1. Introduction

This course offers a window into the systematic study of international and internal conflict and war. We will review the evolution of theory and empirical research on the causes, courses, and consequences of political conflicts between and within states. We will critically the research on these topics focusing on both the way systematic research on this topic evolved over time, how it changed, and what it contributed to our knowledge and understanding of these phenomena. We will contrast research that we characterize as “scientific” with research that uses more traditional methods. We will examine the key factors—both domestic and international—that affect the outbreak, duration, and termination of such violent processes.

The course exposes the students to a wide array of methodologies used in the scientific study of war—including game theory, computational modeling, and statistical analysis. It contrasts these methodologies with more traditional approaches including historical analyses, case studies, and discourse analysis.

Students are strongly urged to take both POL 3 and POL 51. POL 3 introduces the students to the key concepts and theories of international relations. POL 51 introduces students to basic concepts and approaches in the scientific study of politics. These courses serve as an important background to the material covered in this course.

2. Course Requirements

Students are required to cover the reading for each of the sessions. While I do not plan on testing this in class, at the present time, I will ask questions in class based on the readings. If it turns out that you have neglected your readings, I will insert one or more pre-announced quizzes. Student participation in class discussion would earn you up to a 5% extra credit. Your grade in this course is based on the following:
   a. Midterm—October 27. Midterm will include a set of brief essays and a set of IDs. 25% of the final grade.
   b. Term Paper—Due in class on November 22. Up to 5,000 words. Topics and structure of paper will be posted on Smartsite. 25% of the final grade.
   c. Final Exam—Date to be announced. Includes major essay, short essays, and IDs. 50% of the final grade.

Appeal Policy. Students have the right to appeal a grade that they believe is unfair. The appeal policy is as follows:
   a. Deadline for appeal: up to a week after the posting of the grade (or return of the paper to student).
   b. Process: student will write a brief memo explaining the reasons for the appeal and will hand it to the instructor. The instructor will respond in writing up to three days after the appeal has submitted. The response to the appeal is the final decision on the grade.
   c. Note. Grades can remain the same, or they can be raised or lowered following an appeal.

3. Core Readings:
There are two required books for this course:


In addition, article assignments will be listed below.

**Week 1: What Is War?**
- a. Definitions of wars and conflicts
- b. Types of warfare: domestic and international
- c. Characteristics of international and internal conflicts
- d. Levels of analysis in the study of conflict
- e. Data on domestic and international conflict

**Readings:**

Zeev Maoz, Vincent Cevasco, Paul L. Johnson, and Aaron Shreve 2015. The Dyadic Militarized Interstate Disputes Dataset.


**Week 2: National Level of Analysis**
- a. Characteristics of War-Prone states and societies
- b. Expected Utility analysis of conflict
- c. Domestic Processes and conflict
- d. Regimes and Conflict
- e. Economics and conflict
- f. Ethnicity, Religiosity, and Conflict

**Readings:**
Bruce Bueno de Mesquita 1981.
Zeev Maoz 1989.
Collier and Hoeffler 2004.
Zeev Maoz and Errol A. Henderson 2015.

**Week 3: The Dyadic Level of Analysis**
- a. What are dyads? Why do they matter?
b. Bargaining theories of conflict
c. Dangerous Dyads
d. The Dyadic Democratic Peace
e. Alliances
f. Rivalries
g. Issues and Conflict

Readings:
Levy and Thompson 2010, pp. 55-82.
Vasquez 2012, pp. 3-110.
Maoz and Russett 1993.

Week 4: Systemic Theories of Conflict
a. Models of system structure
b. Power balances and conflict
c. Network analysis of conflict and peace
d. Relationship between interstate and civil wars

Readings:
Levy and Thompson 2011, pp. 28-54.
Maoz, JPR 2006.
Maoz, AJPS 2009
Braumoller, APSR 2008.

Week 5: The Management of Conflict
a. Strategy and Bargaining
b. Attrition
c. Escalation
d. Expansion

Readings:
Stam and Reitter.
Slantchev APSR 2005.

Week 6: The Termination and Consequences of Conflict
a. War Termination
b. Victory and Defeat in Conflict
c. Economic and Political Consequences of conflict

Readings:
Organski and Kugler. The Phoenix Factor
Maoz, JCR 1983
Biddle, JCR 2005

Week 7: Methods in the study of Conflict: (a) Expected Utility and Game Theory
a. Expected Utility Models
b. Game Theoretic Models of Bargaining
   c. Evolutionary game theory and cooperation during conflict

Fearon *IO* 1994.
Axelrod 1984

**Week 8: Methods in the Study of Conflict: (b) Computational and Agent-Based Models**
   a. Modeling Conflict Processes via Computer Simulations
   b. Components and validation of ABMs

**Readings:**

**Week 9: Methods in the Study of Conflict: (c) Statistical Models and Network Analysis**
   a. Statistical models of war
   b. Networks of War and Peace

**Week 10: Evaluating Methods and Knowledge**