

PSC 346: Individuals and World Politics

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Description: This course surveys and evaluates the field of international politics from the vantage point of individual decision-makers. Theories and models of international behavior that examine international politics at this level of analysis are grouped into three categories: decision-making, micro-level, and rational choice approaches.

One purpose of the course is to evaluate the “great man” theory of world history, that is, the claim that individuals *qua* individuals largely shape the world we live in. An equally important purpose is to establish criteria by which this and similar assertions about causality are evaluated.

Required Texts:

- Zagare, Frank C. *The Games of July: Explaining the Great War*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011.

Requirements:

Students are expected to attend class and keep up with the reading assignments. You may be called on to comment on the readings.

There will be two in-class examinations, each of which will count for 40 – 45% of the final grade. The dates of each examination will be announced during the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to take note of these dates. Make-up examinations will *not* be given. Classroom participation, including attendance, will count for 10 – 20% of the final grade.

From time to time, additional assignments will be posted on the class web page that can be reached at: <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~fczagare/default.htm>.

You will be notified of these assignments by e-mail. Please make sure that you are receiving messages from the PSC 346 broadcast list.

Students are strongly encouraged to read the *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, or another national/international news source during the course of the semester. Students are assumed to have a basic understanding of world affairs and current events.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Measures:
Be able to identify, discuss, and apply key concepts and major approaches to international politics	Participation in class discussion; in-class exams
Demonstrate the ability to think theoretically about international politics	Participation in class discussion; in-class exams

Academic misconduct: Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course. A student with a documented case of plagiarism, cheating, or another form of academic dishonesty will receive the grade of “F” for the course and might face other disciplinary action under University regulations.

Students with disabilities policy: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. This legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify the instructor immediately.

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The following is a chronological list of topics and suggested readings covered in this course.

= available at <http://www.jstor.org/>

* = available from instructor

I. Approaches to the Study of International Politics

1. Liberalism v. Realism

- Paul R. Viotti and Mark V. Kauppi (1999). *International Relations Theory*. 3rd ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, pp. 55 – 93.*
- John A. Vasquez (1997). “The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz’s Balancing Proposition.” *American Political Science Review*, 91: 899 – 912.#
- Zagare, pp. 19 – 29.

2. What is Theory?

- Zagare, Chapter 1.

II. Richard Snyder’s Decision-Making Approach (The Original Formulation)

- Richard Snyder, H.W. Bruck, and Burton Sapin, “The Decision-Making Approach to International Politics,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 199 – 206.*
- Glenn D. Paige, “The Korean Decision,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 461 – 472.*
- James E. Campbell (2000). “The Referendum that Didn’t Happen: The Forecasts of the 2000 Presidential Election.” *PS*, 35: 33 – 38.*

III. Other Decision-Making Approaches

1. *The Synoptic Ideal v. Disjointed Incrementalism*

- Herbert Simon (1987). “A Life Spent on One Problem,” *New York Times*, (Nov. 26).*
- David Braybrooke and Charles E. Lindbloom, “Types of Decision-Making” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 207 – 216.*
- Sidney Verba, “Assumptions of Rationality and Non-Rationality in Models of the International System,” in James Rosenau, ed., *International Politics and Foreign Policy*, rev. ed. New York: Free Press, 1969, pp. 217 – 231.*

2. *Do Different Models Make A Difference?*

- Graham T. Allison (1969). “Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis.” *American Political Science Review*, 63: 689 – 718.#

IV. Micro-Level (Non-logical) Approaches

1. *Instinct Theories*

- Greg Cashman, *What Causes War?* New York: Lexington Books, 1993, ch. 2.*

2. *Personality Studies*

- Alexander and Juliette George, *Woodrow Wilson and Colonel House: A Personality Study*, in Nelson W. Polsby, Robert A. Dentler and Paul Smith, *Politics and Social Life*, 1963, pp. 192 – 208.*
- Joseph de Rivera, “Interpersonal Relations: Commands and Communication,” in William Vocke, *American Foreign Policy*, New York: Free Press, 1976, pp. 38 – 63.*
- Walt Anderson (1976). “Looking for Mr. Active-Positive,” *Human Behavior* (October).*
- “Carter and Reagan: Clues to Their Character,” *US News & World Report*, (October 27, 1980).*
- Charles F. Hermann and Margaret G. Hermann (1967). “An Attempt to Simulate the Outbreak of World War I,” *American Political Science Review*, 61: 400 – 16.#
- Cashman, *What Causes War?* pp. 36 – 49.*
- [Janice Gross Stein](#), “Psychological Explanations of International Conflict” in Walter Carlsaes, Thomas Risse and Beth A. Simmons, eds., *Handbook of International Relations*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2002, pp. 292 – 308.*

3. *Images and Perceptions*

- Cashman, *What Causes War?* pp. 49 – 76.*
- David M. Lampton (1973). “The U.S. Image of Peking in Three International Crises.” *The Western Political Quarterly*, 26: 28 – 49.#
- Urie Bronfenbrenner (1986). “The Mirror Image in Soviet-American Relations.” *Journal of Social Issues*, 16: 45 – 56. Excerpt from Ralph K. White, *Psychology and the Prevention of Nuclear War*. New York, NYU Press, 1986, pp. 71 – 81.*.
- Ole R. Holsti (1962). “The Belief System and National Images: A Case Study.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 6: 244 – 52.#
- Ole R. Holsti, Richard A. Brody, and Robert C. North (1964). “Measuring Affect and Action in International Relations Models: Empirical Materials from the 1962 Cuban Crisis.” *Journal of Peace Research*, 1: 170 – 89.#

V. **Rational Choice Approaches**

1. *Expected Utility Models (Decision Theory)*

- Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, New Haven: Yale, ch 2.*
- Bueno de Mesquita, “The Contributions of Expected-Utility Theory to the Study of International Conflict.” In Manus Midlarski, ed., *Handbook of War Studies*. Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989.*
- Frank C. Zagare and D. Marc Kilgour, *Perfect Deterrence*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000: pp. 16 – 24.*
- Zagare, pp. 29 – 38.

2. *Game Theory*

- Frank C. Zagare (2008). “Game Theory.” In Paul D. Williams, ed., *Security Studies*. New York: Routledge, pp. 44 – 58.*
- Zagare, section 1.6.

3. *Deterrence*

- Waltz, Kenneth (2012). “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability.” *Foreign Affairs*, 91 (2012): 2 – 5.*
- Kugler, Jacek (2012). “A World beyond Waltz: Neither Iran nor Israel Should Have the Bomb.” <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/tehranbureau/2012/09/opinion-a-world-beyond-waltz-neither-iran-nor-israel-should-have-the-bomb.html>
- Jacek Kugler and A.F.K. Organski, “The Power Transition: A Retrospective and Prospective Evaluation.” In Manus Midlarski, ed., *Handbook of War Studies*. Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989.*
- Zagare, Chapters 3 – 8.