

**International Conflict
3512:0001**

Professor Sara Mitchell
307 Schaeffer Hall
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Fall 2015
140 SH
MW, 3:30-4:45pm

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-4:00pm, Wednesday, 1:00-2:30pm

Email: sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu

Course website: <https://icon.uiowa.edu/>

Course Description

This course examines the conditions that make for war and peace in international relations. The course begins with a discussion of the scientific study of interstate warfare. Later sections of the course examine the causes of war, the outcomes and consequences of war, and solutions that have been offered to help prevent or limit war. Upon completion of this course, students should be familiar with the factors that mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. Students should be able to apply these factors in examining real-world scenarios, such as studying historical cases of war or assessing the prospects for future conflict in troubled areas of the world.

Course Requirements

Your final course grade is calculated as follows:

Class Attendance	5%
Online Discussions	15%
Midterm Exams	50%
Group Project	30%

Class Attendance (5%)

Each class period, I will send around an attendance sheet for students to sign. You are allowed to miss two class periods without penalty. Each missed class after the first two classes incurs a 5% deduction from the attendance portion of the grade. For example, if you miss a total of 4 class periods, you would receive a grade of 90% for the class attendance part of your grade. If you arrive more than five minutes after the class begins, you are not allowed to earn credit for class attendance that day.

Online Discussions (15%)

You will work with the students in your group project for online discussions. Questions will come from the Mitchell and Vasquez text book or will be provided by the instructor for other assigned readings. At least two students will be assigned as the leader for each week and begin by posting a set of answers to all of the questions in the end of the chapter by 11:59pm on Sunday the week before the topics will be discussed in class. For example, students assigned as discussion leaders on September 21 and 23 would divide up the assigned chapters/articles (MV, Chapters 3&4, Leeds, 2003) and then each student would post the answers to ALL of the discussion questions (e.g. one student answers questions 1-5 for MV Chapter 3; another student answers questions 1-3 for MV Chapter 4) on the discussion page created for your group on ICON no later than 11:59pm on Sunday, September 20. If more than one chapter or article is assigned, then the students should divide up the chapters, with each student answering the complete set of questions for that particular chapter/article. Other students in the group will post comments responding to the student's answers and raising additional questions and points for discussion. Students must post a minimum of two comments per week, with comments posted no later than 5:00pm on Friday for that week (e.g. by 5:00pm on September 25). The overall grade will be based on the frequency and quality of students' comments.

Examinations (50%, 25% each exam)

There are two examinations scheduled on Monday, October 12th and Wednesday, November 18th. The exams may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (death in the family). If an emergency arises, you will need to contact the instructor **before** the exam or you will receive zero credit.

Group Project (30%)

Each student will be placed in a group consisting of seven to ten students. Each group will receive various pieces of information about a (fictitious) pair of countries and will be asked to predict whether or not these countries will fight a war based on this information. In this project, students will draw upon the theoretical material covered in class to make their predictions. Each group will be required to make a brief (10-15 minute) Power Point presentation during one of the last two class periods on December 7th and December 9th, in addition to submitting a paper summarizing the group's findings, and a short paper describing each group member's experience with the project. More information about the group projects will be posted on ICON.

Required Readings (Available at University of Iowa Bookstore)

Levy, Jack S. and William R. Thompson. 2010. *Causes of War*. West Sussex, UK. Wiley-Blackwell. Paperback: ISBN: 978-1405175593. There is also a Kindle edition.
Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin and John A. Vasquez. 2013. *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press/Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4522-4449-5.

All articles marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on the course website at <https://icon.uiowa.edu/>. You can also find a copy of the syllabus and copies of the group project assignment.

Outline of Topics and Weekly Readings (LT=Levy & Thompson; MV=Mitchell & Vasquez)

<u>Date/Topic</u>	<u>Assigned Readings</u>
<i>Week 1</i>	
Monday, August 24 Intro. to the Study of Warfare	LT, Chapter 1 MV, Chapter 1
Wednesday, August 26 Measuring War/Data Analysis	*Vasquez & Henehan, Chapter 15 (Learning Package)
<i>Week 2</i>	
Monday, August 31 Dangerous Dyads	MV, Chapter 2 (Bremer) & Editors' Commentary
Wednesday, September 2	No Class, APSA Conference
<i>Week 3</i>	
Monday, September 7	No Class, Labor Day
Wednesday, September 9	Watch "The Fog of War"
<i>Week 4</i>	
Monday, September 14 System Level Theories	LT, Chapter 2

Date/Topic

Wednesday, September 16
Dyadic Level Theories

Assigned Readings

LT, Chapter 3
*Reiter, Dan. 2003. "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War." *Perspectives on Politics* 1(1): 27-43.

Week 5

Monday, September 21
Dangerous Dyads: Territory

MV, Chapter 3 (Hensel et al) & Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, September 23
Dangerous Dyads: Alliances

MV, Chapter 4 (Leeds) & Editors' Commentary
*Leeds, Brett Ashley. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes." *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 427-439.

Week 6

Monday, September 28
Dangerous Dyads: Rivalry

MV, Chapter 5 (Klein et al) & Editors' Commentary
*Colaresi, Michael P. and William R. Thompson. 2002. "Hot Spots or Hot Hands? Serial Crisis Behavior, Escalating Risks, and Rivalry." *Journal of Politics* 64(4): 1175-1198.

Wednesday, September 30
Dangerous Dyads: Arms Races

MV, Chapter 6 (Sample) & Editors' Commentary

Week 7

Monday, October 5
Dangerous Dyads: The Steps
To War Model

MV, Chapter 7 (Senese & Vasquez) & Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, October 7
Dangerous Dyads: Domestic
Factors

LT, Chapter 4, pages 83-104
MV, Chapter 8 (Mitchell & Prins) & Editors' Commentary

Week 8

Monday, October 12

Exam #1

Wednesday, October 14
Peaceful Dyads: Democratic Peace

LT, Chapter 4, pages 104-127
MV, Chapter 9 (Oneal & Russett) & Editors' Commentary

Week 9

Monday, October 19
Peaceful Dyads: Economic
Interdependence

MV, Chapter 10 (Barbieri) & Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, October 21
Peaceful Dyads: Power
Preponderance

MV, Chapter 11 (Reed) & Editors' Commentary

Date/Topic

Assigned Readings

Week 10

Monday, October 26
Peaceful Dyads: Territorial
Peace

MV, Chapter 12 (Gibler) & Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, October 28
Peaceful Dyads: Nuclear Weapons

MV, Chapter 13 (Asal & Beardsley) & Editors'

Week 11

Monday, November 2
Organizational Models

LT, Chapter 6
*Allison, Graham T. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the
Cuban Missile Crisis." *American Political Science Review*
63(3): 689-718.

Wednesday, November 4
Decision-Making Models

LT, Chapter 5
*McDermott, Rose and Jacek Kugler. 2001. "Comparing
Rational Choice and Prospect Theory Analyses: The US
Decision to Launch Operation 'Desert Storm', January 1991."
Journal of Strategic Studies 24(3): 49-85.

Week 12

Monday, November 9
Outcomes & Consequences:
Enforcing Settlements

MV, Chapter 15 (Werner) & Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, November 11

No Class, Peace Science Society Conference

Week 13

Monday, November 16
Outcomes & Consequences:
Leadership Consequences

MV, Chapter 16 (Bueno de Mesquita & Siverson) &
Editors' Commentary

Wednesday, November 18

Exam #2

Week 14

Monday, November 23
Wednesday, November 25

No Class, Thanksgiving break

No Class, Thanksgiving break

Week 15

Monday, November 30
Outcomes & Consequences:
Phoenix Factor

*Vasquez & Henehan, Chapter 12

Wednesday, December 2
Causes of Civil Wars

LT, Chapter 7

Week 16

Monday, December 7

Wednesday, December 9

Presentations for Group Projects

Presentations for Group Projects

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences ([Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11](#)).

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for more information.

Academic Honesty

All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the [IOWA Challenge](#). I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO, Sara Mitchell or CLAS Associate Dean Helena Dettmer. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident ([CLAS Academic Policies Handbook](#)).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the [Department of Public Safety website](#).