

POL 3090 INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT¹

*Spring Semester 2018
Department of Political Science
University of Cincinnati*

Instructor: Dr. Ivan Dinev Ivanov
Class meeting time: MWF 11:15-12:10 am
Location: McMicken Hall 256
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Instructor's email: Ivan.Ivanov@uc.edu*
Office Hours: MWF 2:00-5:00 pm
Instructor's Office: 1121 Crosley Tower

* 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:

<i>Course Requirements:</i>	<u>% of final grade</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Two in-class midterm exams	40% (2x20)	2/23 and 4/6

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:

93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	0-59%	F

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: disabisv@ucmail.uc.edu.

Students are expected to attend the class regularly; attendance will be recorded at each class meeting. If student is to be 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:

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.

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.

Submitting as one's own original work material that has been produced through unacknowledged collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.²

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/>

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:

² The University of Cincinnati Student Code of Conduct, Last revised on 4/29/04. Also available on the Internet: http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Code_of_Conduct.html (06/23/2007).

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).

ISBN-10: 0-205-85175-4; ISBN-13: 978-0-205-85175-1. Link to the Routledge edition: <https://www.routledge.com/Conflict-After-the-Cold-War-Arguments-on-Causes-of-War-and-Peace/Betts/p/book/9781138290693>

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):

Louis Kriesberg, *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution* (Rowman & Littlefield: Lanham, MD, 1998)

Chester Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, Pamela Aall, *Managing Global Chaos: Sources and Responses to International Conflict* (Washington, DC: USIP, 1996).

Stephen John Stedman, Donald Rothchild, and Elizabeth Cousens, *Ending Civil Wars: The Implementation of Peace Agreements* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2002)

Priscilla Hayner, *Unspeakable Truths: Facing the Challenge of Truth Commissions* (Routledge: New York and London, 2002)

Dale Copeland, *The Origins of Major War* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 2000)

Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (Norton, New York, 2000)

Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam, *Democracies at War* (Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2002)

Stephen Van Evera, *The Causes of War* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999)

Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1966)

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition* (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 1991)

Martha Finnemore, *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2003).

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

Stephen Stedman, "Alchemy for a New World Order," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 75, pp. 14-20

Mikael Eriksson and Peter Wallensteen, "Armed Conflict, 1989-2003" *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 41, no. 5 (Sep. 2004), pp. 625-636

Part 2. Sources and Causes of International Conflict

Week 2

Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, "Micro- and Macro-cosmic Theories of International Conflict," in *Contending Theories of International Relations*, pp. 261-366.

Week 3. Meso-cosmic explanations

Betts, Part 2/ Realism (pp. 100-132)

- Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory."
- Gilpin, "Hegemonic War and International Change."
- Blaney, "Power, Culprits and Arms."

Betts, Part 3/ Power and Interdependence (pp. 164-171)

- Keohane and Nye, "power and Interdependence."

Douglas Lemke, "The Continuation of History: Power Transition Theory and the End of the Cold War," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 34, no. 1 (February 1997), pp. 23-36

Week 4. Military technology and strategy

Betts, Part 8 (pp. 421-453)

- Jervis, "Cooperation Under Security Dilemma"
- Levy, "Offensive/ Defensive Balance of Military Technology"

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)

- Ned Lebow, "Spirit, Standing and Honor."

Week 6. Minorities, nationalism and identity

Betts, Part 7 (pp. 364-393)

- Gellner, "Nations and Nationalism"
- Mansfield and Snyder "Democratization and War"

Tedd R. Gurr, "Minorities, Nationalists and Ethnopolitical Conflict" in Crocker et al, *Managing Global Chaos*, USIP, 1996, pp. 53-78.

Jack Snyder and Karen Ballentine, "Nationalism and the Marketplace of Ideas," *International Security* 21, no. 2 (Fall 1996), pp. 5-40.

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)

Erik Gartzke, "Democracy and the Preparation for War: Does Regime Type Affect States' Anticipation of Casualties?" *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 45 (2001): 467-484.

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell and Brandon Prins, "Rivalry and Diversionary Uses of Force," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 48, no. 6 (December 2004), pp. 937-961

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."

Ivan Arreguín-Toft, "How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict," *International Security*, Vol. 26, no. 1 (Summer 2001), pp. 93-128.

Week 9. Environmental, ecological and health factors

Betts, Part 10 (pp. 611-628)

Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Changes and Causes of Acute Conflict"

Idean Slaehyan and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch, "Refugees and the Spread of Civil War," *International Organization* (Spring 2006), 335-366.

Susan Peterson, "Epidemic Disease and National Security," *Security Studies* (Winter 2002/03), pp. 43-81.

Resource endowment

Michael L. Ross, "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases," *International Organization* (Winter 2004), pp. 35-67.

Amy Myers Jaffe; Michael T. Klare, Nader Elhefnawy, "The Impending Oil Shock," *Survival* no. 4 (April/May 2008), 37-66.

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

Paul K. Huth, "Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 82, no. 2 (June 1988), pp. 423-443.

James D. Fearon, "Signaling versus the Balance of Power and Interests: An Empirical Test of a Crisis Bargaining Model," *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 38, no. 2, (June 1994), pp. 236-269.

Week 11. Conflict dynamics: escalation and de-escalation

Kriesberg and Dayton, "Constructive Conflicts," pp. 143-214.

Part 4. Management of International Conflicts

Week 12

Kriesberg and Dayton, "Constructive Conflicts," pp. 247-276.

Betts, Part 7 (pp. 394-420)

Kaufman, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars."

Kumar, "The Troubled History of Partition, (pp..

Management: Intervention

Chester Crocker, "Varieties of Intervention: the Conditions for Success," in Crocker et al, *Managing Global Chaos*, USIP, 1996, pp. 333-341.

Barbara F. Walter, "The Critical Barrier to Civil War Settlement, *International Organization*, Vol. 51, no. 3 (Summer, 1997), pp. 335-364.

Richard K. Betts, "The Delusion of Impartial Intervention," in Crocker et al, *Managing Global Chaos*, USIP, 1996, pp. 333-341.

Week 13. Management: Mediation

Kriesberg and Dayton, "Constructive Conflicts," pp. 215-246.

Michael Lund, "Early Warning and Preventive Diplomacy" in in Crocker et al, *Managing Global Chaos*, USIP, 1996, pp. 379-402-78.

Saadia Touval, "Lessons of Preventive Diplomacy in Yugoslavia," in in Crocker et al, *Managing Global Chaos*, USIP, 1996, pp. 403-417.

Brahimi Commission Report on the Future of UN Peacekeeping:

www.un.org/peace/reports/peace_operations/docs/full_report.htm

Week 14. Management: Reconciliation

John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*, USIP, 1997, pp. 23-112.

Priscilla Hayner, *Unspeakable Truths: Facing the Challenges of Truth Commissions* (Routledge: New York and London), pp. 10-49.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gerard Prunier, *Darfur: The Ambiguous Genocide* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005).

Paul Lauren, Gordon Craig, and Alexander George, *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Challenges of Our Time* (Oxford University Press, 5th edition, 2014).

Donald Kagan, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace* (Anchor Books, 1995).

Robert Kennedy, *Thirteen Days: A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis* (New York and London: WW Norton, 1999).

Brigid Starkey, Mark Boyer, and Jonathan Wilkenfield, *Negotiating a Complex World* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc, 1999)

Scott Gartner, *Strategic Assessment in War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997).

Paul K. Huth, *Standing Your Ground* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996).

Robert A. Pape, *Bombing to Win* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1996).

Randall Schweller, *Deadly Imbalances* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998).

Allan C. Stam III, *Win, Lose, or Draw* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996).

Sara McLaughlin Mitchell, John A. Vasquez, *Conflict, War, and Peace: an Introduction to Scientific Research* (CQ Press, an Imprint of SAGE Publications, Inc., 2013)

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. and David Welch, *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 9th edition, 2013)

Fred Charles Iklé, *Every War Must End* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1971)

Andrew Kydd, *Trust and Mistrust in International Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005)

Barbara F Walter, *Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002).

David Kilcullen, *The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (Basic Books, New York, 2006)

POL 3090 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Spring Semester 2018

Department of Political Science

University of Cincinnati

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week One (1/8 – 1/12)	Introduction and course policies	Why studying int'l conflict?	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	Meso- theories: Power and Interdependence	Power transitions theory and int'l conflict
Week Four (1/29 – 2/2)	The Role of technology in int'l conflict	Military strategy in int'l conflict	Economic interests and int'l conflict
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)	Group Research Project: Explanation and tasks
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	<u>Midterm Exam I</u>
Week Eight (2/26 – 3/2)	Unconventional warfare: terrorism	Unconventional warfare: conclusions	<u>Case Study 1:</u> Transition & Civil War in Bosnia (1992-95)
Week Nine (3/5 – 3/9)	Nat. resources & environment in int'l conflict	Refugees in international conflict	<u>Case Study 2:</u> Darfur/ Sudan (2003-09)
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 (3/26 – 3/30)	Conflict dynamics: escalation	Conflict dynamics: de-escalation	<u>Case Study 3:</u> Escalation and de-escalation of the conflict in Northern Ireland
Week Twelve (4/2 – 4/6)	Conflict Management: intervention	Conflict Management: the role of medicine in post-conflict settings	<u>Midterm Exam II</u>
Week Thirteen (4/9 – 4/13)	Conflict Management: mediation	Conflict Management: early warning & preventive diplomacy	Group Research Project: Final presentations
Week Fourteen (4/16 – 4/20)	Conflict Management: reconciliation. TRCs	<u>Case Study 4:</u> South Africa: transition & reconciliation (1991-2002)	Conclusion: Final Paper instructions Group research project due