Political Science 461: Conflict, War, and Peace

Fall 2013  Alex Jakubow
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Academic Hall 201  Office Hours: T Th 10:00-12:00, and by appointment

Office: SBSB 4108

Required Texts

The following text will be available for purchase from the Bookstore. All other materials will be made available online and/or placed on reserve at the Kellogg Library.


Course Schedule and Reading List

I. Introduction

Monday, August 26: Course Introduction

Wednesday, August 28: Conceptualizing War and Peace

- Levy and Thompson 2010, Ch 1

Monday, September 2: NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 4: Levels of Analysis


II. SYSTEMIC-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

**Monday, September 9: Realist Theories of IR**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, Ch 2  

**Wednesday, September 11: Balance of Power Theory I**


**Monday, September 16: Balance of Power Theory II**


**Wednesday, September 18: Power Transitions and Preventive War**

Monday, September 23: State System Simulation I


Wednesday, September 25: State System Simulation II


Monday, September 30: Simulation Debriefing

III. DYADIC-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS

Wednesday, October 2: Deterrence and Spiral Models

- Levy and Thompson 2010, pp. 55-63

Monday, October 7: The Prisoner’s Dilemma


Wednesday, October 9: Bargaining and Crisis Management

- Levy and Thompson 2010, pp. 63-70

Monday, October 14: Interdependence and Peace

- Levy and Thompson 2010, pp. 70-77

**Wednesday, October 16: Review**

**Monday, October 21: EXAM**

**IV. SOCIETAL-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS**

**Wednesday, October 23: Marxist-Leninist Theories**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.83-99

**Monday, October 28: The Democratic Peace?**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.104-117

**Wednesday, October 30: Ideologies and Religions**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.117-117

**Monday, November 4: Diversionary Theories of War**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.99-104

**V. INDIVIDUAL- AND GROUP-LEVEL EXPLANATIONS**

**Wednesday, November 6: Rational Decisionmaking?**

• Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.128-133
Monday, November 11: NO CLASS

Wednesday, April 13: Misperception

- Levy and Thompson 2010, pp.133-161

Monday, November 18: Prospect Theory


Wednesday, November 20: Bureaucratic/Organizational Explanations

- Levy and Thompson 2010, Ch 6

VI. HISTORICAL CASE STUDIES

Monday, November 25: World War I


Wednesday, November 27: NO CLASS

Monday, December 2: World War II

**Wednesday, December 4: Cuban Missile Crisis**


**REFERENCES**


