

# POLI 12

## International Relations

<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/slantchev/courses/ir/>

Winter 2002

12-12:50, MW

York 2722

### **Professor Branislav L. Slantchev**

387 Social Sciences

Office Hours: 1-2pm, MW

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**DESCRIPTION:** Why do nations sometimes cooperate and sometimes engage in violent conflict? This course introduces students to the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the modern theories of strategic interaction. We shall begin with an overview of this approach and shall study the tools necessary to analyze international politics. We shall then proceed to study in depth issues of international security, domestic politics, and international political economy in a way that is closely related to current research in these fields. By the end of the quarter, students will be expected to

1. Understand the abstract principles used in the study of international politics;
2. Be able to apply the game-theoretic and social choice tools learned in class;
3. Know the history of the post-Second World War era; and
4. Employ the theoretical concepts in the analysis of these events.

**PREREQUISITES:** This is an introductory undergraduate course and no previous course work in international relations is necessary. Depending on one's background, one may find this a moderately technical course but no mathematical skills beyond algebra and elementary deductive logic will be required. Students will be introduced to basic game theory and social choice theory and will be expected to become proficient in those in order to follow the material presented in class, do the problems in homeworks, and solve problems on exams. Students will find that most of their time will be spent mastering the analysis of strategic situations.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** Section assignments, office hours, and office locations for the teaching assistants are posted on the course website. Since office hours sometimes change during the quarter, the web site will always list the current schedules.

Sonal Desai  
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**REQUIREMENTS:** The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (45%), participation in the discussion sections (10%), and homeworks (15%). The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in

class. The final will be comprehensive. You must take both exams to receive a passing grade for the course.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS. You are assigned to a discussion section with mandatory attendance. We shall keep track of your absences and your performance every time. Discussion sections will account for 25% of your grade, so do not take them lightly. I cannot stress this enough: **If you skip the homeworks, you will fail the exams.** Since solutions to exercises will be discussed in your section, late homeworks will earn zero credit.

MISSED EXAMS. Essay extensions and make-up exams will only be given under **valid, documented, and extreme** circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least 10 days in advance. Emails are perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a makeup exam.

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance will be important for your performance on the exams. Much of the material that we shall cover may either not be in the readings or not be in easily digestible form. Taking notes will be very helpful. The lecture notes on the website are only bare-bone outlines.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their homeworks will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

GRADE APPEALS. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

**READINGS:** The following required books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

- Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. 2003. *Principles of International Politics: People's Power, Preferences, and Perceptions*. 2nd Ed. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.  
[BdM in the schedule.]
- Thomas C. Schelling. 1960. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.  
[Schelling in the schedule.]
- Walter LaFeber. 2001. *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2000*. 9th Ed. New York: McGraw Hill.

We shall cover the first two books in great detail in class lectures. The third book you will be reading on your own and in discussion sections. There are several additional readings that are posted on the course website in Adobe PDF format.

**SCHEDULE:** This is only an outline of the topics. Note well the dates for the midterm and final examinations. The lecture notes on the course website will indicate which readings refer to the material covered.

JAN 6	: INTRODUCTION: STRATEGIC CHOICE	
JAN 8	: THEORY AND METHODS	BdM, Ch. 2
JAN 13	: TRADITIONAL APPROACHES	BdM, Ch. 1, 4
JAN 15	: PREFERENCES, RATIONALITY, EXPECTED UTILITY	BdM, Ch. 3 & 9 (pp. 287-306)
JAN 22	: BEST RESPONSES AND EQUILIBRIUM	Lecture notes
JAN 27	: CONFLICT, COOPERATION, COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION	Schelling, Ch. 2, 3
JAN 29	: SEQUENTIAL MOVES AND CREDIBILITY	Schelling, Ch. 4-6
FEB 3	: BARGAINING POWER AND DYNAMIC COMMITMENT	SCH-1, PDF & BdM, Ch. 7, 8
FEB 5	: THE COMPETITION IN RISK TAKING	SCH-2, PDF & BdM, Ch. 10
FEB 10	: <b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</b>	<b>IN CLASS</b>
FEB 12	: DETERRENCE AND COMPELLENCE	Mueller & Treverton, PDF
FEB 19	: CRISIS BARGAINING AND MUTUAL ALARM	Schelling, Ch. 7-10
FEB 24	: SOCIAL CHOICE AND SPATIAL MODELS OF POLICY	BdM, Ch. 9 (pp. 306-23)
FEB 26	: TWO-LEVEL GAMES AND THE PRINCIPAL-AGENT PROBLEM	BdM, Ch. 5, 6, 12
MAR 3	: THE DEMOCRATIC PEACE AND THE CAUSES OF WAR	BdM, Ch. 16, 17
MAR 5	: MILITARY ALLIANCES AND INTERVENTION	BdM, Ch. 15
MAR 10	: SPONTANEOUS COOPERATION UNDER ANARCHY	BdM, Ch. 14
MAR 12	: INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	BdM, Ch. 13
MAR 21	: <b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	<b>11:30-14:30</b>