POLS 3301-001
Selected Topics in International Relations: Political Leadership and
International Conflict
SPRING 2017

Time and Location: TR 9:30pm ~ 10:50 pm, Holden Hall 130

Instructor: Daehee Bak
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Office Hours: Tuesday 11am ~ 2pm (Holden 24) and by appointment

TA: Kerry Chavez
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Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30m ~ 3:30pm (Holden Hall 9) and by appointment

Overview

Course Description
The international conflict scholarship has seen burgeoning interests in the role of political leadership in the process of international conflict over the past decade. Beyond the system-level or regime-level analysis of international conflict, the dynamic influence of various leadership characteristics sheds light on research on the causes and consequences of international conflict. This course explores whether there are systemic variations in conflict behavior across different types of leaders. In particular, students are expected to learn why leadership tenure and survival is an essential element of understanding the evolution of international conflict.

Requirements

- **Attendance and Participation** (10% of the final grade): Attendance is mandatory, which constitutes 10% of the final grade. For every missing class, I will subtract one point out of the total (10) attendance credits. However, the first four missing classes are not counted. An attendance sheet will be circulated at the beginning of class. If you are late for class, don’t forget to sign your name on the attendance sheet. Students are expected to read assigned journal articles in advance and participate in class discussion. Active and constructive participation in class discussion will be rewarded at the instructor’s discretion.

- **Essay** (10% of the final grade): Each student is required to write a 5-6 page essay that discusses the role of political leadership in international conflict. A particular leader is assigned to each pair of students. These essays will be also circulated to the whole class before presentation, which will help other students prepare for the tests and the final exam. The detailed **essay and presentation guidelines** can be found in a separate document that will be posted to the blackboard.
• **Presentation** (20% of the final grade): Students are required to give a presentation about the assigned leader and conflict to the class according to the designated presentation schedule. See the detailed *essay and presentation guidelines* in the blackboard. Students are required to submit their essay and the power point slides at least one day before the presentation date.

• **Tests** (40% of the final grade) Students will take four tests that are not comprehensive. Test questions consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. These questions will come from lectures and student essays (& presentations).

• **Final Exam** (20% of the final grade) The final exam is comprehensive.

• **Make-up tests and exam** No make-up exams will be given unless a student has provided an official document that proves extremely unusual conditions for absence at least one day in advance. If a student provides the excuse document for absence after an exam or a test, the student is allowed to take a make-up exam with penalties (only 40% of the total credits will be given). A make-up exam should be taken in eight days after the scheduled exam date.

• **Extra Credits** Each test and the final exam may have several bonus questions.

**Grading Scale**

No incomplete grade will be given unless a student has provided a written document that shows a compelling reason why the student cannot complete the course on time. I use the following grading scale: A+=97.00-100, A=93.00-96.99, A-=90.00-92.99, B+=87.00-89.99, B=83.00-86.99, B-=80.00-82.99, C+=77.00-79.99, C=73.00-76.99, C-=70.00-72.99, D+=67.00-69.99, D=63.00-66.99, D-=60.00-62.99, F=59.99 or lower.

**Recommended Books, not required**


**Course Outline**

- *The following course schedule is tentative and subject to change. For tests and exams, you should pay attention to the instructor’s announcement in order not to misunderstand the materials that will be covered in each test or exam.*

**January 19 (Thursday): Organizational Meeting**

**January 24 (Tuesday): Domestic Sources of International Conflict**

January 26 (Thursday): War and Leadership Survival 1


January 31 (Tuesday): War and Leadership Survival 2


February 2 (Thursday): War Outcome and Target Selection


February 7 (Tuesday): Audience Costs


February 9 (Thursday): Presentation 1

- 2003 Iraq War (George W. Bush vs. Saddam Hussein)

February 14 (Tuesday): Presentation 2

- 1973 Yom Kippur War (Anwar Sadat vs. Golda Meir)

February 16 (Thursday): Test 1

February 21 (Tuesday): Diversionary Conflict 1

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**February 23 (Thursday): Diversionary Conflict 2**


**February 28 (Tuesday): Presentation 3**

- 1982 Falklands War (Leopoldo Galtieri vs. Margaret Thatcher)

**March 2 (Thursday): Presentation 4**

- 2011 Military Intervention in Libya (Muammar Gaddafi vs. Barack Obama)

**March 7 (Tuesday): Test 2**

**March 9 (Thursday): Leader Tenure and International Conflict 1**


**March 14 (Tuesday), 16 (Thursday): No class (Spring Break)**

**March 21 (Tuesday): Leader Tenure and International Conflict 2**


March 23 (Thursday): Leader Tenure and International Conflict 3


March 28 (Tuesday): Presentation 5

- 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis (John F. Kennedy vs. Nikita Khrushchev)

March 30 (Thursday): Presentation 6

- World War II (Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill)

April 4 (Thursday): Test 3

April 6 (Thursday): Autocratic Leader’s Conflict Behavior 1


April 11 (Tuesday): Autocratic Leader’s Conflict Behavior 2


April 13 (Thursday): Presentation 7

- Chinese Intervention in Korean War 1950 (Harry Truman vs. Mao Zedong)

April 18 (Tuesday): Documentary Film 1

- World War II (Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill, and Franklin D. Roosevelt)

April 20 (Thursday): Documentary Film 2

- World War II (Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill, and Franklin D. Roosevelt)
April 25 (Tuesday): Test 4

April 27 (Thursday): External Threats and Leader's Political Incentives 1


May 2 (Tuesday): External Threats and Leader’s Political Incentives 2

May 4 (Thursday): Leader's Political Ideology and International Conflict


May 9 (Tuesday)

Advising Session

May 11 (Thursday)

Final (Exam 2)

7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The final exam schedule for Spring 2017 is designated by the University. The information can be found at: [http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/class_schedule/spring/class.php](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/class_schedule/spring/class.php). Any students who fail to take the final exam at the designated time will earn no points on the final exam. The final exam will be held in the same classroom.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of theoretical foundations of international relations (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

- Understand theories and empirical findings on the causes and consequences of international conflict (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

- Be able to explain the role of domestic politics in international relations (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic theories of international political economy (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

- Be able to describe various aspects of transnational issues (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

- Identify and critique alternative explanations for claims about social issues and human behavior (Method of assessment: tests and exams)
• Demonstrate knowledge of the appropriate methods, technologies, and data that social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

• Identify and appreciate [demonstrate] differences and commonalities among cultures (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

• Demonstrate awareness and knowledge of cultural differences within one of more global societies. (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

• Be able to describe roles the U.S. plays in the international community. (Method of assessment: tests and exams)

Academic Honesty

I expect students to fully understand the guidelines of academic honesty established by Texas Tech University. Please read carefully the Texas Tech University Operating Policy and Procedure (OP 34.12) which shows detailed information about specific cases of academic dishonesty and academic penalties. All cases of academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Student Judicial Programs for disciplinary action for academic dishonesty. The policy document is available at http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.12.pdf.

Disabilities

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructors office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, you may contact the Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or 806-742-2405.

Observance of Religious Holidays

Statement about observance of religious holidays. The university also requires that instructors provide a statement about religious holy days. The OP states that a student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an exam or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The OP also states that a student may not be penalized for such an absence, but an instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily. See OP 34.19