PS 247A Quantitative Approaches to International Relations
(Fall Quarter 2011, SSB 104, Thursday 3PM-5:50PM)

Erik Gartzke (egartzke@ucsd.edu, SSB 327)
Tel: (858) 534 8211 (Please note that I don’t use voice mail, email is much better)

Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5PM and by appointment
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Course Description:

This course introduces students to quantitative approaches to international relations, with particular emphasis on contemporary research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international relations literature is so extensive, the particular readings and issues that we cover in one brief quarter must inevitably be a small and somewhat idiosyncratic sample. However, we will also focus on more general issues and develop analytical skills relevant to research design, empirical analysis, and academic discourse that have wider applicability in the study of international relations. The course will also focus on how to go beyond the role of a consumer or just evaluating the research of others to becoming active contributors and improving on existing research.

There are two assignments: First, you will submit two short (3-5 pages) papers proposing extensions on the readings for a particular week. These short papers should be distributed to the class participants ahead of the meeting time (email, at least 24 hours in advance). Each student writing a paper for the week must prepare a short class presentation and be ready to lead discussion. The goal of this exercise is not to summarize the readings as others in the class will already be familiar with the assignment. Rather, a good paper discusses the broader issues, themes, and questions underlying the readings or identifies problems with research design or potential flaws in the particular articles. The papers serve to jump-start a more focused in-class discussion.

Second, you must submit a replication paper, a research design, or a research paper. The paper is due at the end of the course. The papers will also be presented to the class during the final week of the quarter. You are encouraged to discuss your topic with me before you begin your research, and as the project develops.

The grade for the paper will constitute 60% of your final grade. The remaining 40% of your grade will be based on class participation (this includes the short papers, class presentation, and in-class discussion.).

Most of the readings for the course are journal articles. The articles are available electronically on JSTOR or through the UCSD library home page. Links will also be available online at (http://dss.ucsd.edu/~egartzke) or through the library electronic reserves system. Interests will vary and time is often scarce, but at a minimum you should read at least six of the assigned required readings each week (if you cannot cover them all).

Professional socialization involves learning the mores of the community. These are not written down and are seldom taught. If you have questions about any professional topic, ask. I will give you my opinion, as always.

Note: It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any factor(s) that might interfere with class performance well in advance of any problems. Appropriate measures will be taken in compliance with the University of California policy and departmental practice. Plagiarism is a violation of your academic integrity. If you have questions about what constitutes original research, or how to reference the work of others, ask me.

* Disclaimer: The syllabus is intended to provide information about the readings and requirements of the course. Although it is believed to be accurate at the time of dissemination, changes may be made without further notice. No part of this document should be construed as assigning any rights whatsoever beyond those set forth by the policies of the University of California and the Department of Political Science.
Course Materials: The syllabus is meant to be a resource for additional study and research beyond the plan of the course. The syllabus contains many readings that are not required, but are recommended. You may find a number of books helpful for this course and for future reference (you are not required to purchase).

General Reference:

Research Design, Methodology:

Applied (substantive) Studies:
1. [22 September] Introduction to Quantitative Research
Required:

Supplementary:
A.) Cumulation (progress) in IR:

B.) Evaluating Scientific Research:
C. Data on Peace and Conflict


2. [29 September] War Onset (Dyad, System):

Required:


Supplementary:


3. [6 October] War Expansion, Intervention and Outcome:

Required:


Supplementary:


Required:


Supplementary:


5. [20 October] Deterrence, Spirals and Weapons of Mass Destruction:

Required:


Special issue of the Journal of Conflict Resolution “A Strategic Approach to Nuclear Proliferation” 53(2).
Supplementary


6. [27 October] Alliances and Military Cooperation:

**Required reading:**


**Supplementary:**


7. [3 November] Liberal War/Liberal Peace

Democratic Peace:

Required:


Supplementary:


Democratic War:
Required:


Supplementary:

Economic Interdependence/Development:

Required reading:


Supplementary:


8. [10 November] Civil Wars and Refugees:
Required:

Supplementary
9. [17 November] Terrorism:

Required:


Supplementary:


10. [1 December] Methodological innovations, data developments, and theoretical advances:

Required:


Supplementary:


* Replication, research design, or research paper due on Thursday 8 December (print copies only) *