How do actors and institutions influence states’ decisions for war or peace? Which actors and institutions matter more, those located at the domestic or international level? This course aims to familiarize students with the major paradigms in international relations and the actors and institutions highlighted in those paradigms as being particularly consequential for states’ security policies. Sessions will be comprised of student-led presentations that summarize the material we have read and generate discussion of the research designs, findings, and methodologies employed therein, as well as their application to contemporary security policy challenges. The course aims to equip students with the necessary tools to conduct research on foreign security policy, complete a final research paper, and deliver a presentation to the class summarizing their findings.

Instructor: Professor Amy Catalinac
Email: acatalinac@fas.harvard.edu
Office: CGIS North 423.
Office Hours: Thu, 2-4pm.
Course Website: http://isites.harvard.edu/k106732.

Course Requirements:

1. Participation (20%)
   This course depends on your participation. You are expected to read the assigned material each week and come prepared to discuss the research questions, research designs, findings, and methodologies contained within and their relevance for contemporary foreign policy challenges.

2. Presentation on Assigned Material (20%)
   Beginning in the second session, each session will be comprised of one or more student-led presentations on the assigned material. The schedule of presentations and material to be covered in each presentation will be decided in or immediately after the first session (Sep 8). If you cannot attend the first session, please email me. Your task is to summarize the material assigned to you, raise questions for discussion, and where possible, connect it to current events in world politics. You are expected to meet with me the week before your presentation to go over its content and submit your presentation slides to me before delivering your presentation. You will be graded on your ability to deliver a clear, concise, and visually-appealing presentation.
3. Research Prospectus (10%)

For the final paper, your task is to think of a research question related to the foreign security policy of a state or group of states. The question should identify a puzzle, of which the answer is not obvious. You are to offer an answer to this question, perhaps taken from the variables we study in the course but perhaps not, and provide evidence, gleaned from as many sources as possible, that your answer is correct. You are also expected to come up with other possible answers to your question and provide evidence that they are incorrect. You will be graded on your ability to identify a research question, construct an answer to that question, and provide evidence in support of your answer. In preparation for the paper, you are expected to submit a research prospectus to me via email by 5pm on October 27. This will describe the question you are planning to focus on in your final paper and why it matters, offer several possible answers to this question, and suggest ways of evaluating those. It must be less than five double-spaced pages and should be submitted in pdf form. This gives me the opportunity to provide feedback for your in your writing of the final paper.

4. Final Paper Presentation (10%)

The final session (on December 1) will be comprised of student presentations summarizing the main findings of their final research papers. Other students are encouraged to comment on their classmates’ research.

5. Final Research Paper (40%)

The final paper should be between 20-25 double-spaced pages and should be submitted to me via email in pdf format before 5pm on December 10. Typically, your paper will include references to secondary sources such as academic journal articles and books pertaining to your subject area, as well as primary sources, such as newspaper articles, policy statements, and blogs. Please consult the Harvard Guide to Using Sources for information about referencing. Either citation style is fine, as long as you are consistent.

Grade Breakdown:

- Participation ................................................................. 20%
- Presentation(s) on Assigned Material ................................. 20%
- Research Prospectus ...................................................... 10%
- Final Paper Presentation ............................................... 10%
- Final Research Paper .................................................... 40%

Required Texts: There are no required textbooks for this course.

Assigned Readings: The assigned readings for each week are available through the course website. Supplementary material for each session is also noted. This is only for your reference and is not required. There may be minor adjustments to the assigned readings as the course progresses, which will be communicated well in advance.

Policy on Collaboration: You are encouraged to discuss with one another your approach to the presentation and final paper, but you must ensure that any material submitted to meet the requirements of the course (including your presentation slides, research prospectus, and final paper) is your own work.
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the Accessible Education Office and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the semester. Failure to do so may result in the instructor’s inability to respond in a timely manner.

Important Dates:

- Presentation on Assigned Material ................. (to be scheduled).
- Research Prospectus Due .......................... October 27 (at 5pm)
- Final Paper Presentation ............................ December 1
- Final Research Paper Due ............................ December 10 (at 5pm)

COURSE OUTLINE

Sep 8 (Week 1): Theoretical and Empirical Tools in the Study of War and Peace.


For Reference:


Sep 15 (Week 2). Actor: The State.


For Reference:


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Sep 22 (Week 3). Actor: Leaders.


For Reference:


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Sep 29 (Week 4). Institution: Democracy.


For Reference:


Oct 6 (Week 5). **Institution: Autocracy.**


Oct 13 (Week 6). **No meeting. Columbus Day.**

Oct 20 (Week 7). **Actor: The Public.**


For Reference:


For Reference:


Nov 3 (Week 9). Institution: Identity and Culture.


For Reference:


For Reference:


Nov 17 (Week 11). Actor: Sub-national and Supra-national.


For Reference:


Nov 24 (Week 12). Institution: Domestic Political.


**For Reference:**


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Dec 1 (Week 13). Student Presentations on Final Research Paper.