

# **POLS 568**

## **Research Problems in International Relations**

### **Fall 2008**

Department of Political Science  
Southern Illinois University

## **1 Instructor Information**

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## **2 Course Description**

This course is intended to provide students with the skills necessary to design and execute research projects on non-state, sub-national, national, and supra-national actors and processes that have transnational or world systemic consequence. We investigate different research approaches to International Relations and Comparative Politics and discuss the intersection of these two sub-disciplines of Political Science. The first portion of the course relates to identifying good research questions, using concepts in social sciences, and ultimately developing theories to explain social phenomena. We then explore different ways to generate and test hypotheses including qualitative methods, quantitative methods, formal models, simulation or agent-based models, and mixed methods. Each week, we discuss a set of readings and also discuss a portion of the research process with an eye towards developing an original research project. In the final two weeks of the course, we will have mock panels and simulate an academic conference experience. At these panels, students will present their research findings, receive feedback from a discussant, and field questions from the audience.

## **3 Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, I expect that you will be able to understand the strengths of weaknesses of the dominant research methodologies in International Relations. You should be familiar with some of the important literature that lies at the intersection of International Relations and Comparative Politics. Most importantly, you will develop a research project that will serve as a basis for a publishable article or prospectus.

## **4 Course Format**

Each week we discuss a series of readings. You are responsible for each reading. For each one, you must write a one page paper that:

1. has a title with the article name, author, journal, and year
2. summarizes the author's thesis (preferably in a sentence or two)

3. identify the hypotheses, what is the author proposing?
4. for formal paper or ABM: who are the actors? what are the assumptions? what is the counterintuitive finding of the model?
5. for an empirical paper (quant or qual) what are the key variables? What is the causal mechanism? What are the findings?
6. identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the article (one paragraph)

I will look over these papers each week and assign a grade. Save these papers and collect them in a single binder as they will be especially useful to you as you study for preliminary exams.

I firmly believe in democracy and will solicit your opinions regarding the course generally, and the success or failure of certain aspects of the course specifically. This course will require a great deal of reading and participation on your part. If you are not prepared each day and do not engage in the discussions, debates, and other activities, you will not be successful.

## 5 Requirements

### Required Books

Harvey, Frank P. and Michael Brecher. 2002. *Evaluating Methodology in International Studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

The books is available at the bookstore and online. You can find it on Amazon.com or Addall.com at a reduced price.

Many of the articles for the class will be on reserve. You can also find most of the journal articles on JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)). I will also place readings on blackboard that are not available on JSTOR.

### Assessment

1. **Attendance and Participation (10%)**—I expect that you will be prepared to discuss all of the readings each week. I will assign a grade for the participation each week based on the following scale:
  - A (outstanding) your comments were insightful and contributed to collective understanding of the material across the readings
  - A- (strong) your comments were sometimes insightful and sometimes average but were not consistent across the readings
  - B+ (good) your comments demonstrated that you understood the material but did not extend the discussion or offer new insights
  - B (average) you participated but did not seem to fully grasp the material
  - B- (poor) you spoke, but your comments were not germane to the material
  - C (unacceptable) you didn't say anything...

2. **Response Papers (30%)**—The response papers serve two purposes. First, they provide another way for me to evaluate your engagement with the material. Second, they serve as a way to summarize a large volume of material that can be used for future reference. Papers are scored based on a similar rubric as above. They should be mistake-free and a single page per reading.
3. **Conference Presentation (10%)**—At the end of the term, you will give a 10-15 minute presentation on your research. You will be on a panel of 3-4 papers with a chair and discussant. The presentation must include a powerpoint (or equivalent program) presentation. Later in the term, we will discuss how to present your research effectively. You will also be graded on how well you respond to questions from the discussant and audience.
4. **Research Paper (50%)**—The research paper must be 20-25 pages (including references, tables, graphs, etc). The quality of the paper, however, is more important than the quantity. The paper should have the format as outlined by Barry Weingast here:

[http://www.stanford.edu/~weingast/caltech\\_rules.html](http://www.stanford.edu/~weingast/caltech_rules.html)

While this is not the *only* way to write a great paper in Political Science, it is a *great* way.

These paper also makes useful suggestions for writing a graduate paper that is potentially publishable:

Raymond E. Wolfinger. 1993. "Tips for Writing Papers." *PS: Political Science* Vol. 26, No. 1. 87-88.

Gary King. 2006. "Publication, Publication." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 119-125.

## 6 Course Policies

### Late Assignments

I DO NOT accept any late papers. The paper is due in hard copy on the date assigned by the time the class begins or you will earn a 0 for the assignment. Since you are presenting your research and receiving feedback from a discussant, you have to be ready by the date of the "conference."

Response papers are due at the beginning of each class. I will not accept e-mail copies or papers placed under my door. If you miss a class, response papers serve as your participation grade and are due the next time you attend.

### Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## 7 Tentative Course Schedule

### Building Blocks of Research in International Relations/Comparative Politics

Wed. Aug. 20—What is International Relations? What is Comparative Politics? What is a Theory?

- Pass out Syllabi
- Introductions
- Discussion

Wed. Aug. 27—Concepts in International Relations

- Goertz, Gary. *Social Science Concepts*. Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 and 3, 27-95.
- Sartori, Giovanni. "Concept Misinformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 64, No. 4, 1033-1053.
- Munck, Gerardo and Jay Verkuilen. 2002. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 1, 5-33.
- BRING SOME CONCEPTS**—Bring a list of concepts that are of interest to you. For example, you may be interested in the relationship between democracy and terrorism or neoliberal reform, economic growth, and conservatism.

Wed. Sept. 3—Asking the Right Question

- Zinnes, Dina. A. 1980. "Three Puzzles in Search of a Researcher." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 24 No. 3, 315-342.
- Fearon, James D. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization*, Vol. 49, No. 3, 379-414.
- Buhaug, Halvard and Scott Gates. 2002. "The Geography of Civil War." *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 39, No. 4, 417-433.
- Tuman, John P. and Craig Emmert. 2001 "Explaining Japanese Aid Policy in Latin America: A Test of Competing Theories." *Political Research Quarterly* 54: 87-101.
- BRING A RESEARCH QUESTION**—We will discuss each person's question and offer suggestions and potential readings.

### Research Methods and International Relations

Wed. Sept. 10—Quantitative Methods and International Relations

- Book: "Reflections on Quantitative International Politics." Dina A. Zinnes.
- Book: "Reflections on Millennia, Old and New: The Evolution and Role of Quantitative Approaches to the Study of International Politics." James Lee Ray.
- Jackman, Robert W. "Cross-National Statistical Research and the Study of Comparative Politics," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 29, No. 1, 161-182.
- Braumoeller, Bear and Anne Sartori. 2004. "The Promise and Perils of Statistics in International Relations." in *Models, Numbers and Cases*, 129-152.

-Huth, Paul and Todd Allee. 2004. "Research Design in Testing Theories of International Conflict." in *Models, Numbers and Cases*, 193-223.

Wed. Sept. 17—Qualitative Methods and International Relations

-Bennett, Andrew and Colin Elman. 2007. "Case Study Methods in the International Relations Subfield." *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol. 40, No. 2, 170-195.

-Fearon, James D. 1991. "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science." *World Politics*, Vol. 43, No. 2, 169-195.

-Book: "Qualitative Methods in International Relations." Jack S. Levy.

-Book: "Case Study Methodology in International Studies: From Storytelling to Hypothesis Testing." Zeev Maoz.

-Posner, Daniel. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review*, 98 (4): 529-545.

-**BRING METHODS' CHOICES**—We will discuss each person's project and help decide which methods would be appropriate for answering the question/puzzle.

Wed. Sept. 24—Game Theory and International Relations

-Powell, Robert. "Game Theory, International Relations Theory, and the Hobbesian Stylization." in *Political Science: State of the Discipline*. 755-783.

-Book: "Formal Methods in International Relations." Michael Nicholson.

-Book: "Accomplishments and Limitations of a Game-Theoretic Approach to International Relations." Bruce Bueno De Mesquita.

-Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 88, No. 3, 577-592.

-Reed, Bill. 2003. "Information, Power, and War," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 4, 633-641.

Wed. Oct. 1—Agent Based Modeling (Simulation, Computational Modeling) and International Relations

-Axelrod, Robert and Leigh Tesfatsion. 2005. "A Guide for Newcomers to Agent-Based Modeling in the Social Sciences." In *Handbook of Computational Economics: Agent-Based Computational Economics*, edited by K. L. Judd and L. Tesfatsion: North-Holland.

-Macy, Michael and Robert Willer. 2002. "From Factors to Actors: Computational Sociology and Agent-Based Modeling." *Annual Review of Sociology*.

-Epstein, Joshua. 1999. "Agent-Based Computational Models and Generative Social Science." *Complexity* 4(5): 41-60.

-Epstein, Joshua. 2002. "Modeling Civil Violence: An Agent-Based Computational Approach."

-Cederman, Lars-Erik. 2003. "Modeling the Size of Wars: From Billiard Balls to Sandpiles." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 1. 135-150.

-**BRING DATA**—Bring an outline of project along with data and/or a description of the data that you plan to use.

## Wed. Oct. 8—Comparing and Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Methods

- Lieberman, Evan S. 2005. “Nested Analysis as a Mixed-Method Strategy for Comparative Research.” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 99, 435-452.
- Mahoney, James and Gary Goertz. 2006. “A Tale of Two Cultures: Contrasting Quantitative and Qualitative Research.” *Political Analysis* Vol. 14, No. 3, 227-249.
- Book: “Quantitative International Politics and Its Critics: Then and Now.” Russell J. Leng.
- Seawright, Jason and John Gerring. N.D. “Case-Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options.” forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*.
- Howard, Marc Morj and Philip G. Roessler. 2006. Liberalizing Electoral Outcomes in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes. *American Journal of Political Science*, 50 (2):365-81.

**Important Topics at the Intersection of International Relations and Comparative Politics**

## Wed. Oct. 15—Human Rights

- Poe, Steven C. and Neal C. Tate. 1994. “Repression of Human Rights to Personal Integrity in the 1980s: A Global Analysis,” *American Political Science Review*, 88:853-72.
- Hafner-Burton, Emily M. & Kiyoteru Tsutsui, 2007. “Justice Lost! The Failure of International Human Rights Law to Matter Where Needed Most,” *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 44, No. 4, 407-425.
- Keck, Margaret and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. *Activists Beyond Borders*, Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press. Chapter 1, 1-38.
- Landman, Todd. 2004. “Measuring Human Rights: Principle, Practice, and Policy.” *Human rights Quarterly* 26: 906-931.
- Donnelly, Jack. 1998. *International Human Rights*, Chapter 8, “International Human Rights in a Past-Cold War World.” 149-163.

## Wed. Oct. 22—Political Economy

- Rogowski, Ronald. 1987. “Political Cleavages and Changing Exposure to Trade,” *American Political Science Review*, 81(4): 1121-1137.
- Frieden, Jeffrey A. 1991. “Invested Interests: The Politics of National Economic Policies in a World of Global Finance,” *International Organization*, Vol. 45, No. 4, 425-451
- Przeworski, Adam and James Vreeland. 2000. “The Effect of IMF Programs on Economic Growth.” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 62, 385-421.
- Simmons, Beth and Zachary Elkins. 2004. “The Globalization of Liberalization: Policy Diffusion in the International Political Economy.” *American Political Science Review*, 98: 171-18.
- Alvarez, R. Michael, Geoffrey Garrett and Peter Lange. 1991. “Government Partisanship, Labor Organization, and Macroeconomic Performance,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 85, No. 2, 539-556.

## Wed. Oct. 29—Violent Conflict I—Civil War

- Fearon, James D. and David Laitin. 2003. "Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War," *American Political Science Review* 97, 1, 75-90.
- Collier, Paul and Anke Hoeffler. 2004. "Greed and Grievance in Civil War," *Oxford Economic Papers*, 56(4): 563-595.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. 2001. "New and Old Civil War: A Valid Distinction?" *World Politics* 54(1): 99-118.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. 1999. "Wanton and Senseless? The Logic of Massacres in Algeria." *Rationality and Society* 11(3): 243-285.
- Sambanis, Nicholas. 2004. "What is Civil War? Conceptual and Empirical Complexities of an Operational Definition." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48(6), 814-858.
- Weinstein, Jeremy. 2007. *Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Insurgent Violence*. Cambridge University Press, Chapter 1.

## Wed. Nov. 5—Violent Conflict II—Terrorism and Transnational Violence

- Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review*, 97(3):343-62.
- Ashworth, Scott, Joshua Clinton, Adam Mierowitz, and Kristopher W. Ramsay. 2008. "Design, Inference and the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, 102(2): 269-273.
- Pape, Robert. 2008. "Methods and Findings in the Study of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, 102(2): 275-277.
- Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler. 1993. "The Effectiveness of Antiterrorism Policies: A Vector-Autoregression- Intervention Analysis." *American Political Science Review*, 87(4): 829-844.
- Sandler, Todd and Daniel G. Arce. 2003. "Terrorism & Game Theory," *Simulation & Gaming* 34: 319-337.
- Pedahzur, Ami. and Arie Perliger. 2006. "The Changing Nature of Suicide Attacks: A Social Network Perspective," *Social Forces* 84(4): 1987-2008.

## Wed. Nov. 12—Democratic Peace—External Peace?

- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 87, No. 3, 624-638
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, James D. Morrow, Randolph M. Siverson and Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 93, No. 4, 791-807.
- Owen, John M. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 87-125.
- Rosato, Sebastian. 2003. "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 585-602.
- Kinsella, David. 2005. "No Rest for the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review* 99(3): 453-457.

-Slantchev, Branislav, Anna Alexandrova, and Erik Gartzke. 2005. "Probabilistic Causality, Selection Bias, and the Logic of the Democratic Peace." *American Political Science Review*, 99(3): 459-462.

-Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder. 2002. Democratic Transitions, Institutional Strength, and War. *International Organization* 56(2): 297-337.

-Skim Rudy Rummel's Democratic Peace Site: <http://www.hawaii.edu/powerkills/MIRACLE.HTM>

Wed. Nov. 19—Democratic Peace—Internal Peace?

-Hegre, Havard, Tanja Ellingsen, Scott Gates, and Nils Petter Gleditsch. 2001. "Toward a Democratic Civil Peace? Democracy, Political Change, and Civil War, 1816-1992." *American Political Science Review* 95(1): 33-48.

-Davenport, Christian. 2007. *State Repression and the Domestic Democratic Peace*, Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

-Rejali, Darius. 2007. *Torture and Democracy*, Princeton University Press. Introduction and Chapter 2. 1-31, 45-63.

-Rummel, R.J. 1995. "Democracy, Power, Genocide, and Mass Murder." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 39, No. 1, 3-26.

-Li, Quan. 2005. "Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(2): 278

Nov. 24 – Nov. 28.—NO SCHOOL—THANKSGIVING BREAK

Wed. Dec. 3—Conference Panels #1 (Papers Due for Panel #1)

Mon. Dec. 8—FINAL EXAM—5:50-7:50 PM, Conference Panels #2 (Papers Due for Panel #2)