This course is designed for first year Ph.D. students. It assumes some familiarity with major concepts in political science. It explores major concepts in the study of international relations and key research approaches in the field.

The following books are available for purchase at the UCSD bookstore. You may also want to buy them on-line.


Copies of these books are also on reserve at the SSH library. All other readings are available on e-reserves at the UCSD Library. “Additional reading” is not required.

**Course requirements:**

*Written (75% of grade): three five-page papers (each 25% of grade).* Each paper will analyze one or more of the readings assigned for the week. Students select which weeks they want to write on. Papers are due before class.

*Class participation (25% of grade):* based on participation in the seminar discussions.

**I. January 9: Introduction: International relations, politics, and paradigms**


II. January 16: The units of international relations: states and other international actors


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

III. January 23: Preferences and perceptions: individuals, groups and beliefs


*Additional reading:*

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

**IV. January 30: 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:*


V. February 6: Relations among units: bargaining, strategic interaction, and alliance formation


Additional reading:


VI. February 13: Relations among units: anarchy, hierarchy, and networks


*Margaret E. Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders*, chapters 1 and 6


Additional reading:


**VII. February 20: 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.

**VIII. February 27: Systems, environments, and outcomes**


**Additional reading:**


Kristian Gleditsch, *All International Politics is Local.*


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.*

**IX. March 5: Explaining war**


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


**Additional reading:**


**X. March 12: Domestic and international explanations—human rights and internal war**

Read either human rights or internal conflict.

**Human rights**


**Internal Conflict**


**Additional reading:**


