

PS 5302 Seminar in International Relations

Summer 2023 II

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Course Objectives

This course will introduce the studies on the nature of international conflicts and alliance. Topics include the termination of war, the causes of war, crisis management, escalation of conflicts, and the role of alliances in world politics. At the end of the course, students should be able to analyze international events and drawing on the theoretical explanations provided in the class.

Program Learning Outcomes

Public Administration	Political Science
The graduating student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate the ability to critique significant theoretical approaches of public administration.• Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international administrative processes.• Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.	The graduating student will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate the ability to analyze significant theoretical approaches of political science.• Demonstrate the ability to evaluate domestic and international political processes.• Demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate statistical tools for quantitative analysis.

Marketable Skills

Public Administration	Political Science
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can organize and execute presentations relevant to public administration.• Students understand and can execute a program evaluation.• Students can conduct statistical analyses that are useful to the work of public administrators.• Students can read and interpret an organization budget.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can organize and execute verbal and written presentations of complex social issues.• Students can tackle social and political problems by acquiring relevant data and using insight and technical skills to analyze data and develop logical solutions.• Students understand the roles and responsibilities of institutional authority within local, state, national, and international communities.• Students understand and can execute a policy analysis.

Assignments and Grading

Research Proposal (50% of your grade):

Each student is expected to complete a research proposal on some topic in the general field of War and Alliance. Student should approach this assignment as the first step in a research project that will lead to a conference paper or peer reviewed journal article. Accordingly, the end product should include a clearly defined research question, a review of the relevant literature in which that research question is grounded, a theoretical argument that addresses that question, and a research design that enables you to test hypotheses derived from a well-articulated theoretical framework that is grounded in the existing literature on the subject.

The purpose of this project is to develop your ability to conduct research, to think and write critically and analytically. This requires that you develop certain skills as well as familiarity with the research production process. Accordingly, you are expected to develop your research paper in four cumulative installments. The due dates and the percent of your final research project grade that is determined by each installment are as follows:

1. Problem statement and 5 scholarly articles (5 points): **July 16th**
2. Literature review (5 points): **July 23rd**
3. Theory and hypothesis (10 points): **July 30th**
4. Final draft (30 points): **August 6th**

Completing each of these installments is NOT optional. You may NOT pass the course by turning in nothing but a final draft. Failure to complete one of the installments will result in a grade of "0" for that portion of your research project grade. This research proposal is required to be at least 8 double-spaced pages, and no more than 10 double-spaced pages in length. The final draft due on **August 6th**. Please remember that I do not accept late papers except for a very special situation. Further details will be provided on a separate handout in the future.

Exams (50% of your grade: midterm exam 20%; final exam 30%):

There are two closed-book online exams. Exams will include multiple choice questions as well as short essays on topics covered in the course. The midterm exam will be held on **July 24th and July 25th**. The final exam will be held on **August 8th and August 9th**.

Quiz (Extra credit):

A number (to be determined by the instructor) of unannounced quizzes will be given occasionally. The score of the quizzes will be added to your grade as extra points.

Grade Scale

Your course grade will be determined based on the following grading scale:

Points	Letter Grade
90.0 and more	A
80.0-89.9	B
70.0-79.9	C
60.0-69.9	D
59.9 or less	F

Assigned Readings

The three required textbooks for this course are:

- Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson. 2010. *Causes of War*
ISBN: 978-1442253285
This text is referred to in the course schedule as **Levy**.
- John A. Vasquez. 2000. *What Do We Know About War?*
ISBN: 978-0847699278
This text is referred to in the course schedule as **Vasquez**.
- Stephen M. Walt. 1990. *The Origins of Alliances*
ISBN: 978-0801494185
This text is referred to in the course schedule as **Walt**.

Students are expected to have read the assigned chapters before coming to class. Should class need to be canceled due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, the material scheduled for the missed class will be covered the next time the class meets. All additional readings will be on Blackboard and through the Library website.

Attendance and Participation

I do not take attendance, but I expect that you will attend all class meetings. Also, I will occasionally give pop quizzes as extra points, so coming to class regularly will improve your chances of being successful in this course.

Classroom Rules

All students must treat the instructor, the other students, and the classroom setting with respect. Please come to class on time, stay for the entire class, turn off cell phones during class, and refrain from potentially disruptive activities such as talking with friends or passing notes. These policies are put in place to facilitate a learning environment in the classroom that allows all students to focus on the lecture and class discussion. It is also important to show respect for alternative opinions and points of view during class discussions. Thus, you should listen when either the instructor or a fellow student is speaking to the class, and refrain from using insulting language and gestures, no matter how vehemently you may disagree with your classmates. Please note that I reserve the right to stop discussion at any time.

Tentative Course Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule of topics and reading assignments for the course. Thus, items on this syllabus are subject to change per the discretion of the instructor. If I deem it necessary to make changes and/or modifications in the schedule, I will make an announcement in class.

Week 1 (July 10th): What do We Know about War

- Levy, Chapter 1
- Vasquez, Chapter 2 and Chapter 4
- Levy, Chapter 1 to Chapter 3
- Problem statement and 5 scholarly articles due on July 16th

Week 2 (July 17th): Different Levels of Analysis

- Levy, Chapter 4, Chapter 5, Chapter 6, and Chapter 7
- Vasquez, Chapter 12 and Chapter 14
- Literature review due on July 23rd

Week 3 (July 24th): The Origins and Consequences of Alliances

- Midterm exam on July 24th and July 25th
- Vasquez, Chapter 6 and Chapter 7
- Walt, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 and Chapter 5
- Theory and hypothesis due on July 30th

Week 4 (July 31st): Instrument of Alliance: Foreign Aid and Alliance Formation

- Walt, Chapter 6, Chapter 7, and Chapter 8
- Final draft due on August 6th

Week 5 (August 7th)

- Final Exam on August 8th and August 9th

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Other Course Policies & Resources

Academic Integrity

Intellectual development requires hard work. Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/> In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

Course Blackboard Resources

There are several resources on the course Blackboard page. You are expected to review and familiarize yourself with the items in Blackboard in the first week of class.

Blackboard Technical Support

SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support Online Support Desk Contact Info: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

SUSR Library Services

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, library.swtjc.edu. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for Inter Library Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

ADA Statement

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartz Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203, or email mschwartz@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall – room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Commitment to Diversity

I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.

SRSU Distance Education Statement

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.