

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Political Science 5330

Fall 2021

Professor

Gaspare M. Genna, Ph. D.

Department of Political Science

Office Hours (In-person or Virtual): T 4:30-5:30pm and by appointment

E-mail: ggenna@utep.edu

Class Time/Location: T 6-8:50pm/Undergraduate Learning Center 334 and Online

Catalog Description

Examines the political structures and the interactions that characterize the global nation- state political system.

Course Content

The aim of the course is to introduce the main theories and evidence of International Relations. Scholars approach the study of IR in various ways. However, the scholarship does have a long history in the utilization of a science-based epistemology, one that we will deeply tap into during the semester. In addition, the subfield has moved away from the purely theoretical approach that marked the realist and neorealist era and is evolving towards more rigorous testing. In keeping pace with this evolution, we will study and judge the theories by first examining what they are attempting to explain, how well they explain, and if the empirical evidence supports their explanation.

After a relatively brief discussion of methodology, the course will tackle one broad question: Why are some states' relations characterized by conflict while others are cooperative? We will investigate this question in the areas of conflict and cooperation separately, and sometimes simultaneously. At the end of the course, however, we may see that conflict and cooperation are two sides of a continuum.

Technology Requirements

Some of the course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, a webcam, and a microphone. Many, but not all, computer/laptop systems include a video camera and microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat

Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Course Communication

Because some of this course will be remote learning, we will not see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours.

However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** I will have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours are in-person, however, you can request a virtual meeting and I will send you a Zoom link. Please see the days and times at the top of this syllabus.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

UTEP COVID-19 Precautions

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Course Resources

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

Course Policies

We will follow policies outlined in the 2021-2022 Graduate Catalogue (<http://catalog.utep.edu/grad/>). In addition, all participants will follow a professional decorum at all times.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally within the first two weeks to discuss any special needs you might have. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

E-Mail: cass@utep.edu

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Course Obligations

There is a mix of obligations you must meet to fulfill the requirements of the course. This includes 1) participation in discussions; 2) two exams (midterm and final); and 3) five essays on the course readings.

- All assignments and exams will be turned in using Blackboard (Bb).
- Please do not send assignments or exam to me via email. Let me know if you are having problems uploading assignments and exams. The UTEP Help Desk is your best resource since my technical qualifications are limited.
- Think ahead regarding when obligations are due. Late assignments or exams will be accepted for a grade if you are experiencing documented emergency circumstances.

All assignments that are completed outside the seminar are to be typed using the following format:

- 1) double spaced (no extra lines in-between paragraphs),
- 2) new times roman font (12 point),
- 3) 1 inch margins,
- 4) title page (title, course, name, and date),
- 5) page numbers (page one is the first page of text),
- 6) citations (footnotes or endnotes) and a bibliography when necessary.

Participation

What distinguishes a seminar format from the lecture variety is the degree of student participation. During the seminar, the professor will present the ideas of the weeks' readings (the course Blackboard page has a folder with all the course readings) and pose several questions that will begin our discussion. While he has certain broad goals each evening, there will be a degree of flexibility to where the discussion will take us. The aim is to leave each evening with a deeper understanding of the readings so that students can synthesize and offer a constructive critique of the research and research agenda of the scholarship.

Exams

There will be two take home exams for the course: one midterm and one final. The examination answers will be in an essay format. The lengths are approximately five pages for the midterm and approximately seven pages for the final, excluding references. The midterm will cover the material presented up to October 12 and the final will be cumulative. The professor will post the exam questions 24 hours before they are due. The exams are due by 11:59 Mountain Time October 12 and December 10, respectively. Students will upload their exams using the Blackboard course site. Collaboration on the exams is strictly prohibited.

Essays

You will need to write five essays that synthesize and critique a particular week's readings in five to seven pages. Please upload them onto Blackboard. Each essay is due one week after the particular week you choose. Which week you choose is up to your discretion with one exception: please do not write an essay based on the first night's readings.

A synthesis and critique needs to answer the following questions, but organized in a thematic manner. First, what are the major points of the readings? What are they trying to explain and what are the explanations? While it is tempting to create a ledger of all that was said, recall that you only have five to seven pages. Instead present the answers to the questions in the critique. The critique should answer the following in a thematic manner: What are the major problems of the readings? What can be done to improve the explanations and/or testing of the theories? We will discuss the essays' content on the first night and follow-up as the semester progresses.

Grades

Each obligation will be given a score out of a total 100 points and have the weights found below in determining students' final grades for the course. Letter grades will be based on the absolute scale.

Requirement	Due	Weight
Midterm Exam	October 12	15 percent
Final Exam	December 10	25 percent
Five Essays	Students' Discretion	40 percent (8 percent each)
Participation	All Meetings	20 percent

All letter grades have the following distribution of points:

Points	Letter
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Readings

August 24 – The Scientific Study of International Relations

- 1) Geddes, Barbara. 1990. "How the cases you choose affect the answers you get: Selection bias in comparative politics." *Political Analysis* 2(1): 131-150.
- 2) Shepsle, Kenneth A. and Mark S. Bocheck. 1997. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. Chapters 1 & 2
- 3) Elman, Colin and Miriam Fendius Elman. 2003. "Lessons from Lakatos" in Elman and Elman (eds.), *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*.
- 4) Hoover, Kenneth and Todd Donovan. 2004. *The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking (8th edition)*. Chapters 1 & 2

August 31 – Realism and Neorealism and Their Assessments

- 1) Waltz, Kenneth N. 1986. "Anarchic Orders and Balances of Power," in Robert Keohane (ed), *Neorealism and Its Critics*.
- 2) Milner, Helen. 1991. "The assumption of anarchy in international relations theory: a critique." *Review of International Studies* 17(1): 67-85.
- 3) LaRoche Christopher D. and Simon F. Pratt. 2018. "Kenneth Waltz is Not a Neorealist (and Why That Matters)." *European Journal of International Relations*. 24(1):153-176.
- 4) Jervis, Robert. 2003. "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate," in Elman and Elman (eds), *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*.

September 7 – Power Transition Theory

- 1) Vasquez, John A. 1996. "When Are Power Transitions Dangerous? An Appraisal and Reformulation of Power Transition Theory," in Jacek Kugler and Douglas Lemke (eds), *Parity and War: Evaluations and Extensions of The War Ledger*.
- 2) Lemke, Douglas. 2002. *Regions of War and Peace*. Chapter 2.
- 3) DiCicco, Jonathan M. and Jack S. Levy. 2003. "Power Transition Research Program: Lakatosian Analysis," in Elman and Elman (eds), *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*.
- 4) Larson, Deborah Welch, and Alexei Shevchenko. 2010. "Status seekers: Chinese and Russian responses to US primacy." *International Security* 34(4): 63-95.

September 14 – Hegemonic Stability Theory

- 1) Krasner, Stephen D. 1976. "State Power and the Structure of International Trade." *World Politics*, 28 (3).
- 1) Snidal, Duncan. 1985. "The Limits of Hegemonic Stability Theory." *International Organization*, 39 (4).
- 2) Gowa, Joanne. 1989. "Rational Hegemons, Excludable Goods, and Small Groups: An Epitaph for Hegemonic Stability Theory?" *World Politics*, 41 (3).
- 3) Bussmann, Margit and John R. Oneal. 2007. "Do Hegemons Distribute Private Goods? A Test of Power-Transition Theory." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51 (1).

September 21 - The Role of Institutions in International Relations

- 1) Snidal, Duncan. 1986. "The Game Theory of International Politics," in Kenneth A. Oye (ed), *Cooperation Under Anarchy*.
- 2) Koremenos, Barbara, Charles Lipson, and Duncan Snidal. 2001. "Rational Design of International Institutions." *International Organization* 55 (4).
- 3) Keohane, Robert O. and Lisa L. Martin. 2003. "Institutional Theory as a Research Program," in Elman and Elman (eds), *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*.
- 4) Dai, Xinyuan. 2005. "Why comply? The domestic constituency mechanism." *International Organization* 59(2): 363-398.
- 5) Donno, Daniela. 2010. "Who is punished? Regional intergovernmental organizations and the enforcement of democratic norms." *International Organization* 64(4): 593-625.

September 28 – The Democratic Peace

- 1) Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. “Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986.” *The American Political Science Review*, (87) 3.
- 2) Ray, James L. 2003. “A Lakatosian View of the Democratic Peace Research Program,” in Elman and Elman (eds). *Progress in International Relations Theory: Appraising the Field*.
- 3) Farnham, Barbara. 2003. “The Theory of Democratic Peace and Threat Perception.” *International Studies Quarterly* 47(3): 395-415.
- 4) Tomz, Michael and Jessica Weeks. 2013. “Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace,” *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 849-865.

October 5 – Decision Makers and Decision Making

- 1) Janis, Irving L. 1972. *Victims of Groupthink: A Psychological Study of Foreign-Policy Decisions and Fiascoes*. Chapters 1 & 8.
- 2) Zagare, Frank. 1990. “Rational Choice Models and International Relations Research” *International Interactions*. 15 (4).
- 3) Levy, Jack S. 2013. “Psychology and Foreign Policy Decision-Making.” In Leonie Huddy, David O. Sears, and Jack S. Levy (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Psychology*.
- 4) Hermann, Margaret G., and Charles F. Hermann. 1989. “Who makes foreign policy decisions and how: An empirical inquiry.” *International Studies Quarterly* 33(4): 361-387.

Midterm Examination due October 12 by 11:59pm Mountain Time

October 19 – The Theory of Deterrence

- 1) Jervis, Robert. 1979. “Deterrence Theory Revisited.” *World Politics* 31(2).
- 2) Zagare, Frank C. 1996. “Classical Deterrence Theory: A Critical Assessment.” *International Interactions* 21(4).
- 3) Signorino, Curtis S. and Ahmer Tarar. 2006. “A Unified Theory and Test of Extended Immediate Deterrence.” *American Journal of Political Science* 50 (3).
- 4) Narang, Neil, and Rupal N. Mehta. 2019. “The unforeseen consequences of extended deterrence: Moral hazard in a nuclear client state.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63(1): 218-250.

October 26 – National Cycles and International Relations

- 1) Modelski, George. 1978. “The Long Cycle of Global Politics and the Nation-State.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 20 (2).
- 2) Goldstein, Joshua S. 1985. “Kondratieff Waves as War Cycles.” *International Studies Quarterly*, 29 (4).
- 3) Doran, Charles. 2003. “Confronting the Principles of the Power Cycle” in Manus Midlarsky (ed), *Handbook of War Studies II*.
- 4) Tessman, Brock F. and Steve Chan. 2004. “Power Cycles, Risk Propensity, and Great-Power Deterrence.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 48 (2).

November 2 – Constructivism

- 1) Wendt, Alexander. 1992. "Anarchy is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics." *International Organization* 46(2).
- 2) Finnemore, Martha and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change." *International Organization* 52(4).
- 3) Barkin, J. Samuel. 2003. "Realist Constructivism." *International Studies Review* 5(3).
- 4) Sala, Brian R., John T. Scott, and James F. Spriggs II. 2007. "The Cold War on Ice: Constructivism and the Politics of Olympic Figure Skating Judging." *Perspectives on Politics* 5(1).

November 9 – Domestic Politics and International Relations

- 1) Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42(3).
- 2) Fearon, James D. 1994. "Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes." *American Political Science Review* 88(3).
- 3) Subotić, Jelena. 2016. "Narrative, Ontological Security, and Foreign Policy Change." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 12(4): 610–627.
- 4) Weeks, Jessica L. 2008. "Autocratic audience costs: Regime type and signaling resolve." *International Organization* 62(1): 35-64.

November 16 – International Trade: Cooperation and Conflict

- 1) Pollins, Brian M. 1989. "Conflict, Cooperation, and Commerce: The Effect of International Political Interactions on Bilateral Trade Flows." *American Journal of Political Science* 33(3).
- 2) Sayrs, Lois W. 1990. "Expected Utility and Peace Science: An Assessment of Trade and Conflict." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 11(1).
- 3) Gowa, Joanne and Edward D. Mansfield. 1993. "Power Politics and International Trade." *The American Political Science Review* 87(2).
- 4) Mansfield, Edward D. and Rachel Bronson. 1997. "Alliances, Preferential Trading Arrangements, and International Trade." *The American Political Science Review* 91(1).

November 30 – Regional Integration

- 1) Haas, Ernst B. 1961. "International Integration: The European and the Universal Process." *International Organization* 15(3).
- 2) Mansfield, Edward D., Helen V. Milner, and B. Peter Rosendorff. 2000. "Free to Trade: Democracies, Autocracies, and International Trade" *The American Political Science Review* 94(2).
- 3) Genna, Gaspare M. and Taeko Hiroi. 2004. "Power Preponderance and Domestic Politics: Explaining Regional Economic Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, 1960-1997." *International Interactions* 30(2).
- 4) Schneider, Christina J. 2017. "The Political Economy of Regional Integration." *Annual Review of Political Science* 20.

Final Exam due December 10 by 11:59pm Mountain Time