

Approaches to International Security

GLBL 275/ PLSC 188

Yale University
Jackson School of Global Affairs

Fall 2022, Monday & Wednesday 2:30-3:45, Harkness Hall 119
This version: August 31, 2022

Contact Information

Instructor: James Sundquist
Email: james.sundquist@yale.edu
Office: Rosenkranz Hall 124
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00 PM and 4:15-5:15 PM
Book here: calendly.com/james-sundquist
Teaching Fellows: Josh Bailey
Walid Mohammad

Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students in the Global Affairs major to the most important forms of political violence in our world, their causes, and some of their long-term effects. Although these concerns are timeless, the “credibility revolution” in the social sciences is only several decades old, and we will rely primarily on recent research. In order to understand what makes a conclusion credible, the course will also discuss questions of research design.

There is one required text: *Why We Fight*, by Christopher Blattman (2022). It is available at the Yale bookstore and on Amazon for under \$30. Other readings will be made available on Canvas.

Requirements

Section: will be worth 30% of your final grade: 15% from attendance and participation, and an additional 15% from weekly reactions posted to Canvas.

Response Papers: You will write two response papers (3-4 pages), worth 15% each. On weeks you submit a response paper, you do not need to write a Canvas post. One response paper must be submitted before Fall Break (October 18).

Final Paper: Your final assignment will be to pose a question about international security, and answer it in the form of a critical literature review (11-12 pages). You are advised to

clear your question with me or the TAs. It will be due on last day of finals, December 21, 2022, at 5:00 PM. 40% of final grade.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty: You are responsible for being familiar with Yale College's policies regarding academic integrity, including those governing multiple submission and plagiarism. <http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/regulations/academic-dishonesty/>

Late assignments: will be penalized by five points or half a letter grade per day.

Support: If you find yourself struggling with the course, or other issues are interfering with your study, please reach out to the professor or your teaching fellows! Not only are we eager to help, but it is much easier to help someone recover from a bad week than it is fix problems that have grown over a month or a semester.

Even if you are excelling in the course, I also recommend stopping by the Writing Center at least once. Writing well is an extremely useful skill, and getting feedback is the best way to improve.

Schedule

Part I: Foundations

1 August 31 & September 2: Whose Security?

- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, chapter 2: "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power." (read first)
- J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations*, chapter 2: "Man, the State, and War."

2 September 7: Causes of War

- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, Introduction, chapters 1-2

3 September 12 & 14: Causes of War

- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, chapters 3-4
- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, chapters 5-6

Part II: Symmetric Conflict

4 September 19 & 21: Interdependence, Democracy, and Peace

- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, chapter 7
- Coe, Andrew J., and Jonathan N. Markowitz. “Crude Calculations: Productivity and the Profitability of Conquest” *International Organization* 75, no. 4 (2021): 1058-1086.
- Immerwahr, Daniel. *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*, chapter 16: “Synthetica.”
- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, chapters 8-9
- Imai, Kosuke, and James Lo. “Robustness of empirical evidence for the democratic peace: A nonparametric sensitivity analysis.” *International Organization* 75, no. 3 (2021): 901-919.
- Owen, John M. “How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace.” *International Security* 19, no. 2 (1994): 87-125. (Tricky to find, on Canvas).

5 September 26 & 28: Nuclear Weapons

- Monteiro, Nuno. *Theory of Unipolar Politics*, p. 86-98: “Balancing, the Balance of Power, and Nuclear Weapons.”
- Schelling, Thomas. *Arms and Influence* chapters 2-3.
- Jones, Nate and J. Peter Scobic. “The Week the World Almost Ended.” *Slate*, April 13, 2017.
- Greg Myre. “Stanislav Petrov, ‘The Man Who Saved The World,’ Dies At 77.” *NPR*, September 18, 2017.
- Schelling, Thomas. “An Astonishing Sixty Years: The Legacy of Hiroshima.” Nobel Prize Lecture, December 8, 2005.
- Tannenwald, Nina. “How Strong Is the Nuclear Taboo Today?” *The Washington Quarterly* 41, no. 3 (2018): 89-109.
- Debs Alexandre, and Nuno Monteiro. “Conflict and Cooperation on Nuclear Nonproliferation.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 20 (2017): 331-349.
- Zabarte, Ian. “A message from the most bombed nation on earth.” *Al Jazeera*, August 29, 2020.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2020/8/29/a-message-from-the-most-bombed-nation-on-earth>

6 October 3 & 5: Status, Reputation, Resolve, and Honor

- MacDonald, Paul K., and Joseph M. Parent. “The Status of Status in World Politics.” *World Politics* 73, no. 2 (2021): 358-391.
- Kertzer, Joshua D. *Resolve in International Politics*, chapter 2: “An Interactionist Theory of Resolve.”

- Dafoe, Allan, and Devin Caughey. “Honor and war: Southern US presidents and the effects of concern for reputation.” *World Politics* 68, no. 2 (2016): 341-381.
- Rosen, Stephen Peter. *War and Human Nature*, chapter 3: “Status, Testosterone, and Dominance.”

7 October 10 & 12: Superpowers

- Lake, David. *Hierarchy in International Relations*, chapters 4-5: “Domination” and “Subordination.”
- Graham Allison, “The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?” *The Atlantic*. September 2015.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/09/united-states-china-war-thucydides-trap/406756/>
- Arthur Waldron, “There is no Thucydides Trap.” *SupChina*.
<http://supchina.com/2017/06/12/no-thucydides-trap/>

8 October 17: Leaders

- Horowitz, Michael C., and Allan C. Stam. “How prior military experience influences the future militarized behavior of leaders.” *International Organization* 68, no. 3 (2014): 527-559.
- Colgan, Jeff D., and Jessica LP Weeks. “Revolution, personalist dictatorships, and international conflict.” *International Organization* 69, no. 1 (2015): 163-194.

Part III: Asymmetric Conflict

9 October 24: Colonization & 26: Terrorism

- de las Casas, Bartolomé. *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies*. Excerpts.
- Lawrence, Adria. “Triggering Nationalist Violence: Competition and Conflict in Uprisings Against Colonial Rule.” *International Security* 35, no. 2 (2010): 88-122.
- Wucherpfennig, Julian, Philipp Hunziker, and Lars-Erik Cederman. “Who inherits the state? Colonial rule and postcolonial conflict.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60, no. 4 (2016): 882-898.
- Getmansky, Anna, and Thomas Zeitzoff. “Terrorism and voting: The effect of rocket threat on voting in Israeli elections.” *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 3 (2014): 588-604.
- Huff, Connor, and Joshua D. Kertzer. “How the public defines terrorism.” *American Journal of Political Science* 62, no. 1 (2018): 55-71.
- Godefroidt, Amélie. “How Terrorism Does (and Does Not) Affect Citizens’ Political Attitudes: A Meta-Analysis.” *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming).

10 October 31: Civil Conflict & November 2: Foreign Intervention

- Roessler, Philip. “The enemy within: Personal rule, coups, and civil war in Africa.” *World Politics* 63, no. 2 (2011): 300-346.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. *The Logic of Violence in Civil War*, chapter 7: “A Theory of Selective Violence.”
- Russell, Kevin, and Nicholas Sambanis. “Stopping the violence but blocking the peace: dilemmas of foreign-imposed nation building after ethnic war.” *International Organization* 76, no. 1 (2022): 126-163.
- Finnemore, Martha. *The Purpose of Intervention*, chapter 2: “Sovereign Default and Military Intervention.”

11 November 7: Genocide & 9: Famine

- Straus, Scott. *Making and Unmaking Nations*, chapter 3.
- Doyle, Michael W. *The Question of Intervention*, chapter 4.

Conversation with Shaza Moghraby, World Food Programme

- Thaxton, Ralph. *Catastrophe and Contention in Rural China*, chapter 4.
- Scott, James C. *Seeing Like a State*, chapters 3 and 6.

12 November 14 & 16: Violence and Development

- Beath, Andrew, Fotini Christia, and Ruben Enikolopov. 2012. “Winning Hearts and Minds? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan.” At: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1809677
- Lyall, Jason, Yang-Yang Zhou, and Kosuke Imai. “Can economic assistance shape combatant support in wartime? Experimental evidence from Afghanistan.” *American Political Science Review* 114, no. 1 (2020): 126-143.
- Aditya Dasgupta, Kishore Gawande, and Devesh Kapur, “(When) Do Antipoverty Programs Reduce Violence? India’s Rural Employment Guarantee and Maoist Conflict,” *International Organization* 71, no. 3 (2017): 605-632
- Zürcher, Christoph. “What do we (not) know about development aid and violence? A systematic review.” *World Development* 98 (2017): 506-522.

Part IV: Looking Ahead

13 November 28 & 30: Legacies of Violence

- Arturas Rozenas, Sebastian Schutte, and Yuri Zhukov, “The Political Legacy of Violence: The Long-Term Impact of Stalin’s Repression in Ukraine,” *Journal of Politics* 79, no. 4 (2017): 1147-1161.

- Avidit Acharya, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen, “The Political Legacy of American Slavery,” *Journal of Politics* 78, no. 3 (2016): 621-641.

14 December 5 & 7: Can We Reduce Violence?

- Blattman, *Why We Fight*, chapters 10-11, Conclusion.
- Steven Pinker, “The Better Angels of Our Nature,” Talks at Google:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gGf7fXM3jQ.
- Lake, Milli. “Building the rule of war: Postconflict institutions and the micro-dynamics of conflict in Eastern DR Congo.” *International Organization* 71, no. 2 (2017): 281-315.