

PS 341: Theories of International Conflict and Cooperation
Spring 2006: Christopher K. Butler

Overview:

The aim of this class is to survey the political science literature on theories of conflict and cooperation. Much of the semester will be spent on the causes, escalation, and ending of international wars. The major assignment for the class will be a research paper and presentation in which each student analyzes an international dispute (chosen from a list provided by the instructor) from its inception, through its escalation phase, and to its termination.

Contact Information:

Class Meetings: Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:15 in DSH 329

Instructor's Office: SSCI 2051

Office Phone: 277-3742

E-mail: ckbutler@unm.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4:30 PM and by appointment.

Books:

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2005. *Principles of International Politics: People's Powers, Preferences, and Perceptions*, 3rd ed. CQ Press. (BdM)

Davis, James W. 2003. *Threats and Promises : The Pursuit of International Influence*. Johns Hopkins University Press. (Davis)

Mearsheimer, John J. 2003. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. W. W. Norton & Company. (Mearsheimer)

Tammen, Ronald L., Jacek Kugler, Douglas Lemke, Carole Alsharabati, and Brian Efirid, eds. 2000. *Power Transitions: Strategies for the 21st Century*. Seven Bridges Press, LLC. (Power Transitions)

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be evaluated on their participation, reading and lecture comprehension, and quality of their research papers. Grading weight will be given to each of these areas of evaluation as follows:

Participation	20%
Reading and Lecture Comprehension	35%
Research Paper	45%

Participation:

Classes will be a mixture of lecture and seminar discussion. Therefore, attendance and discussion are very important to the learning experience. Two grades will be given for discussion following the grading chart below, one around mid-semester and another at the end of the semester. A grade for attendance will be given at the end of the semester also following the grading chart below. The average of these three grades will then be the student's participation grade.

Reading and Lecture Evaluation:

The seminar discussion portion of the class requires that students do the assigned reading *prior* to each class session. To facilitate this, it is suggested that students take notes on the reading in the same notebook as they take lecture notes. As an assignment, each student is required to submit (*before* class begins and preferably on a note card) one question he or she has regarding the reading *and* one quote from the reading that he or she thinks presents a distilled insight of what the author was trying to get

across. A single grade for “questions and quotes” will be given at the end of the semester following the grading chart below. This will account for one-third of the reading and lecture grade.

In addition, quizzes and a midterm exam will test the students’ knowledge and understanding of the reading and lectures. Quizzes will be unscheduled but inversely related to the quality of in-class discussion. The midterm exam will be take-home and open-book-open-note but must be typed or word-processed. Together, these will account for two-thirds of the reading and lecture grade.

Grading Chart

Discussion	Attendance	Questions & Quotes	Grade
Regular, insightful comments	27-28	25	A+
	25-26	23-24	A
	23-24	21-22	A-
Comments show general understanding	21-22	19-20	B+
	19-20	17-18	B
	17-18	15-16	B-
Sometimes good, often tangential	15-16	13-14	C+
	13-14	11-12	C
	11-12	9-10	C-
Tangential, irrelevant comments	9-10	7-8	D+
	7-8	5-6	D
	5-6	3-4	D-
Never spoke	0-4	0-2	F

Research Paper:

The major assignment for the class will be a research paper in which each student analyzes an international dispute (chosen from a list provided by the instructor) from its inception, through its escalation phase, to its termination. Each student will give a brief presentation of their research at the end of the semester.

The paper will be written in six phases.

- Phase 1. Summarize the Correlates of War description of the dispute(s) and data on the actors. [Due Wed, Jan 25; 5% of Research Paper grade]
- Phase 2. After doing historical research, provide a more detailed account of the dispute(s) from the start date to the end date (following the Correlates of War dates). Carefully cite your evidence. [Due Wed, Feb 15; 10% of Research Paper grade]
- Phase 3. After doing more historical research, summarize the relations between the actors, outstanding issues of contention, and other factors that may have been relevant in the lead up to the dispute(s). Also summarize the ultimate settlement of those issues of contention (or discuss the degree to which those issues still exist between the actors). Carefully cite your evidence. [Due Mon, Mar 27; 10% of Research Paper grade]
- Phase 4. Using your research from Phase 3, make a determination of the likely stakes, costs, and probabilities of winning (objective and perceived). Cite your connecting evidence. Then argue what were the actors’ likely preferences over the eight outcomes of the international interaction game. [Due Wed, Apr 12; 10% of Research Paper grade]

- Phase 5. Using your analysis from Phase 4, determine what prediction(s) would be generated by the international interaction game. [Due Wed, Apr 19; 5% of Research Paper grade]
- Phase 6. Using another theory from class (one that you think can help you the most in understanding the dispute), review the theory and what information it needs to generate predictions, make a determination of the relevant information from your case (citing the connecting evidence), and then argue what the chosen theory would predict for your case. [Due Wed, Apr 26; 10% of Research Paper grade]

The final paper will be a revision of the phases (attached to the final paper) and should be organized as follows. [Due Wed, May 10 by 5 PM; 50% of Research Paper grade]

I. Historical Background {from Phase 3}

II. The Dispute(s) and Its Settlement {from Phases 1 - 3}

III. International Interaction Game Analysis {Phases 4 & 5}

IV. Analysis using another theory from class {Phase 6}

V. Conclusion {Discuss the extent to which you understand the actors' actions using the theories from class (sections III and IV above) and, in particular, which theory seemed most capable of explaining the dispute and its resolution. Also discuss aspects of the case that do not seem to be explained by either theory.}

Late assignments:

Assignments that are turned in late—by any amount of time—will be docked one letter grade. Special circumstances may warrant individual extensions setting a new due date. Extensions must be requested before the first due date is reached. Only one extension per assignment will be given.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.

Lecture and Reading Schedule, PS 341, Spring 2006

Date	Lecture	Topic	Reading	Due Dates
Wed, Jan 18	1	Introductions		
Mon, Jan 23	2	Foundations & History of IP	BdM Intro & ch. 1	
Wed, Jan 25	3	Scientific Study of IP	BdM ch. 2 & 3	Phase 1
Mon, Jan 30	4	Various Perspectives of IP	BdM ch. 4 & 5	
Wed, Feb 1	5	Domestic Politics and IP	BdM ch. 6	
Mon, Feb 6	6	Power Politics	BdM ch. 7 & 8	
Wed, Feb 8	7	Preferences in IP	BdM ch. 9	
Mon, Feb 13	8	Perceptions in IP	BdM ch. 10 & 11	
Wed, Feb 15	9	Domestic Institutions & National Performance	BdM ch. 12	Phase 2
Mon, Feb 20	10	IPE of Trade	BdM ch. 13	
Wed, Feb 22	11	IOs & International Law	BdM ch. 14	
Mon, Feb 27	12	Alliances	BdM ch. 15	
Wed, Mar 1	13	Structural Accounts of War	BdM pp. 559 - 585	
Mon, Mar 6	14	Tragedy of Great Powers 1	Mearsheimer ch. 1-5	
Wed, Mar 8	15	Tragedy of Great Powers 2	Mearsheimer ch. 6-8	Midterm Exam
Mar 13 & 15	<i>No class, Spring Break</i>			
Mon, Mar 20	16	Tragedy of Great Powers 3	Mearsheimer ch. 9-10	
Wed, Mar 22	<i>No class, Conference</i>			
Mon, Mar 27	17	Power Transition Theory 1	BdM pp. 585 - 595; Power Transitions, Part I	Phase 3
Wed, Mar 29	18	Power Transition Theory 2	Power Transitions, Part II	
Mon, Apr 3	19	Power Transition Theory 3	Power Transitions, Part III	
Wed, Apr 5	20	The International Interaction Game	BdM pp. 596-614	
Mon, Apr 10	21	Arms Races, Deterrence, & War	BdM pp. 615-626	
Wed, Apr 12	22	A Predictive Model of International Affairs	BdM ch. 18	Phase 4
Mon, Apr 17	23	Threats and Promises 1	Davis ch. 1-3	
Wed, Apr 19	24	Threats and Promises 2	Davis ch. 4-5	Phase 5
Mon, Apr 24	25	Threats and Promises 3	Davis ch. 6-8	
Wed, Apr 26	26	Presentations		Phase 6
Mon, May 1	27	Presentations		
Wed, May 3	28	Presentations		
Wed, May 10				Final Paper