

Political Science 4327: International Politics

Semester:	Summer 2020
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Class Times:	Online

Course Description

This course is numbered as PLSC 4327: International Politics. The catalog provides this description of the course: An introduction to the processes, theories, and institutions within international relations. It also serves as an introductory course to other advanced international relations courses like International Security, International Political Economy and the Intelligence Community and National Security and International Organizations. And while the catalog is certainly correct, it is slightly more complicated than the catalog description.

Since the beginning of human existence, we have associated in groups. While the way in which we have organized has changed from families to tribes to states, interaction among different groups is an undeniable feature of the human existence. In contemporary terms, humans associate based on nationality and country. To be sure, all countries have certain goals and aims that are influenced by their interests. This course aims to address how interaction among countries is influenced by a myriad of strategic concerns. In order to ascertain why nations take foreign policy actions, this course focus on strategic interaction between states and non-state actors. For this most part, this course uses formal modeling, decision, and game-theory to find insights in international relations that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. This course focuses on states as utility maximizers and evaluates the actions of states in the context of the costs and benefits of taking each action.

In using this strategic perspective, this course aims to answer several puzzles and debates in international relations. The first puzzle this course aims to address is: what are the causes of armed military action? There are multiple explanations of why states choose to undertake violent actions to pursue political goals. In this course, we will examine several structural theories of conflict. While there is certainly a bevy of these theoretical approaches, in this course, we will focus on realism, neo-realism, and power transition theory. Secondly, as it applies to the causes of armed military conflict, we will examine strategic theories of military conflict.

In addition to the determinants of military conflict, this course also examines potential influences on foreign policy making. More specifically, we will examine the puzzle of democratic peace. In essence, the democratic peace argues that democratic states do not war with each other. While it is certainly possible that certain aspects of democracy may be influential in the decision to make war with other nations, this course focuses on domestic political influences that affect the ability of democratic leaders to engage in risk acceptant behaviors.

Third, this course examines international institutions and international law. In short, if there is no overarching international force, why do states comply? Why do some states comply while others do

not? Why do some states cooperate while others refuse?

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. However, it would be useful for students to have taken PLSC 3301. It will help aid the transition into scientific explanations of politics. Also, students should have an openness to basic mathematical concepts. Additionally, students should expect to spend roughly 6 hours a week in the course. This is just an estimate as some students may complete the work in less or more time; it depends on the student.

Course Materials

This course requires one textbook:

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2014. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the following assessments:

- 3 Evaluative Essays
 - Each is worth 15% of the final course grade and collectively represent 45% of the final course grade.
- 3 Objective Examinations
 - Each is worth 15% of the final course grade and collectively represent 45% of the final course grade.
- 3 Intensive Discussion Topics
 - Each is worth 3% of the final course grade and collectively represent 10% of the final course grade.
- Letter Grade Assignment
 - A: 89.5-100
 - B 79.5-89.4
 - C 69.5-79.4
 - D 59.5-69.4
 - F 59.4 or lower
- Student Authentication
 - Additionally, students must satisfy a secondary authentication method as required by University of Texas of the Permian Basin policy:

- * The University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) maintains policies and procedures to ensure that each student who registers for a distance or correspondence course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course. UTPB's Distance Education Policy requires faculty members to authenticate student identity by employing at least two methods of verification. To access online courses students must login to the Canvas learning management system to establish their identity by using their unique personal identifying username login and a secure password. UTPB's Distance Education Policy allows faculty multiple options for satisfying the second method of validating student identity. This course satisfies the second method of student verification by requiring the following (non-graded but mandatory):
 - A clear image of yourself
 - * In color
 - * Well lit, and no shadows on your face or your ID that can obscure your image
 - * Must be taken on the day you submit the photo to reflect your current appearance
 - * Taken in full-face view directly facing the camera
 - * With a neutral facial expression and both eyes open
 - Then a picture of your ID (can be a UTPB ID or government issued ID) with only your name and picture showing (Picture ID card in which the ID number has been covered (tape over any numbers)).
 - Make sure to attach both image files in either JPEG or PNG format to the assignment BEFORE you submit it.

Course Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- State and explain the differences between Systematic and Domestic Theories of International Relations
- Identify and describe the principles of rational choice theory including preferences, completeness, and transitivity.
- State, explain, and differentiate the tenets of Neorealism, Liberalism, and Constructivism.
- Distinguish between the four categories of international problems.
- Describe the relationship between the size of winning coalitions and public and private goods.
- Discuss and conceptualize the principal-agent problem.
- Identify and predict the relationship between a nation's Selectorate (S) and Winning Coalition (W).
- Define and contrast the difference between Public and Private Goods.

- Illustrate the difference between Cooperative and Non-cooperative Games.
- Identify the payoff structure for the Prisoner's Dilemma.
- Calculate the Nash Equilibrium for the Prisoner's Dilemma.
- Determine which outcome in the Prisoner's Dilemma is Pareto Inferior.
- Identify Games that have multiple Nash equilibrium.
- Discuss the concept of mixed strategies.
- Conceptualize and interpret the principle of sequential games.
- Identify and Calculate Subgame Perfection, Backward Induction and Subgame Perfect Nash Equilibria (SPNE).
- Contrast the difference between perfect information sequential games and sequential games with uncertainty.
- Identify and describe different cultural factors attached to interstate conflict.
- List and compare the three ex ante factors Fearon (1994) claims increase the odds of interstate conflict.
- Explain and assess Neo-realist theory regarding interstate conflict.
- Describe and illustrate how bipolarity and balance of power influence interstate conflict.
- Formally demonstrate the flaws of balance of power and interstate conflict.
- Explain and assess Niou et. al. (1989)'s criticism of Neorealism as it pertains to interstate conflict.
- Identify and appraise Power Transition Theory and its relationship with the Status Quo.
- Illustrate and Interpret the connection between domestic politics and foreign policy.
- Formally determine whether Interstate Conflict is ex-post efficient.
- Describe the domestic crisis game and derive its solutions.
- Describe and assess Diversion Theory and detail its strengths and weaknesses.
- Discuss and explain the Pacific Dove Paradox.
- Predict and derive the connection between Selectorate Theory and war effort.
- Describe and assess the norms argument for Democratic Peace Theory
- Describe and assess the institutional argument for Democratic Peace Theory.
- Derive solutions for the Sanctions Game and describe its conclusions.

- Describe and explain the importance of international institutions and organizations.
- Detail the relationship between International Organization efficiency and the Free Rider Problem.
- Discuss Exclusivity and the Role Rivalry plays in international organizations.
- Explain and derive the Collective Action Problem.
- Describe how repeated interactions solves the collective action problem.
- Explain and describe the concept of International Law
- Explain and describe Human Rights
- Identify and list Human Rights protected by United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Discuss the relationship between human rights and poverty.
- Explain and discuss the Constructivist argument for Human Rights.
- Describe and discuss the Strategic argument for Human Rights.
- Describe and discuss the Sovereignty argument against Human Rights.

University Policies

- Students with Disabilities
 - Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas of the Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities. Any student with a disability who is requesting an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter from the ADA Officer for Students. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored.
ADA Officer for Students: Mr. Paul Leverington
Address: Mesa Building 4243
Voice Telephone: 432-552-3702
Email: Leverington_P@utpb.edu
- Office of the Registrar (Course Incomplete/Withdrawal/Grade Appeal)
 - All students are required to complete the course within the semester they are signed up. Incomplete grades for the course are rarely given, will only be granted if the student provides a valid, documented excuse for not being able to complete the course on time, and

has contacted the instructor prior to the scheduled last class to request an extension. The student signs a contract that includes the incomplete course activities and the new due dates.

- Find information and dates regarding drops and withdrawals at
 - * <http://www.utpb.edu/services/academic-affairs/office-of-the-registrar/adds-drops>
- For grade appeal process go to
 - * <http://www.utpb.edu/campus-life/dean-of-students/grievances>

Course and Instructor Policies

Professionalism

This is an upper-division course in political science, as such, professionalism is required. This includes completing essays, exams, and discussions by the due date. If you do not, a score of 0 will be given for the requirement.

This course will require discourse between students and the instructor. As the course deals with multiple competing views of how international relations is conducted, spirited disagreements may persist. These are naturally welcome and expected, however make sure to be civil and criticize the weaknesses in argument, not the other person.

Technical Skills Required

I do not require many technical skills in the course. However, you must have a computer, connection to the internet, Adobe Reader. Additionally, I will post video announcements, so you must be able to view Youtube videos.

Communications Plan

Per university requirements, I am not required to keep office hours during the summer for online courses. However, I do plan on being in my office regularly and can meet with you personally at almost any given time.

Email is the best method for contacting me. My email is mcmichael_t@utpb.edu. I respond to all emails within 48 hours excepting weekends and university holidays. You may call my office. My office phone number is (432) 552 2340. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic Dishonesty is not permitted in this course. According to the Handbook of Student Conduct:

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student such as, but not

limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses (without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such acts.”

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. For complete information on UTPB student conduct and discipline procedures consult the university’s handbook at: <http://ss.utpb.edu/dean-of-students/scholastic-dishonesty/> Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will receive notification through secure communication either verbally or via email. The student may exercise the right to explain themselves or explain how the instructor made an error in judgment regarding the suspicion. If the student agrees with the assessment, I will not file a disposition of academic dishonesty with the Dean of Students and, if it is a first time offense, the course assignment will receive a score of 0. If the student disputes the allegation, I will file a disposition of academic dishonesty with the Dean of Students and the Dean of Students will continue the process. Pay special attention to misrepresenting facts. If you misrepresent any facts to gain an unfair advantage against other students (including lying to the instructor), you will be charged with academic/scholastic dishonesty. This includes false statements used to have exams reset.

Late Work & Extra Credit

There is no extra credit in this course for any reason. This is very important. If I grant extra credit to a student, I must extend that offer to all students. As a result, this requires substantial more work and effort on my part and cheapens the work done by other students who completed the assigned work at a high level. I do not accept late work. I give a 8 hour grace period from the due date (normally 11:59 P.M. on the day a unit is due) to allow for slowness in internet connections or submission issues. If you are having trouble submitting an assignment, send me an email with the material so that I know the materials were completed on time. Additionally, I may allow an extension on a unit or assignment if you explain why you cannot complete the unit or assignment at least 24 prior to the due date.

Submitting Essays

All documents in the course may be submitted in two acceptable formats: word or pdf. Word documents may either come in .doc or .docx format. If you are technically inclined, you may use tex or any other derivative (L^AT_EX, PDFL^AT_EX, or XeL^AT_EX) to compile a pdf. I don’t need your source, I just need your PDF.

Feedback

I provide extensive feedback when I hand return essays. Many students that have taken my upper-level classes before know this, but it bears repeating. I will usually write a couple of paragraphs about your work. To do this, I have to read very carefully, so be aware that I read pretty carefully.

Evaluations

At the end of the semester, you will be given an opportunity to evaluate both myself and the course. The evaluation is not mandatory or required and I will not know what you write, but it will help make the course better in the future.

Attendance and Class Participation

Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. All students are expected to do the work assigned, notify the instructor when emergencies arise.

The learning management systems contains tracking features. Statistics are collected that quantifies how often and when students are active in the course and provides information if the student has accessed different pages of the course.

Absenteeism

All the course activities have set dates to be completed and submitted. After the due dates the activities will not be available for the students. Not logging into an online course is considered absenteeism. Contact instructor immediately in case of emergency medical situation.

University Services

The university provides a number of services to students. Make sure you take advantage of these services:

- ADA Accommodation/Support: (432) 552 2630
- Advising UTPB E-Advisor
- Bookstore: (432) 552-0220
- Email, Outlook 365, my.utpb.edu Information Resources Service
- Financial Aid and Scholarship (432) 552-2620
- Library (432) 552-2370
- Registrar: (432) 552-2635
- Student Services
- Technical Support Canvas 1-866-437-0867
- Tutoring & Learning Resources If you are taking courses through UTPB the following links provide services: Smarthinking Online Tutoring (provides tutoring services), SmarterMeasure (measures learner readiness for online course).¹

Technical Requirements

- Technical Requirements as stipulated by REACH:
 - <http://www.utpb.edu/online/reach/technical-requirements>

¹This source will not help you in any way shape or form with this course. It is only in the syllabus at REACH's behest.

- Students can use cloud version of Word, PowerPoint and other Microsoft products through use of their UTPB Outlook 365 and UTPB email address. For more information refer to Student Services below or visit:
 - <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-on-computer-accounts-e-mail/office-365>
- To obtain software licensing and media for selected Microsoft titles at very low cost through a software agreement visit:
 - <http://www.utpb.edu/services/ird/information-for-students/software-distribution/microsoft-select>

Preparation for Emergencies

- Computer Crash:
 - Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.
- Complete Loss of Contact:
 - If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call instructor, and leave message regarding connectivity loss and contact information.
- Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files:
 - You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc) or any contradictions/problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

- Every student is encouraged to complete an end-of-course evaluation/survey provided by UTPB. During the last few weeks of class, you will receive an announcement through email notifying you that the Course/Instructor Survey is available. You may follow the link in the email to complete the survey using the same credentials to access your courses here. When entering the emailed Survey link you will see a list of surveys for you to complete.
- The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Important Academic Dates

- UTPB Academic Calendar: <http://www.utpb.edu/services/academic-affairs/office-of-the-registrar/academic-calendar>

Disclaimer & Rights

- Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

Sample Syllabus

Tentative Course Schedule

Week 1: June 29-July 5

- Lectures
 - Introduction to International Relations
 - The Strategic Perspective
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Introduction**.
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 2**.
 - Tannewald, Nina. 1999, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use." *International Organization* 53: 433-468.

Week 2: July 6-12

- Lectures
 - Introduction to Game Theory
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 4**.
- **Unit 1 Due Sunday, July 12th, 11:59 P.M.**

Week 3: July 13-19

- Lectures
 - Systematic Explanations of War
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 5**.

Week 4: July 20-26

- Lectures
 - Domestic Theories of War
- Readings

- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 6**.

Week 5: July 27-August 2

- Lectures
 - Democratic Peace Theory
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 14**.
 - Dafoe, Allan, Oneal, John R. and Bruce Russett. 2013. "The Democratic Peace: Weighing the Evidence and Cautious Inference." *International Studies Quarterly* 51: 201-214.
- **Unit 2 Due Sunday, August 2nd, 11:59 P.M.**

Week 6: August 3-9

- Lectures
 - International Institutions
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 7**.
 - Pevehouse, Jon. 2002. "Democracy from the Outside-In? International Organizations and Democratization." *International Organization* 56: 515-549.

Week 7: August 10-13

- Lectures
 - Human Rights
- Readings
 - Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. *Principles of International Politics, 5th Edition*. Sage CQ Press: Washington, D.C. **Chapter 9**.
- **Unit 2 Due Thursday, August 13th, 11:59 P.M.**