International Conflict
(Political Science 370)

Instructor: Dr. Uk Heo
Office: Bolton 614
Phone: 229-6681
e-mail: heouk@uwm.edu

Objectives
        In this class, we review the literature in political science on international conflicts. These include Realism (i.e. balance of power theory, power transition theory), Rational Choice Theory in international conflict (i.e. expected utility theory of war), terrorism, the political economy of defense spending, deterrence, democratic peace, the trade-conflict nexus, long cycle theory of war, and civil wars.

Requirements
        2 exams (30 percent each): You will be tested on the assigned readings. Exams will have multiple choice questions and a short essay. The essay question will be graded separately after the exam period is over.
        10 Discussions (3 percent each)
        A research paper (10 percent): Students are free to choose the topic of the paper related to international/civil conflicts. Turn in the paper to the dropbox on D2L.
        Term Paper Guidelines: The length requirement is 5-7 pages (regular font of Times New Roman with 12 point font size and 1 inch margin). You MUST have at least FIVE references.

        1. You MUST have a clearly and narrowly defined question. I suggest you develop a research question in a literally question form. For instance, what led North Korea to develop nuclear weapons? Do arms races lead to conflicts?

        2. In the introduction, you introduce the research question and describe why the question is meaningful/interesting.

        At the beginning of the body, you provide background information. If it is a case study or analytical paper, you provide historical information so that the reader can understand the background. If it is a theoretical paper, you provide a literature review on the subject.

        3. In the main body of the paper, you provide your answer to the research question. You MUST provide evidence to back up your argument/answer to the research question.

        4. In the conclusion, you summarize what you did in the paper and discuss implications of your study.

Readings
All the readings will be available at the course site under CONTENT.

Grades

Exams will have multiple choice questions and a short essay question taken through the D2L site. You can take exams at any time during the week it is available, but you will only have one opportunity to take it. **Once you begin the exam, you MUST finish it.** You **cannot** start an exam, then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (50 minutes), so you will have a set amount of time to take the exam once you begin. You should make sure that you have set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam just in case you need it. You should also make sure that you have a secure connection before you begin. **Internet connection problem cannot be an excuse for not finishing it in time**. You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own.

You will get full credit for your discussion response as long as it is 200 words long and you comment on another student's response. Again, your response **MUST be at least 200 words** in length. If your response is shorter than 200 words or if your response is posted late or if you fail to comment on another student's response, you will get partial credit for your discussion response. There will be no credit for late comment on another student's post. You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) in the "Discussion Questions Forum" on the D2L site by Sunday at midnight. **Keep in mind that all responses and posting on the Discussion Questions forum must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face to face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should address the question itself and demonstrate that you understand the topic under discussion. When you respond to someone else's post, do so with respect and thought. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated**. You should engage each other's ideas and respond in a thoughtful, constructive, informed manner.

There is no other extra credit or curve. Any student who cheats on an exam or commits any other act of academic dishonesty (e.g. plagiarism) will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate University authorities. Copying someone else's work without proper quote or citation is plagiarism. You MUST avoid plagiarism when you post your response to discussion questions and research paper.

A = 93-100	A- = 90-92.9		
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9	
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9	
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9	F = Below 60

Flow of the Class: For this course, a week will start on Monday at 12:01 AM and end on Sunday 11:59PM. I post a few key questions under Lecture Notes to help you what to focus in your reading. Posted my lecture notes combined with the readings from the textbook, will constitute the materials for the week. You are expected to do the reading, access the lecture notes, and answer the discussion question and comment on another student's post (**This is your responsibility**).

Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM e-mail accounts. If you don't regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly (**This is your responsibility**). When you need to e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

Schedule

Week 1 (September 3-8) Introduction
<u>Post a brief introduction of yourself in the discussion forum. This is NOT a discussion, so the discussion response requirement does not apply here.</u>

Week 2 (September 9-15) War and Rationality (Expected Utility Theory of War)
Reading: Geller, Daniel and J. David Singer (1998). *Nations at War*. Cambridge University Press. Ch. 2. Pp. 31-45.
<u>Discussion 1: Evaluate the expected utility theory of war. Do you agree or disagree with the assumptions and decision process of the theory and why?</u>

Week 3 (September 16-22) Realism—National Power
Reading: Organski, A. F. K. and Jacek Kugler (1980). *The War Ledger*. University of Chicago Press. Pp. 13-38.
<u>Discussion 2: Which do you think is a better measure of national power between GNP and SBS measure of national capability and why?</u>

Week 4 (September 23-29) Power Parity and Major Wars
Reading: Kugler, Jacek and Douglas Lemke (1998). *Parity and War*. University of Michigan Press. Pp. 3-33.
<u>Discussion 3: The Balance of Power theory argues that power parity leads to peace while the Power Transition perspective asserts otherwise. Which perspective is more appealing to you and why?</u>

Week 5 (September 30 - October 6) Liberalism--Democratic Peace
Reading: Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett (1993) "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986" *American Political Science Review* 87: 624-638.
Rosato, Sebastian. (2003). "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory." *American Political Science Review* 585-602.
<u>Discussion 4: Does democracy really not fight each other? Is democracy more pacific?</u>

Week 6 (October 7-13) Liberalism--International Trade and Interdependence
Mansfield, Edward and Brian Pollins (2001) "The Study of Interdependence and Conflict: Recent Advances, Open Questions, and Directions for Future Research" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(6): 834-859.
<u>Discussion 5: Does economic interdependence lead to peace?</u>

Week 7 (October 14-20) **Mid-term Exam**

Week 8 (October 21-27) Economic Sanctions
Pape, Robert A. 1997. "Why economic sanctions do not work." *International Security* 22 (2): 90-136.
Hovi, Jon, Robert Huseby, and Detlef Sprinz. (2005). "When do (imposed) economic sanctions work? *World Politics* 57:479-99
<u>Discussion 6: If sanctions are not effective, why do nations employ sanctions?</u>

Week 9 (October 28-November 3) The Political Economy of Defense
  Posted Reading Material for this week.
  Discussion 7: What are the economic effects of defense spending on growth?

Week 10 (November 4-10) Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict Onset
  Collier, Paul. V.L. Elliott. Havard Hegre, Anke Hoeffler, Marta Reynal-Querol, and Nicholas Sambanis (2003). *Breaking the Conflict Trap: Civil War and Development Policy*. Ch. 3. Pp. 53-92.
  Discussion 8: What causes civil war?

Week 11 (November 11-17) Long Cycle Theories of War
  Goldstein, Joshua. (1988). *Long Cycles: Prosperity and War in the Modern Age*. Yale University Press. Ch. 2. Pp. 21-39 & Ch. 5, pp. 99-121.
  Discussion 9: Do you agree or disagree with the cyclical theories of international war and why?

Week 12 (November 18-24) Terrorism and International Conflict
  Crenshaw, Martha. (2003). "Terrorism and International Violence." In Manus Midlarsky ed. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
  Discussion 10: What do you think are the objectives of the 9-11 terrorist attack and did they achieve their goals?

Week 13 (November 25-December 1) Thanksgiving

Week 14 (December 2-8) Deterrence
  Huth, Paul and Bruce Russett (1984). "What Makes Deterrence Work? Cases from 1900 to 1980"*World Politics* 36:496-526.
  No Discussion: **Research Paper Due**

Week 15 (December 9-15): **Final Exam.**