Description: This course examines international conflict and cooperation, and it is divided into two parts: forms of strategic interaction and causes of war. Because much of what is interesting in the study of international relations does not involve strategies of pure conflict (zero-sum games), the course begins with a focus on theories of interdependent decisionmaking (mixed-motive games), which model conflict as a bargaining situation. Various kinds of strategic interaction will be examined, including deterrence, compellence, appeasement, and engagement. The second half of the course investigates a wide range of theories on the causes of war and peace. Under this heading, we will explore hypotheses on alliance dynamics, domestic unrest, trade, power shifts, the offense-defense balance, and regime type as causes of war.

Requirements: Class participation and a 20 page critical analysis of the literature under one of the subheadings.

Required Books:

- Thomas Schelling, Arms and Influence (Yale UP, 1967) paperback, $19.00
- Sean Lynn-Jones, Michael Brown, and Steven Miller, eds, Debating the Democratic Peace (MIT Press, 1996), $21.00
- Geoffrey Blainey, The Causes of War (Free Press, 1973), $14.95
- Mohammed Ayoob, The Third World Security Predicament (Boulder, CO: Lynne Reinner, 1995), $18.95

Part I: Theories of Strategic Interaction

Game Theory: Conflict as a Bargaining Strategy (Topic One)
Thomas C. Schelling, Arms and Influence, chaps. 1-3.

Supplementary Readings:

Cooperation Theory (Topic Two)

David Lake and Robert Powell, eds., Strategic Choice and International Relations, ch. 1.


Critiques of Game Theory/Cooperation Theory (Topic Three)

Supplementary Reading:
Donald Green and Ian Shapiro, *Pathologies of Rational Choice Theory*, chaps 1-3.

**Deterrence (Topic Four)**


**The Deterrence Debate**


Supplementary Readings:

**Accommodation: Engagement and Appeasement (Topic Five)**


Supplementary Readings:
Amitai Etzioni, "The Kennedy Experiment," *Western Political Quarterly* (June 1967).

**Part II: Causes of War and Peace**

**Origins of War: General Theories (Topic Six)**

Supplementary Readings:

The Offense-Defense Balance and War (Topic Seven)


Supplementary Reading:

Alliance Dynamics and War (Topic Eight)

Dan Reiter, "Learning, Realism, and Alliances: The Weight of the Shadow of the Past," World Politics 46, no. 4 (July 1994), 490-526.

Supplementary Readings:
Randall Schweller, Deadly Imbalances: Tripolarity and Hitler's Strategy of World Conquest (Columbia UP, 1998), chap. 3.

Domestic Unrest and War (Topic Nine)


Power Shifts and War (Topic Ten)

Supplementary Readings:

Regime Type and War (Topic Eleven)

Trade and War (Topic Twelve)

Regional Conflicts and War (Topic Thirteen)