

Political Science 322 Politics and Conflict

Wednesday 4:00-6:40

Course Description

The course will explore the world of conflicts in political life, from conflicts between Political Leaders (individual level) to conflicts in the International arena (global level). The course will analyze the theoretical background of conflicts and conflict resolution and discuss the implications of the theories to actual conflicts in the various political levels. The role of the media in conflicts will be studied, and all the processes will be wrapped up in a simulation.

Course Principals

1. The students are expected to attend all classes, show up on time and to have read the assigned readings for that class session.
2. The class readings include articles chosen specifically for the course and all can be accessed on line.
3. The examination will cover all course materials presented in the lectures until class # 6, and the assigned reading items: 1-10.
4. The students need to show up on time for the exam.
5. In class turn off your cell phones, pagers, text-messagers, etc.
6. Students with disabilities or who need special consideration, please contact the professor as soon as possible.
7. The simulation is an integral part of the course and the students have to take part in the preparation stages, and submit the preparation paper and the summary.
8. The final paper will cover all the course materials presented in lectures, assigned readings and class discussions. The topics of the paper and instructions will be published in the 8th week of the course.

Course Grading and assignments

Grades will be computed based on the following weighting:

- Examination: 100 points = 20%
- Simulation preparation paper: 100 points = 20%
- Final paper: 100 points = 40%

- Attendance and Participation (class and simulation): 100 points = 20% (You can miss two classes without any consequences. Every missed class not due to a verifiable medical or personal emergency after that will result in reduction of your final grade).

Average point scores from 90-100 will earn a grade in the A-range
 Average point scores from 80-89 will earn a grade in the B-range
 Average point scores from 70-79 will earn a grade in the C-range
 Average point scores from 60-69 will earn a grade in the D-range
 Average point scores below 60 will earn a grade of F

	Date	Class session / topic	Reading & assignments
I. Theory	Sept 2	1. Introduction Levels of Analysis	1. Singer David 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," <i>World Politics</i> , vol 14, no. 1. pp. 77-92. 2. Boulding, Kenneth. 1962. <i>Conflict and Defense: A General Theory</i> . New York: Harper & Row. Chapter 1, pp. 1-7.
	Sept 9	2. Theory of Conflict	3. Bar-Tal, Daniel. 2007. 'Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts'. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> . vol. 50. no. 11. pp. 1-13. 4. Kriesberg, Louis. 1998. <i>Constructive Conflict: From Escalation to Resolution</i> . Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield publishers. pp. 1-29
	Sept 16	3. Managing conflicts / conflict resolution	5. Zartman, William. 1991. 'Conflict and Resolution: Contest, Cost, and Change'. <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> , vol. 518, pp. 11-22.
	Sept 23	4. Perceptions in conflicts	6. Bar-Tal, Daniel. 2007. 'Sociopsychological Foundations of Intractable Conflicts'. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i> . vol. 50. no. 11. pp. 13-43.

II: Political Conflicts	Sept 30	5. Parliament & parties	7. Morrill, Calvin et. al. 2003. 'Covert Political Conflict in Organizations: Challenges from Below'. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> . vol. 29. pp. 391-415. 8. Sheaffer Tamir and Gadi Wolfsfeld. 2009. 'Party Systems and Oppositional Voices in the News Media: A Study of the Contest over Political Waves in the United States and Israel'. <i>The International Journal of Press/Politics</i> . vol. 14, no. 2. pp. 146-165.
	Oct 7	6. Ethnic	9. Huntington, Samuel. 1993. 'The Clash of Civilizations?' <i>Foreign Affairs</i> . vol. 72. no.3. pp.22-49.
	Oct 14	7. Examination Simulation Preparation	Including all course materials presented in lectures, and assigned reading items: 1-10. 10. Wilkenfeld, Jonathan.1998. <i>ICONS User Manual</i> . Project ICONS, University of Maryland. pp. 1-8.
	Oct 21	Simulation Preparation	
	Oct 28	9. IR	11. Gleditch, Nils. 2002. 'Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset'. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> . vol. 39. no. 5. pp. 615-637.
	Nov 4	10. IR	12. Kacowicz, Arie. 2005. 'Rashomon in the Middle East: Clashing Narratives, Images and Frames in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.' <i>Cooperation and Conflict</i> . vol. 40. no. 3. pp. 343-360.
	Nov 11	11. Crisis	13. Brecher, Michael. 1979. 'State Behavior in International Crisis: A Model'. <i>The Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> . vol. 23. no. 3. pp. 446-480.
	Nov 18	12. Media	14. Wolfsfeld, Gadi. 1997. <i>Media and Political Conflict</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 13-30.
III: Simulation & Summary	Nov 25	13. Simulation Preparation	15. Gilboa, Eytan. 1979. 'Educating Israeli Officers in the Processes of Peacemaking in the Middle East Conflict'. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> . vol. 16. no. 2. pp. 155-162. 16. Wilkenfeld, Jonathan.1998. <i>ICONS User Manual</i> . Project ICONS, University of Maryland. pp. 8-28. Submission of Simulation preparation paper
	Dec 2	14. Simulation	
	Dec 9	15. Conclusion	Submission of Final paper

