

# POSC 172 Fall 2019 Syllabus: Introduction to International Relations

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## POSC 172 Introduction to International Relations

Fall Semester 2019 Paul E. Schroeder pes15@case.edu

**Main Idea: Trade, Diplomacy, War, & the Fates of Nations**

### Understandings:

The take-aways of this course are traditional issues of state-to-state relations and the causes of conflict, along with issues of sustainability in terms of the globalization and the environment.

**Assessment** of your work will depend on how well you prepare in advance of class.

### Tasks:

- **Attendance plus periodic Group Discussion sessions are worth 30% of the final grade.**
- **Midterm Exam is True/False scheduled for October 17, 2019 worth 30% of the final grade.**
- **Final Exam is Multiple Choice scheduled for December 12 worth 40% of the final grade.**

### Books to Purchase

1. **Barbara Tuchman:** *The March of Folly*, Galantine Books, 1984.
2. **Michael Dobbs:** *One Minute to Midnight*, Vintage Books, 2008.
3. **Joseph Nye & David A Welch:** *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*, 9th Edition, Longman, 2012.
4. **Alexander George:** *Forceful Persuasion*, United States Institute of Peace, 1991.

Additional readings marked with an asterisk below are available on canvas.

**I can be reached at [pes15@case.edu](mailto:pes15@case.edu)** or at my office, room\_315 Mather House. Office Hours: Tuesday 1 to 2 p.m. or by appointment.

**(Note: There is another Paul Schroeder on campus so do not confuse and do not use the automatic listing on webmail. Use [pes15@case.edu](mailto:pes15@case.edu). If I don't get your paper I cannot read it.**

**Tentative Schedule**  
**Subject to Change**

**Aug 27 & 29**

*Our understanding this week (1) Anarchy in the international system; (2) the level of analysis used to consider an event; and (3) how policy choices are made based on that. The issue is critical: if policy options are based on an international systems level of analysis and the opponent considers only a state-centric level, fruitful negotiations may be impossible.*

*Reading*

\***Kenneth Waltz**: “*The Anarchic Structure of World Politics*”

\***Geoffrey Blainey**: *The Causes of War*, 3rd Edition, Ch 3.”

**Joseph Nye**: *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*, Ch. 2

\***Paul Schroeder**: Levels of Analysis incorporating “A Life, Wasted” in *The Washington Post*, January 6, 2006.

**Sept 3 & 5**

*What is the struggle for power in international relations theories?*

*Reading*

**Joseph Nye**: “What is Power in Global Affairs” in A & J, pp 41-47.

\***John J. Mearsheimer**, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” A & J, pp 70-78

\***Stephen Walt**: “International Relations: One World, Many Theories” in *Foreign Policy*, Spring 1998.

**Sept 10 & 12**

*What is Realism and Neorealism and how do they differ?*

*Reading*

\***David Brooks**: “Revolt of the Weak” in *The New York Times*, September 1, 2014.

\***Kenneth Waltz**: “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory” in *The Origin and Prevention of Major Wars*, Rotberg & Rabb, eds.

**Sept 17 & 19**

*What are the Constructivist Critiques of Neorealism and what is democratic peace theory?*

*Reading*

\***Alexander Wendt**, “Anarchy is What States Make of It” A & J, pp 78-87.

\***Christopher Layne**: “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace” in *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Autumn 1994).

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## **Sept 24 & 26 *What is coercive diplomacy and how is it used?***

*Reading*      **Alexander George:** *Forceful Persuasion*. Entire book.  
\***Robert J. Art:** *The United States and Coercive Diplomacy*, Introduction  
**Robert J. Art:** "The Four Functions of Force" in A & J.  
\***Jon Alterman** "Coercive Diplomacy against Iraq, 1990-1998  
\***Bruce Jentleson:** "Coercive Diplomacy: Scope and Limits in the Contemporary World" in *Policy Analysis Brief*, The Stanley Foundation, December 2006.

## **Oct 1 & 3 *Balance of Power and World War I***

*Reading*      **Joseph S. Nye, Jr.:** "The Balance of Power and World War I" in *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*, Ch. 3.  
\***Steven Erlanger:** "A War Long Over" in *International New York Times*, September 8, 2014.

## **Oct 8 & 10 *The Failure of Collective Security & the run-up to World War II***

*Reading*      **Joseph S. Nye, Jr.** *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*, Ch. 4.

## **October 15 Midterm Review**

## **October 17 Midterm Exam**

## **October 22 Fall Break**

## **Oct 24 *Start of the Cold War and its Lasting Strategy***

*Reading*      \***X (George Kennan):** "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" in *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947.  
\* **Edward Judge & John Langdon,** "The German Question, The Truman Doctrine, The Marshall Plan, and Containment" in *A Hard and Bitter Peace*.  
**Joseph S. Nye, Jr.:** *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*: Ch. 5.

## **Oct 29 & 31 *The Cuban Missile Crisis***

*Film:*          *Thirteen Days* Viewed October 24 & 26. No seminar session October 26.

*Reading*      **Michael Dobbs:** *One Minute to Midnight*, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 13, and 14.  
\***Michael Dobbs:** "The Price of a 50-Year Myth" in *The New York Times*, October 15, 2012.  
\***Graham Allison:** "The Cuban Missile Crisis at 50" in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2012.

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\***Azam Ahmed & Julie Davis:** “U.S. and Cuba Reopen Long-Closed Embassies” in *The New York Times*, July 20, 2015.

## Nov 5 & 7 *End of the Cold War and the New World Order*

*Reading* **Joseph Nye:** *Understanding International Conflicts*, Chapter 6  
\***Francis Fukuyama:** “The End of History,” *The National Interest*, 1989..  
\***Samuel P. Huntington,** “The Clash of Civilizations” in *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1993.  
\***G. John Ikenberry:** “The Myth of Post-Cold War Order,” in *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 1996.  
\***Benjamin Barber:** Jihad vs. McWorld

## Nov 12 & 14 *How primacy has changed America*

\***Stephen M. Walt:** The Problem of American Power in *Taming American Power*, pp. 13-62.  
\***Andrew Bacevich:** *The New American Militarism*, "Wilsonians Under Arms."  
\***James Fallows:** “The Tragedy of the American Military” in *The Atlantic*, January/February 2015.

## Nov 19 & 21 *The 9/11 attacks gave policy primacy to the Neo-Conservatives, who advocate war as a diplomatic tool, unleashed American military power in the Middle East, and brought down upon the United States international opprobrium.*

*Reading* \***Stefan Halper & Jonathan Clarke:** “Neoconservatives: A New Political Interest Group,” pp. 9-39.  
\***Joshua Muravchik & Stephen Walt:** “The Great Debate: the Neocons vs. The Realists” in *The National Interest*, No. 27, September/October 2008  
\***Joseph S. Nye, Jr.:** *Soft Power*, Chapter 1.  
\***Frederick Kagan:** "Choosing Victory" in *AEI Online*, December 14, 2006.  
\***Editorial** “Obama Takes on Opponents of the Iran Deal” in *The New York Times*, August 5, 2015.

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Nov 26

*Iraq and The pursuit of policy contrary to self-interest.*

Reading

**Barbara Tuchman:** "Pursuit of Policy Contrary to Self-Interest" in *The March of Folly, From Troy to Vietnam*, Ballantine Books, 1985

\*"Iraq Predictions" in *The Christian Science Monitor*, December 22, 2011.

\***Kenneth M. Pollack:** "Next Stop Baghdad?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, Issue 2 (March/April 2002).

\***Paul Schroeder & Norman Robbins:** "Alternatives With American Withdrawal, *Families of the Fallen for Change*, October 8, 2006.

\***Stephen Walt & John Mearsheimer:** "An Unnecessary War," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2003)..

\***Andrew Bacevich:** "War Without Exits" in *The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism*, 2008.

**Charles Lewis:** *935 Lies*, Prologue.

\***Seth Jones & Martin Libicki:** *How Terrorist Groups End*, Chapter 2, Rand Corporation, 2008.

November 28 Thanksgiving

Dec 3 & 5

*Dealing with issues that cross national borders, including globalization and the environment.*

**Final Exam Review**

Reading

**Joseph Nye:** *Understanding International Conflicts & Cooperation*, Chapter 7.

\***Joseph Stiglitz:** *Globalization and Its Discontents*, Chapter 4.

\***Elizabeth Economy:** *The River is Black*, Cornell University, 2004, Chapters 1, 3, 5 & 6.

December 10 **Final Exam**