DESCRIPTION: This course is intended for graduate students who have already taken the international relations core seminar. Knowledge of basic theories will be assumed. The goal is to expose the students fully to a comprehensive view of international security, with some reference to the past of the discipline, but mostly emphasizing the current state of the art theorizing in the area by providing a unifying conceptual framework for analysis and modern quantitative studies including strategic structural models.

REQUIREMENTS: The course is entirely based on student participation. You have to read everything in the “required” section and, if you feel you are lacking background information, the relevant material in the “suggested” section. The latter is also useful if you want to pursue some venue among the week’s topics in more detail. You may opt to write a paper for this course. The paper must be original research and is intended to fulfill the requirement for the comprehensive examination. Students must clear the topic with me first. I am not interested in reading lengthy literature reviews.

GUIDELINES: This is a seminar and considerable participation by students is expected. Everyone must come prepared to intelligently discuss the ideas, scope, and research design in the various readings. I am not interested in critiques! I cannot emphasize this strongly enough. Graduate students are trained as attack dogs and are usually fairly good at being picky about obscure details. I could not care less. What I want to see is students understand how the different topics relate to each other, what the underlying strategic situation they describe, how one goes about developing theories, and how one can improve upon existing work.

READINGS: The readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. For published work, everything can be found online. For unpublished manuscripts, I will make sure you can locate a copy online as well. We shall organize our schedule as follows:

Week 1 Models, Rational Choice, and Progress in IR (p. 3)

Week 2 Structural Theories of War (p. 4)

Updated: March 7, 2007
Week 3  Behavioral Theories of War and Peace (p. 6)
Week 4  Bargaining Theories of Crisis, War, and Peace (p. 8)
Week 5  Conventional and Nuclear Deterrence (p. 10)
Week 6  Domestic Politics: Two-Level Games and Survival of Leaders (p. 11)
Week 7  Alliances: Public Goods, Burden-Sharing, and Security (p. 12)
Week 8  Arms Races: Dynamics and Empirics (p. 14)
Week 9  Bounded Rationality, Emotions, and Evolutionary Psychology (p. 16)
Week 10 Recent Advances in Statistical Modeling in IR (p. 18)
SCHEDULE:

**WEEK 1: MODELS, RATIONAL CHOICE, AND PROGRESS IN IR**

- Clarke, Kevin and David M. Primo. 2006. “Modernizing Political Science: A Model-Based Approach.” Manuscript, Department of Political Science, University of Rochester.

*Updated: March 7, 2007*
Week 2: **Structural Theories of War**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


*Updated: March 7, 2007*
WEEK 3: **Behavioral Theories of War and Peace**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


**Week 4: Bargaining Theories of Crisis, War, and Peace**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


*Updated: March 7, 2007*


Week 5: Conventional and Nuclear Deterrence

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Updated: March 7, 2007
**Week 6: ** **DOMESTIC POLITICS: TWO-LEVEL GAMES AND SURVIVAL OF LEADERS**

*Required Readings:*


*Suggested Readings:*


*Updated: March 7, 2007*
**WEEK 7: ALLIANCES: PUBLIC GOODS, BURDEN-SHARING, AND SECURITY**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


*Updated: March 7, 2007*


Week 8: **Arms Races: Dynamics and Empirics**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


*Updated: March 7, 2007*


Week 9: **Bounded Rationality, Emotions, and Evolutionary Psychology**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


Updated: March 7, 2007
Week 10: Recent Advances in Statistical Models in IR


For reaction and response, see:

Suggested Readings: