POLI 241 International Conflict
(Spring Quarter 2023, Wednesday 12:00PM-2:50PM) IN PERSON
On occasion, when necessary, we will meet on Zoom, link: https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/93378493966

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Office Hours: by appointment
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Course Description:

This course introduces students to quantitative approaches in international relations, with particular emphasis on contemporary research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international relations literature is so extensive, the particular sample of readings and issues that we cover in one brief quarter must inevitably be small and somewhat idiosyncratic. However, we will also focus on more general issues and develop analytical skills relevant to research design, empirical analysis, and academic discourse that have wider applicability in the study of international relations. The course will also focus on how to go beyond the role of a consumer or just evaluating the research of others to becoming active contributors and improving on existing research.

Assignments:

There are three gradable assignments in the course:

1. **Discovery**: Each student will “acquire” one research article/book each week. This must be an article or book that does **NOT** appear on the syllabus, but which is relevant to the week’s theme, as outlined by the topic and current reading list. Students should distribute a PDF version of the article to the other students and instructor no later than the afternoon before class (Tuesday).

2. **Presentation/documentation**: Each student will present the paper/article that they have discovered in class. They will also circulate a short memo of a page or less summarizing the article or book and discussing its main points. A good summary will include criticism and suggestions for extending the research provided in the particular piece. The class presentation should be about 10-15 minutes and go over any technical information in detail (what is the research design and/or model? How is it implemented or solved? What estimation technique is used? What are key strengths/weaknesses?).

   **Tear the articles apart!** There will then be a Q&A and discussion for each piece presented, stressing potential extensions, connection to the literature and alternative readings or possible future research.

3. **Research Paper**: Students will submit a replication paper, research design, or research paper. Students are required to confirm the topic of the assignment with me before they begin their research, and as the project develops. The objective of the assignment is to make significant progress towards developing a publishable piece of research. Students should select their project with this goal in mind.

The grade for the replication/research design/paper constitutes 50% of your final grade. Your selection of readings, short memos and classroom presentations will be worth 50% of your grade.

What about the “assigned” readings? A PhD implies extensive knowledge of the literature. The syllabus is basically a reading list for “comps,” (though these are in flux at the time of this writing). Most of the readings for the course are journal articles. The articles are available electronically on JSTOR. Interests will vary and time is generally at a premium, but **at a minimum** you should read at least six of the assigned required readings prior to class for each weekly course meeting. **You will not be graded specifically on whether you have done the readings.**
Professional socialization involves learning the mores of an academic community. These are not written down and are seldom taught. If you have questions about any professional topic, ask. You need to know these things. They are practical and impact your professional lives. I will give you my opinion, as always.

Note: It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any factor(s) or issues that might interfere with class performance well in advance of any problems. Appropriate measures will be taken in compliance with University of California policy and departmental practice. Plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, ask.

* Disclaimer: The syllabus is intended to provide information about the readings and requirements of the course. Although it is believed to be accurate at the time of dissemination, changes may be made without further notice. No part of this document should be construed as assigning any rights whatsoever beyond those set forth by the policies of the University of California and the Department of Political Science.

Course Materials: The syllabus is meant to be a resource for additional study and research beyond the plan of the course. The syllabus contains many readings that are not required, but are recommended. You may find these books helpful for this course and for future reference (you are not required to purchase any books).

General Reference:

"Modern Classics" (broadly conceived):

Research Design, Methodology:
Applied (substantive) Studies:


Required:

Supplementary:
A) Cumulation (progress) in IR:

B.) Evaluating Scientific Research:

C.) Data on Peace and Conflict

2. [12 April] War Onset (Dyad, System) (Jeong, Le, Pham):
   Required:
   • Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. “An Expected Utility Theory of International Conflict.” American Political Science Review 74:917-31

Supplementary:
3. [19 April] War Expansion, Intervention and Outcome (Chung, Fang, Isayeva)

Required:


Supplementary:


4. [26 April] Dynamic Conflict Processes (Rivalries, Arms Races, Reputation) (Jeong, Le, Pham)

Required:


Supplementary:


5. [3 May] Deterrence, Spirals and Weapons of Mass Destruction (Chung, Fang, Isayeva)
Required:
• Special issue of the Journal of Conflict Resolution “A Strategic Approach to Nuclear Proliferation” 53(2).

Supplementary
6. [10 May] Alliances and Military Cooperation (Jeong, Le, Pham)

Required reading:


Supplementary:


7. [17 May] Liberal War/Liberal Peace (Chung, Fang, Isayeva)

Democratic Peace:
Required:

Supplementary:


**Democratic War: Required:**


Supplementary:

Economic Interdependence/Development:

Required reading:


Supplementary:


8. [24 May] Civil Wars and Refugees (Jeong, Le, Pham)

Required:


Supplementary

9. [31 May] **Terrorism** (Chung, Fang, Isayeva)

**Required:**


10. [7 June] **Methodological innovations, data developments & theoretical advances** (Jeong, Le, Pham)

**Required:**

• Chaudoin, Stephen, Jude Hays and Raymond Hicks, "Do We Really Know the WTO Cures Cancer?" Working paper.

Supplementary:

* Replication, research design, or research paper due on Thursday 6 June (print copies only) *