

SYLLABUS
International Relations 502: Conflict and Cooperation
Fall 2012
Fridays 3:30-6:20, Von KleinSmid Center 204
Professor Jacques E. C. Hymans (hymans@usc.edu)
Office hours: Wednesdays 3:20-4:50 and by appointment.

Introduction to the course:

The study of international relations is to a large extent synonymous with the study of the causes of war and peace. Both the ideas and the institutions that dominate our field were forged by war. For instance, the carnage of World War I led to the founding of the USC School of International Relations. USC President Rufus Bernhard Von KleinSmid hoped that this school, the first of its kind in the country, might help to advance the work of the new League of Nations and thereby prevent another world war from breaking out. We failed, but the “war against war” continues.

This course is split into two main sections. In the first section, we will discuss major theoretical approaches to the study of war. Some of these approaches will be familiar to those of you who have taken previous courses in IR, but it is valuable for all of us to continually deepen our understanding of them. In the second section, we turn to narrower, mostly very recent studies of particular issues in security studies. For those of you planning to write a dissertation, these books will serve as good models.

Course readings:

This is a “book-a-week” course. In almost all cases, we read the whole book. Unfortunately, this means that you will need to buy the books themselves, rather than a course reader. I apologize for the financial outlay that I am asking you to incur for this course, but in many cases I think you should be able to find most of these books online for a very reasonable price, particularly if you buy used. They are also available at the USC bookstore. Book titles are to be found in the course calendar below.

Course requirements:

- 25% for participation. This is a graduate-level course, which means that you do most of the talking. Come prepared and ready to spout.
- 20% for weekly 1-page memos (no fewer than 10 in total) on some aspect of the week’s reading that caught your interest. These must be emailed to me no later than 5 PM on the *day before class*. No extensions.
- 10% for discussion leadership. Each week, one of you will be the designated “discussion leader.” This means you will develop the class outline and main questions to be addressed. Prior to the class date, you and I will meet together to compare notes and think through the lesson plan.
- 5% for 1-2 page description of a concrete empirical puzzle about international relations, which you would like to address in your seminar paper. You are free to choose the

subject, in consultation with me. No extensions, but you can rewrite what you turn in for a higher grade.

- 5% for in-class powerpoint presentation of your draft paper (duration of 5 minutes, then another 5-10 for questions and comments). Speak with me if you would like to you're your powerpoint presentation prior to Thanksgiving break. Note that class may run late on the days when we do the presentations.
- 35% for final seminar paper. The paper should compare the value of the theories discussed in section 1 as they relate to your empirical puzzle. Paper is due by 11:59 PM on the Sunday after the last day of class.

Course schedule: (Read the entire book unless otherwise instructed.)

Session 1: 8/24. Course introduction and assignment of discussion leadership duties.

Section I: Big Theories.

Session 2: 8/31. John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (W. W. Norton, 2003).

Session 3: 9/7. John R. Oneal and Bruce Russett, *Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations* (W. W. Norton, 2001).

Session 4: 9/14. Richard Ned Lebow, *A Cultural Theory of International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), chs. 1-4, 7, 10 (353 pp.) [Reading the entire book is recommended.]

SPECIAL EVENT 9/20, 2-3:30: Talk by Ibrahim al-Marashi (Cal State San Marcos), "The Evolution of the Iraqi and Syrian Security Forces: Coup-proofing and Counter-insurgency in Two Ba'athist States" (SOS B-40)

Session 5: 9/21. J. Ann Tickner and Laura Sjoberg, *Feminism and International Relations: Conversations about the Past, Present and Future* (Routledge, 2011).

Section II: Big Issues.

Session 6: 9/28. Stephen Biddle, *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (Princeton University Press, 2006).

Session 7: 10/5. Jacques E. C. Hymans, *Achieving Nuclear Ambitions: Scientists, Politicians and Proliferation* (Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Session 8: 10/12. Ulrich Krotz, *Flying Tiger: International Relations Theory and the Politics of Advanced Weapons* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Session 9: 10/19. Peter Andreas, *Blue Helmets and Black Markets: The Business of Survival in the Siege of Sarajevo* (Cornell University Press, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0801443558)

Session 10: 10/26. Richard Price, *The Chemical Weapons Taboo* (Cornell University Press, 2008)

Session 11: 11/2. NO CLASS TODAY. TURN IN YOUR PUZZLE MEMOS VIA EMAIL BY 9 PM TONIGHT.

Session 12: 11/9. Scott Straus, *The Order of Genocide: Race, Power and War in Rwanda* (Cornell University Press, 2008).

Session 13: 11/16. Ido Oren, *Our Enemies and Us: America's Rivalries and the Making of Political Science* (Cornell University Press, 2002).

11/23: THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Session 15: 11/30. **Powerpoint presentations on seminar papers.**

Session 16: 12/7. **Powerpoint presentations on seminar papers.**