This course is designed for first year Ph.D. students. It explores major concepts and key research approaches in the field of international relations.

The following books are available for purchase on-line and at the UCSD bookstore.


Copies of these books are also on reserve at the IR/PS library. Other readings are available online (UCSD Library). Reading the “additional reading” is not required.

**Course requirements:**

**Written:** *three five-page papers (each 25% of grade).* Each paper will analyze one or more of the readings assigned for the week. Students select the readings for each paper. Papers are due before the class in which the readings are discussed.
Class participation (25% of grade): based on leadership of and participation in seminar discussions.

One or more seminar participants will introduce each week’s topic and readings. You should not write a paper on readings that you present in class.

Keep your presentation brief—at most ten minutes per person. Use handouts or PowerPoint if you wish, but only as a supplement to your presentation. In your presentation, approach all readings critically: a summary of the reading will not suffice. If possible, connect the readings in different weeks.

I. September 22: Introduction: International relations, politics, and paradigms


*R. Harrison Wagner, War and the State, chapter 1 (especially pp. 12-52)


II. September 29: The units of international relations: states and other international actors

*Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics, chapter 5.

*R. Harrison Wagner, War and the State, chapter 3, esp. pp. 118-129


UNITS AND THEIR PREFERENCES


**III. October 6: Preferences and perceptions: individuals, groups and beliefs**


Additional reading:

Michael J. Hiscox, *International Trade and Political Conflict*

**IV. October 13: Domestic institutions and international behavior**


*Helen V. Milner, *Interests, Institutions, and Information*, chapters 1-4, 9 and one of the remaining chapters (5-8)


Additional reading:


Lisa L. Martin, *Democratic Commitments: Legislatures and International Cooperation*.


**RELATIONS AMONG UNITS**

**V. October 20: Relations among units: bargaining, strategic interaction, and alliance formation**


**Additional reading:**


**VI. October 27: Relations among units: explaining war**

*Interstate war*


*Robert Powell, *In the Shadow of Power: States and Strategies in International Politics*, chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5.
*R. Harrison Wagner, *War and the State*, chapters 4 and 5

**Internal Conflict**


**Additional reading: interstate war**

D. Scott Bennett and Allan C. Stam, *The Behavioral Origins of War*
Joshua Goldstein, *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*

**Additional reading: internal conflict**

Rui J. P. de Figueiredo Jr. and Barry R. Weingast, “The Rationality of Fear: Political Opportunism and Ethnic Conflict,” in Barbara Walter and Jack Snyder, eds.,


VII. November 3: Relations among units: international institutions


Additional reading:


Michael J. Gilligan, “Is There a Broader-Deeper Tradeoff in International Multilateral Agreements?,” International Organization, 58, 3 (Summer 2004), pp. 459-484.


Beth Simmons, “International Law and State Behavior: Commitment and Compliance in International Monetary Affairs,” American Political Science Review, 94 (4), pp. 819-834.

VIII. November 10: Anarchy, hierarchy, and networks


Additional reading:


IX. November 17: Environments and outcomes

*Lars-Erik Cederman, Emergent Actors in World Politics: How States and Nations Develop and Dissolve, chapters 1-3.

Additional reading:

Kristian Gleditsch, All International Politics is Local.
Edward D. Mansfield, Power, Trade, and War.
Edward D. Mansfield and Brian M. Pollins, editors, Economic Interdependence and International Conflict.
Jon C. Pevehouse, Democracy From Above: Regional Organizations and Democratization.
Bruce Russett and John Oneal, Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations
Gerald Schneider, Katherine Barbieri, and Nils Petter Gleditsch, editors, Globalization and Armed Conflict.

X. December 1: International normative change: causes and consequences


Additional reading:


