

# Strategic Interactions in International Affairs: Classical and Contemporary Approaches

Chair of Political Science and Contemporary History

University of Mannheim - Spring Semester 2013

Room: A 5, 6 Bauteil B - B 317

## **Instructor:**

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## **Seminar Description:**

The concept of strategy is directly related with International Relations (IR) actors' actions and theorizations. Although the increasing complexity of IR realities, its analysis is often anchored in the use of classical theories in combination with strategic and analytical reasoning. This seminar provides a deeper look into IR theories and approaches in a strategic perspective. We will analyze five major aspects: (1) Conflict and War; (2) Geopolitics; (3) Foreign Policy Decision-Making; (4) International Organizations; and (5) Democratization.

## **Seminar Goals:**

1. The overall objective of this seminar is to provide a strong and solid knowledge on theories of strategic interactions in what concerns IR topics.
2. The class aims at improving your critical and analytical thinking (using theories and connecting them with real contemporary cases).

## **Seminar Expectations:**

1. Class attendance is mandatory.
2. The readings are to be prepared in advance.
3. Completion of all assignments is strongly advised.
4. Active participation in class is important to improve the understanding of theories and perspectives presented.

## **Seminar Characteristics and Requirements:**

1. This is an *Advanced Seminar* and because of its characteristics it will be put together in the format of lectures, group activities, paper presentations and discussions.

2. There will be two assignments counting to the final grade. They will consist of an individual one page analysis delivered on the 27.04.2013 (first assignment) and on the 04.05.2013 (second assignment).
3. The practical activities also count towards the final grade.
4. The seminar grade will highly depend on a final paper<sup>1</sup> (with no more than 20 pages A4 - except title page, table of contents, and references -, font size 12, one space and a half) delivered until the 10<sup>th</sup> of June. The paper has to be presented in class (approximately 20 minutes plus 10 minutes of discussion).
5. The grades are calculated as followed:
  - *Final Paper* **65%**
  - *Paper Presentation* **20%**
  - *Assignments* **5%**
  - *Activities in Class* **5%**
  - *General Participation in Class* **5%**

### **Seminar Structure:**

20.04.2013

- **1<sup>st</sup> Class:** Defining Concepts<sup>2</sup> (Strategy, International Relations, Classical and Contemporary Approaches) [Readings: Deutsch, 1968 (pp.6-19); de Mesquita, 2010 (pp.1-22; 43-81); Waltz, 1979 (pp.18-37; 38-59; 60-78)];
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Class:** Conflict and War [Readings: Buzan, 1991 (pp. 146-185; 186-229; 294-327); de Mesquita, 2010 (pp.109-177); Deutsch, 1968 (pp.136-171); Fearon, 1995; Schelling, 2005 (pp.3-20; 257-266)];
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Class:** Geopolitics [Readings: Cohen, 2003 (pp.11-61); Dodds, 2005 (pp. 25-49; 172-197); Snidal, 1985];
- **4<sup>th</sup> Class:** Exercises Concerning Class 1, 2, and 3;
- **5<sup>th</sup> Class:** Foreign Policy Decision-Making [Readings: de Mesquita, 2010 (pp.23-42); Deutsch, 1968 (pp.81-96; 97-120; 121-135); Smith and Hadfield, 2012 (pp.13-34; 113-129); Waltz, 1979 (pp.194-210)];

27.04.2013

- **6<sup>th</sup> Class:** International Organizations [Readings: de Mesquita, 2010 (pp.315-359); Deutsch, 1968 (pp.172-181; 226-269); Koromenos et al., 2001];

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<sup>1</sup>The topic and structure of the paper shall be previously discussed with the instructor.

<sup>2</sup>There are two documents, one from Duggan 2013 and other from de Mesquita, 2010 (pp.388-414), concerning general aspects for writing papers.

- **7<sup>th</sup> Class:** Exercises Concerning Class 5 and 6;
- **8<sup>th</sup> Class:** Democratization and Exercises [*Readings:* Acemoglu and Robinson, 2009 (pp.173-220); Collier and Adcock, 1999];
- **9<sup>th</sup> Class:** Presentation and Discussion of Papers;
- **10<sup>th</sup> Class:** Presentation and Discussion of Papers;

04.05.2013

- **11<sup>th</sup> Class:** Presentation and Discussion of Papers;
- **12<sup>th</sup> Class:** Presentation and Discussion of Papers;
- **13<sup>th</sup> Class:** Presentation and Discussion of Papers;
- **14<sup>th</sup> Class:** Revisions.

### Readings:<sup>3</sup>

#### 1. Books

- Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James A. (2009) *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Buzan, Barry (1991) *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*, New York: Harvester Wheatsheaf.
- Cohen, Saul B. (2003) *Geopolitics of the World System*, Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Deutsch, Karl W. (1968) *The Analysis of International Relations*, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall.
- de Mesquita, Bruce Bueno (2010) *Principles of International Politics*, Washington, D.C: CQ Press.
- Dodds, Klaus (2005) *Global Geopolitics: A Critical Introduction*, Harlow, England, New York: Pearson Prentice-Hall.
- Schelling, Thomas C. (2005) *The Strategy of Conflict*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press.
- Smith, Steve and Hadfield, Amelia (eds.) (2012) *Foreign Policy: Theories, Actors, Cases*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Waltz, Kenneth Neal (1979) *Theory of International Politics*, New York: McGraw-Hill.

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<sup>3</sup>All the readings are available on ILIAS.

## 2. Articles

- Collier, David, and Adcock, Robert (1999) "Democracy and Dichotomies: A Pragmatic Approach to Choices About Concepts", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2, 537-565.
- Koremenos, Barbara, Lipson, Charles, and Snidal, Duncan (2001) "The Rational Design of International Institutions", *International Organization* 55 (4): 761-800.
- Fearon, James D. (1995) "Rationalist Explanations for War", *International Organization* 49, N.º 3: 379-414
- Snidal, Duncan (1985) "The Limitations of Hegemonic Stability Theory", *International Organization* 39: 579-614.