Objectives
In this class, we review the literature in political science on international conflicts. In the process, we examine the leading theories, their key variables and research methods. These include balance of power theory, power transition theory, expected utility theory of war, hegemonic stability theory, long cycle theory of war, diversionary theory of war, arms race/arms control, deterrence, democratic peace, and the trade-conflict nexus.

Requirements
a) A research paper (40%): 15-20 double spaced pages in text (put all the tables in the back)
   b) Final Exam (25%)
   c) Class attendance and participation (25%)
   d) Research Paper Proposal (10%): 3-5 pages

Academic misconduct is an act in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation, uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise, forges or falsifies academic documents or records, intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others, engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance, or assists other students in any of these acts. Prohibited conduct includes cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Schedule
Week 1 (1/22): Introduction

Week 2 (2/3): War and Rationality (Expected Utility Theory of War)
   Ch. 3: The Expected Utility Theory
Recommend:

Week 3 (2/10): Realism--Power Parity and Major Wars

Week 4 (2/17): Liberalism--Democratic Peace

Recommended:

Week 5 (2/21): Liberalism--International Trade, Interdependence, International Organizations, and War


Recommended:


Week 6 (3/3): Economic Sanctions


Recommended:


Week 7 (3/10): The Political Economy of Defense


**Recommended:**


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**Week 8**

Spring Recess

**Week 9 (3/24): Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict I: Onset**


**Week 10 (3/31): Civil Wars and Ethnic Conflict II: Duration, Expansion, and Effects**

DeRouen, Karl Jr. and David Sobek. (2004). “The Dynamics of Civil War Duration and


Recommended:


Week 11 (4/7): Domestic Politics, Use of Force and Diversionary Theory of War


Week 12 (4/14): Term Paper Proposal Due, Presentation and Discussion

Week 13 (4/21): Deterrence


Week 14 (4/28): Terrorism and International Conflict


Week 15 (5/5): Term Paper Due and Presentation

Week 16: Final Exam