of classes (April 20, 2018). The topic of the project is tentatively titled “Organizational Response to Emerging Threats: the EU and NATO’s Engagement in Post-Conflict Settings.” Each team will consist of a team leader and 4-5 members and, based on their preferences, will be assigned a specific research task. Students are expected to work together and produce a final report (including an in-class presentation) on their topic. The leader will coordinate the team efforts, provide advice and guidance to the individual team members and report to the instructor(s) if the other members of the team do not cooperate. A detailed list of the research assignments and further instructions will be provided in class.

POLICIES AND CAVEATS:

If you have a disability that affects your performance in class, please notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to find an accommodation that meets best student’s interests. Also, for advice and assistance you may contact the university’s disability services office, located in 210 University Pavilion, Phone 513-556-6823, Email: disabissv@ucmail.uc.edu.

Students are expected to attend the class regularly; attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. If student is to able to attend a scheduled exam due to extraordinary circumstances (medical), I should be informed PRIOR to the test about his or her impending absence and documentation must be provided when you return to class. Absences due to illness or injury will not be excused retroactively unless documentation is provided to the instructor. A student who misses a total of FOURTEEN or more class meetings (1/3) will receive a class participation grade of zero (0), and may also have his or her overall course grade reduced. A student who has a total of TWENTY ONE or more unexcused absences (1/2) will receive a course grade of F. Even though I do NOT necessarily require a note from the doctor, I expect you to contact me in advance (preferably by email) and inform me if you are not feeling well.
I do **NOT** plan makeup examinations or quizzes. Missing an exam without prior permission of the instructor may result in a zero on that exam. Make-up tests will only be arranged in extreme cases, so please be sure to let me know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend at the scheduled time.

Please note that most readings will be available on the course’s webpage on Blackboard or via links posted on Blackboard. When electronic versions of readings are unavailable, paper copies will be provided in class or course pack will be available in the library and/or one of the university bookstores.

Lastly, I need to remind you that all of the work you submit in this course is expected to be your own. Students should review the UC student code of conduct and be aware of all activities defined as academic dishonesty. Although I do encourage students to exchange ideas and/or work together on certain assignments, *each student is responsible for completing and submitting his or her own work*. Please be advised that according to the UC Student Code of Conduct plagiarism is defined as:

1. Submitting another’s published or unpublished work in whole, in part or in paraphrase, as one’s own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, quotation marks, citations, or bibliographical reference.
2. Submitting as one’s own original work, material obtained from an individual or agency without reference to the person or agency as the source of the material.
3. Submitting as one’s own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.

For further information sample citation styles visit the Princeton University website on academic integrity and check a detailed instructional brochure about references on my webpage or consult with SafeAlert system on Canopy/Blackboard: [http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/styles/](http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/styles/)

**USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Please, understand the proper use of technology in the classroom. Laptop computers, tablets, cell phone and other electronic devices can be used solely for academic purposes and with discretion. *Their volume should be muted at all time in class.* If students use online resources for anything other than the course content (e.g. watching sport events, shopping online, or participating in other non-academic activities), they will be penalized. Penalties may include dismissal from class, zero (0) points on course participation, or failing the course altogether.

**READINGS:**

1) The following book is required:

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Richard K. Betts (ed.), *Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments and Causes of War and Peace* (Pearson, 2012) 4th edition (note there is also a Routledge edition with identical content whose the pages may be different from the Pearson edition).

2) There are readings in addition to the required textbook. Most readings will be available on the course’s web page on Blackboard. When electronic versions of readings are not available, paper copies will be distributed in class or copies will be available in the library.

2) Highly recommended books (selected excerpts are posted on Blackboard):

**COURSE STRUCTURE AND READINGS (SEE TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS):**

**Part 1. Introduction: typologies of international conflict**

**Week 1**  
Betts, Part 1 (pp. 1-65):  
- Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History.”  
- John Mearsheimer, “Why We will Soon Miss the Cold War.”  
- Sam Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations?  
- Fareed Zakaria, “Economics Trumps Politics.”  
- Kriesberg and Dayton, “Constructive Conflicts,” pp. 1-22  

**Part 2. Sources and Causes of International Conflict**

**Week 2**  

**Week 3. Meso-cosmic explanations**  
Betts, Part 2/ Realism (pp. 100-132)  
- Waltz, “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory.”  
- Blaney, “Power, Culprits and Arms.”  
Betts, Part 3/ Power and Interdependence (pp. 164-171)  
- Keohane and Nye, “power and Interdependence.”  

**Week 4. Military technology and strategy**  
Betts, Part 8 (pp. 421-453)  

**Economics and power**  
Betts, Part 6 (pp. 299-308; 317-325; 349-363)  
- Angell, The Great Illusion.”  
- Blaney “Paradise is a Bazaar”  
- Schumpeter, “Imperialism and Capitalism”  
- Rosecrance, “Trade and Power”

**Week 5. Norms, communities, and identities**  
Betts, Part 5 (pp. 262-279)  
- Finnemore, “Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention”  
Betts Part 5 (pp. 236-243)  

**Week 6. Minorities, nationalism and identity**  
Betts, Part 7 (pp. 364-393)  
- Gellner, “Nations and Nationalism”  
- Mansfield and Snyder “Democratization and War”

**Week 7. Macro-cosmic explanations: regime type and diversion in international conflict**
Betts, Part 2 (pp. 136-142)
Kant, “Perpetual Peace.”
Dan Reiter and Alan Stam “Democracies at War” (selected chapters)

**Week 8. Intra-state sources: revolutions, unconventional warfare, terrorism and insurgency**
Betts, Part 9 (pp. 477-494; 575-597)
Crenshaw, “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism.”
Galula, “Insurgency and Counter-insurgency.”
Cohen et al, “Principles, Imperatives and Paradoxes of Counter-insurgency.”

**Week 9. Environmental, ecological and health factors**
Betts, Part 10 (pp. 611-628)
Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes and Causes of Acute Conflict”

**Resource endowment**
Recommended: psychology and international conflict. See: Betts, Part 4 (pp. 172-210)

**Part 3. Dynamics of International Conflicts**

**Week 10. Conflict dynamics: signaling, bargaining and deterrence**

**Week 11. Conflict dynamics: escalation and de-escalation**
Part 4. Management of International Conflicts

Week 12
Betts, Part 7 (pp. 394-420)
  Kaufman, “Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars.”
  Kumar, “The Troubled History of Partition, (pp.
Management: Intervention

Week 13. Management: Mediation

Week 14. Management: Reconciliation

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scott Gartner, Strategic Assessment in War (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).
| Week One  
(1/8 – 1/12) | **Monday**  
Introduction and course policies | **Wednesday**  
Why studying int’l conflict? | **Friday**  
Typologies of int’l conflict (Part 1) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Week Two  
(1/15 - 1/19) | **MLK Day**  
NO classes | **Typologies of int’l conflict**  
(Part 2) | **The origins of int’l conflict: theories and approaches** |
| Week Three  
(1/22 - 1/26) | **Systemic explanations:**  
Balance of power | **Military strategy in int’l conflict** | **Power transitions theory and int’l conflict** |
| Week Four  
(1/29 – 2/2) | **The Role of technology in int’l conflict** | **The role of norms in int’l conflict (Part 1)** | **Group Research Project:**  
Explanation and tasks |
| Week Five  
(2/5 – 2/9) | The role of norms in int’l conflict (Part 1) | The role of norms in int’l conflict (Part 2) | **Midterm Exam I** |
| Week Six  
(2/12 – 2/16) | **The role of identities in international conflict** | Nationalism and minorities in int’l conflict | **Regime types and int’l conflict** |
| Week Seven  
(2/19 – 2/23) | Revolutions as a form of int’l conflict | Unconventional warfare: guerilla and insurgency | **Case Study 1:** Transition & Civil War in Bosnia (1992-95) |
| Week Eight  
(2/26 –3/2) | Unconventional warfare: terrorism | Unconventional warfare: conclusions | **Case Study 2:** Darfur/ Sudan (2003-09) |
| Week Nine  
(3/5 – 3/9) | Nat. resources & environment in int’l conflict | Refugees in international conflict | **Case Study 3:** Escalation and de-escalation of the conflict in Northern Ireland |
| Spring Break  
(3/12 – 3/16) | Spring Break  
NO classes | Spring Break  
NO classes | Spring Break  
NO classes |
| Week Ten  
(3/19 – 3/23) | Conflict dynamics: bargaining and deterrence | Conflict dynamics: signaling | **Group Research Project:**  
Progress Report |
| Week Eleven  
| Week Twelve  
(4/2 – 4/6) | Conflict Management: intervention | Conflict Management: the role of medicine in post-conflict settings | **Midterm Exam II** |
| Week Thirteen  
(4/9 – 4/13) | Conflict Management: mediation | Conflict Management: early warning & preventive diplomacy | **Group Research Project:**  
Final presentations |
| Week Fourteen  
**Group research project due** |