PS 247A Quantitative Approaches to International Relations

Fall Quarter 2004
SSB 104, Wednesday 5:00-7:50 PM

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Office Hours: Tuesday 9.30-11.30 and by appointment

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Course Description*

This course introduces students to quantitative approaches to international relations, with particular emphasis on research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international relations literature is so extensive, the particular readings and issues that we cover in this must inevitably be a small and somewhat idiosyncratic sample. However, we will also focus on more general issues and generic skills in empirical analysis that have wider applicability in international relations research beyond the specific readings assigned. The course will also focus on how to go beyond consuming or evaluating the research of others to become active contributors and improve on existing research.

There are two assignments for this class. First, you must submit two short (3-5 pp.) papers summarizing the readings for a particular week. These short papers should be distributed to the class ahead of the meeting time. Each student preparing a paper for given week – possibly in collaboration with other students – should prepare a short class presentation and be prepared to lead discussion. The goal of this exercise is not simply to summarize the assigned readings as others in the class already will be familiar with these. Rather, a good summary will discuss the broader issues, themes, and questions underlying the readings or identify problems with research design and potential flaws in the particular articles, and serve as a starting point for in-class discussion.

Second, you must submit a replication paper, a research design, or a research paper. This is due at the end of the course, and will be presented to the class during the last week of the quarter. You are strongly encouraged to meet with me individually regarding your paper before you begin.

The final paper will contribute 60% to your final grade. The remaining 40% will be based on class participation. (This includes both the short papers and class presentation, as well as your contributions to class discussion.)

* Disclaimer: The syllabus is intended to provide an overview over the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. In particular, scheduling and dates may change. Although the syllabus should be a fairly reliable guide for the course, official announcements are always those made in class.
Most of the readings for this course consist of journal articles. Many of the articles are available electronically on JSTOR or through the UCSD library home page. I will make all the material available in the graduate student lounge. Interests will vary and time is often scarce, but you should read at least six of the assigned required readings if you cannot cover all the readings.

Most and Starr (1989) is recommended background reading for the first week. You may also find a number of books helpful for both this course as well as future reference – see the below list. However, these are not required reading *per se* for this course.


1. Course overview and introduction

Required reading

This book is not strictly required, but you should try and skim this at some point during the course, preferably before the first class.
Supplementary

Theme A: Progress in international relations

Theme B: Evaluating scientific research

Theme C: Data on conflict and peace
2. Arms races and hostility: The Richardson model of dyadic interactions

Required reading


Supplementary

3. Structural perspectives on power, conflict, and stability

Required reading

Supplementary

4. Behavioral perspectives on power, preferences, conflict, and stability


**Supplementary**


**5. Alliances and military cooperation**

Required reading


Supplementary


6. Domestic Politics, Conflict, and Cooperation

Required reading


Supplementary


7. Economic relations, conflict, and cooperation

Required reading


Supplementary


8. Intervention and expansion

Required reading

Supplementary


9. **Methodological innovations, data developments, and theoretical advances**

Required reading


Supplementary


10. **Student presentations and summing up**

A second session may be scheduled for student presentations.