Instructor

Professor Patrick James

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This is an advanced seminar on international conflict. The range of material that might be included is vast, so an effort will be made to balance overall coverage with the need to look in more depth at some especially salient areas in the literature. The seminar unfolds in five parts. Each will be described in turn.

The first part, which consists of one classroom session, provides an overview of the course as a whole. In other words, the first session takes an initial look at conflict, crisis and war – the three main types of event that will be covered, in turn, during the remainder of the semester.

The second part, which consists of six classroom sessions, covers conflict. Perspectives on international relations and conflict are discussed in the first session. Two sessions are devoted to foreign policy decision-making at a general level and by the US, respectively. The next three sessions are intended to provide depth in relation to one kind of conflict: ethno-religious. This type of strife is given priority among many possible subjects due to its centrality within international relations over the last decade and likely persistence into the future.

Crisis is covered in the third part of the course, which takes up two sessions. Crisis, as will become apparent, is a subset of conflict. It is a salient point among the more specific forms of conflict that might be isolated for further study. Put differently, crisis is the crucial breakpoint between conflict in general and full-scale war in particular.

War is the focus of the fourth part of the course and takes up five sessions. Interstate war is a subset of crisis and, among all of the events that might be selected, has attracted the most attention from those who study conflict processes. Rising in importance is intrastate war, which also will be covered in this section.

The fifth and final part of the course is a session that takes a final look at conflict, crisis and war. In sum, what have we learned in an overall sense?
Course Requirements

Take-Home Mid-term Examination (March 3 – due March 6 at 9 a.m.) 15%

Take-Home Final Examination (April 28 – due May 4 at 9 a.m.) 25%

Term Essay (due April 27, two-page outline due March 9) 30%

Seminar Leadership 15%

Class Participation 15%

Review sheets (i.e., study guides) will be provided on email so you can prepare effectively for the take-home mid-term and final exams. All of the material from the assigned readings and class discussions will be tested on the exams. The mid-term will appear on email on March 3 and a ten-page, double spaced answer is due by 9 a.m. on March 6. The respective dates for the final exam are April 28 and May 4. The final exam will be 15 double spaced pages.

The term essay, limited to 25-double spaced pages (i.e., text and notes), is due in class on April 27. The format is straightforward. I expect you to focus in greater depth on any one of the major subjects we cover on a weekly basis. A two-page outline and bibliography for your paper is due on March 9 or there will be a 20% penalty. This should be sent to me for review and approval via email. Please do visit with me as you begin to put together your outline. I expect to see a proposal for a paper that offers constructive criticism and some ideas for synthesis in a significant area of the literature on international conflict, crisis and war. The paper may take the form of a review essay, case study or aggregate data analysis; choice of method will depend upon the problem under study.

Each student will take a turn as seminar leader at one point during the semester. The date at which you will serve as seminar leader will be determined by a lottery held in the first class session. (Trades between students are permitted but must be approved in advance by the instructor.) The seminar leader is expected to (a) prepare a set of discussion points about the material that will go up on Blackboard on the Thursday preceding class; and (b) take primary responsibility for leading the discussion throughout the seminar session. The discussion points are due to me (i.e., atpatrickj@usc.edu by email attachment) at the beginning of the week before your session as seminar leader. For example, if you are seminar leader for April 13, your material is due on April 7.

A successful seminar will involve a mixture of discussion including both theory and its application to the real world. Thus the seminar leader should try to provide a series of provocative questions and issues that bring together the reading material for the week under more encompassing themes.
Your participation is very important to the success of this seminar. Thus a grade for participation in sessions other than those for which you are seminar leader also is included.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60).

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or me, immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

**Make-up Requirements**

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either to me in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not qualify as excused under university guidelines, and who notify me ahead of time may, at my discretion, complete a requirement belatedly. Any requirement turned in on the day that it is due but after the time specified will face a 20% penalty. Each additional late day will mean a further 20% deduction.

**Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty**

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalogue. Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.
Required Books


Other Required Readings

All other reading will be made available through Blackboard and/or a CD ROM.

Schedule

Part I: Overview

January 12 An Initial Look at Conflict, Crisis and War

Part II: Conflict

19 Perspectives on International Relations and Conflict

ISA Presidential Addresses: Michael Brecher, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and David Lake
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Foreign Policy and Conflict</td>
<td>Paquin, entire</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ethno-religious Conflict, I – Theory</td>
<td>Carment et al., pp. 1-41. Saideman and Ayres, 1-51</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Ethno-religious Conflict, II – Evidence</td>
<td>Carment et al., pp. 42-215 Saideman and Ayres, pp. 52-252</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Ethno-religious Conflict, III – Second Image Reversed</td>
<td>Jenne, entire</td>
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**Note:** Study guide for take-home exam will be available on email today.

**Part III: Crisis**

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Take-Home Exam Available on email at 9 a.m. on March 3 (due March 6 at 9 a.m.)

9 Diversionary Theory


Note: Two-page outline of term essay is due in class

16 Class Cancelled

Part IV: War

23 The Causes of Interstate War, I

Levy and Thompson, entire

30 The Causes of Interstate War, II

Vasquez, pp. 1-215

April 6 The Causes of Interstate War, III

Vasquez, pp. 216-404

Note: Study guide for take-home exam will be available on email today

13 The Causes of Intrastate War, I
20  The Causes of Intrastate War, II
Midlarsky, pp. 155-300

Part V: Conflict, Crisis and War

27  A Final Look at Conflict, Crisis and War

Note: Term Essay Due In Class

Note: Take-Home Exam Available on email at 9 a.m. on April 28 (due May 4 at 9 a.m.)