

INTL 8255: Comparative Foreign Policy

University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs

Instructor: Patrick James

Office: Candler Hall 323

Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (and on Zoom at other times)

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Course Description

The range of material that might be included in this seminar is vast, so an effort will be made to balance overall coverage with the need to look in more depth at some especially salient areas. The structure of the course will correspond to *Conflict, Crisis, and War in World Politics: An Introduction*. This new text links the study of foreign policy to its standard subject matter: Conflict, Crisis, and War (CCW). Possibilities for international cooperation are explored as well. The course also is inclusive in terms of viewpoint; rather than working within a given paradigm, a problem-oriented approach is adopted. Each section of the material to be covered is outlined below.

‘Overview of the Course’ takes place in the first two classes. The first class offers an introduction to the subject area within the context of International Relations (IR). Included as well is an overview of the *systemist* visual approach that will play a significant role throughout the semester. This highly accessible method can be grasped very quickly and provides a valuable tool for analysis of analytical arguments encountered in academic literature. The second class focuses on understanding the challenges of CCW within the context of Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA). FPA has replaced Comparative Foreign Policy as the conventional term used in the field of IR, so it is implemented from this point onward.

‘Part I: Understanding the Problem’ covers three classes. These sessions on CCW focus, respectively, on their nature, evolution, and associated issues.

‘Part II: Explaining the Problem’ unfolds over five sessions. Application of the system, state, and individual levels of analysis to achieve breadth of explanation for CCW takes place in three classes. Depth is obtained in the next two sessions that focus, respectively, on understanding crises and civil wars.

‘Part III: Coping with the Problem’ spans the final two classes. State- and non-state approaches to managing CCW are covered in turn. This section of the course places special emphasis on policy relevance.

Course Requirements

Mid-term Exam (available Sept. 18 at 8 a.m. – due Sept. 25 at 11 p.m.)	15%
Final Exam (available Dec. 3 at 8 a.m. – due Dec. 10 at 11 p.m.)	25%
Term Essay (due Nov. 20 at 11 p.m., two-page outline due Oct. 30 at 11 p.m.)	30%
Seminar Leadership	15%
Class Participation	15%

Review sheets (i.e., study guides) will be provided on email so you can prepare effectively for the take-home mid-term and final exams. All of the material from the assigned readings and class discussions will be tested on the exams. The mid-term will appear on email at 8 a.m. on September 18; a ten-page, double spaced answer is due as an email attachment on September 25 at 11 p.m. The respective dates for the final exam are December 3 and 10. The final exam will be 15 double spaced pages. Please use 12-point font and one inch margins.

The term essay, limited to 25-double spaced pages (i.e., text and notes), is due as an email attachment by 11 p.m. on November 20. The format is straightforward. I expect you to focus in greater depth on any one of the major subjects we cover on a weekly basis. A two-page outline and bibliography for your paper is due on October 30 at 11 p.m. This should be sent to me for review and approval via email. Please do visit with me as you begin to put together your outline.

Student will take turns leading the seminar during the semester. The dates at which you will serve as seminar leader will be determined by a lottery held in the first class session. (Trades between students are permitted but must be approved in advance by the instructor.) The seminar leader is expected to (a) prepare a set of discussion points about the material that I then send out on the Tuesday before class; and (b) take primary responsibility for leading the discussion throughout the seminar session. The discussion points are due to me (i.e., at patrickj@usc.edu by email attachment) on Monday by 11 p.m. prior to your session as seminar leader. For example, if you are seminar leader for September 18, your material is due on September 15 at 11 p.m.

A successful seminar will involve a mixture of discussion including both theory and its application to the real world. Thus, the seminar leader should try to provide a series of provocative questions and issues that bring together the reading material for the week under more encompassing themes. I will serve as seminar leader for August 21.

Your attendance and participation are very important to the success of this seminar. Thus, a grade for participation in sessions other than those for which you are seminar leader also is included.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60).

UGA Student Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

UGA Well-Being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu

Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu

University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu

Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273

Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu

Accessibility and Testing: accessibility.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

Required Books

James, Patrick, and James M. Scott. 2025. *Conflict, Crisis, and War in World Politics: An Introduction*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

Other Required Readings

All other reading will be made available by the instructor.

Schedule

Overview of the Course

Comparative Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy Analysis

Understanding the Challenges of Conflict, Crisis, and War

James and Scott, pp. 1-16.

Holsti, Ole R. 1989. "Models of International Relations and Foreign Policy." *Diplomatic History* 13: 15-43.

Hayes, Jarrod. 2016. "Identity, Authority, and the British War in Iraq." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 12: 334-353.

Noone, Harry. 2019. "Two-Level Games and the Policy Process: Assessing Domestic-Foreign Policy Linkage Theory." *World Affairs* 182: 165-186.

Walker, Stephen. 2025. "Binary Role Theory and Modeling the Superpower Confrontation in Ukraine." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21.

Part I: Understanding the Problem

Conflict, Crisis, and War in World Politics

James and Scott, pp. 18-43.

Brecher, Michael, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. 1984. "Crises in World Politics." *World Politics* 34: 380-417.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce. 2006. "Game Theory, Political Economy, and the Evolving Study of War and Peace." *American Political Science Review* 100: 637-642.

Rathbun, Brian, et al. 2016. "Taking Foreign Policy Personally: Personal Values and Foreign Policy Attitudes." *International Studies Quarterly* 60: 124-137.

Maoz, Zeev, et al. 2019. "The Dyadic Interstate Disputes (MIDs) Dataset Version 3.0." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 63: 811-835.

The Evolution of Conflict, Crisis, and War

James and Scott, pp. 44-65.

Lasswell, Harold D. 1941. "The Garrison State." *American Journal of Sociology* 46: 455-468.

Goertz, Gary, and Paul F. Diehl. 1995. "The Initiation and Termination of Enduring Rivalries: The Impact of Political Shocks." *American Journal of Political Science* 39: 30-52.

Peksen, Dursun, and A. Cooper Drury. 2010. "Coercive or Corrosive: The Negative Impact of Economic Sanctions on Democracy." *International Interactions* 36: 240-264.

Doran, Charles F. 2012. "Power Cycle Theory and the Ascendancy of China: Peaceful or Stormy?" *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 32: 73-87.

The Issues

James and Scott, pp. 66-90.

Buhaug, Halvard. 2016. "Climate Change and Conflict: Taking Stock." *Peace Economics, Peace Science, and Public Policy* 22: 331-338.

Frederick, Bryan A., Paul R. Hensel and Christopher Macaulay. 2017. "The Issue Correlates of War Territorial Data, 1816-2001." *Journal of Peace Research* 54: 99-108.

Zellman, Ariel, and Jonathan Fox. 2022. "With Friends Like These: Does American Soft Power Advance International Religious Freedom?" *Religions* 13: 502.

Haider, Muhammad Waqas. 2025. "Theory of Self-Determination: A Viable Solution for the Kashmir Conflict." *World Affairs* 188.

Review Sheet for Mid-term Take-Home Exam sent out

Part II: Explaining the Problem

System-Level Explanations

James and Scott, pp. 92-115.

Efird, Brian, et al. 2003. "From War to Integration: Generalizing Power Transition Theory." *International Interactions* 29: 293-313.

Shiffrinson, Joshua. 2020. "The Rise of China, Balance of Power Theory and US National Security: Reasons for Optimism?" *Journal of Strategic Studies* 43: 175-216.

Lind, Jennifer. 2024. "Back to Bipolarity." *International Security* 49: 7-55.

Del Canto Viterale, Francisco. 2025. "Global Power Dynamics in the Contemporary Space System." *Systems* 13: 276.

Mid-term Take-Home Exam sent out at 8 a.m.

Class Cancelled

Mid-term Take-Home Exam is due at 11 p.m.

State-Level Explanations

James and Scott, pp. 116-136

Putnam, Robert D. 1988. "Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games." *International Organization* 42: 427-460.

Kaarbo, Juliet. 2015. "The Domestic Politics and Decision Making Turn in IR Theory: An FPA Perspective." *International Studies Review* 17: 189-216.

Baum, Matthew A., and Philip B. K. Potter. 2019. "Media, Public Opinion, and Foreign Policy in the Age of Social Media." *Journal of Politics* 81: 747-756.

Wajner, Daniel F., and Philip Giurlando. 2024. "Populist Foreign Policy: Mapping the Developing Research Program on Populism in International Relations." *International Studies Review* 26.

Individual-Level Explanations

James and Scott, pp. 137-155.

Foster, Dennis M., and Jonathan W. Keller. 2014. "Leaders' Cognitive Complexity, Distrust, and the Diversionary Use of Force." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 10: 205-223.

Saunders, Elizabeth N. 2017. "No Substitute for Experience: Presidents, Advisers, and Information in Group Decision Making." *International Organization* 71: Supplement, S219-S247.

Özdamar, Özgür, and Sercan Canbolat. 2018. "Understanding New Middle Eastern Leadership: An Operational Code Approach." *Political Research Quarterly* 71: 19-31.

Eder, Franz. 2019. "Making Concurrence-Seeking Visible: Groupthink, Discourse Networks, and the 2003 Iraq War." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 15:

Understanding Crises

James and Scott, pp. 156-182.

Santmire, Tara E., et al. 1998. "The Impact of Cognitive Diversity on Crisis Negotiation." *Political Psychology* 19: 721-748.

Asal, Victor, and Kyle Beardsley. 2007. "Proliferation and International Crisis Behavior." *Journal of Peace Research* 44: 139-155.

Ben-Yehuda, Hemda, and Luba Levin-Banchik. 2010. "The Dangers of Terror in World Politics: International Terror Crises, 1918-2006." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 34: 31-46.

Chen, Chong, et al. 2022. "Tipping Points: Challenges in Analyzing International Crisis Escalation." *International Studies Review*.

Understanding Civil Wars and Multilevel Explanations

James and Scott, pp. 183-234.

Stewart, Megan A. 2018. "Civil War as State-Making: Strategic Governance in Civil War." *International Organization* 72: 205-226.

Akbaba, Yasemin. 2023. "Religious Discrimination Against Minorities: Theories and Findings." *Social Sciences* 12. 522.

Kim, Min Jung. 2025. "Uneven Violent Geographies: Territorial Saliency, Selective State-Building and Conflict Onset." *Civil Wars*.

Olson Lounsbery, Marie. 2025. "A Systemist Examination of Civil Wars and Their Actors." *Social Sciences* 14.

Part III: Coping With the Problem

State-Based Approaches to Managing Conflict, Crisis, and War

James and Scott, pp. 236-271.

Pickering, Jeffrey J., and Emizet F. Kisangani. 2023. "Foreign Military Intervention and Cabinet Government Stability." *Political Research Quarterly* 76: 1074-1088.

Kettle, Louise. 2025. "Can Foreign Policy Succeed Through Inactivity? A Case Study of UK Foreign Policy After the Gulf War." *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

Canbolat, Sercan, and Stephen B. Dyson. "Dominating the Superpower: A Bounded Rationality Approach to Nuclear Proliferation in the US/North Korea Dyad." *Uluslararası İlişkiler* 20: 49-71.

Rezaeedyakenari, Babak, Vahid Ghafouri and Nihat Kasap. 2025. "Who Rallies Round the Flag? The Impact of the US Sanctions on Iranians' Attitude Toward the Government." *Foreign Policy Analysis*.

Two-Page Outline for Term Essay Due at 11 p.m.

IGOs, NGOs, and Management of Conflict, Crisis, and War

James and Scott, pp. 272-302.

Pape, Robert A. 2012. "When Duty Calls: A Pragmatic Standard of Humanitarian Intervention." *International Security* 37: 41-80.

Owsiak, Andrew P. 2021. "Conflict Management Trajectories: Theory and Evidence." *International Interactions* 47: 23-55.

Kuperman, Alan J. 2024. "How Humanitarian Intervention Can Succeed: Liberia's Lessons for the R2P." *Civil Wars* 26: 595-629.

Kuan-Ku, Chiu. 2024. "Applying the Responsibility to Protect and Instant Customary International Law in Conflicts: Comparative Analysis of NATO's Intervention in Kosovo and the 2023 Israel-Hamas Conflict." *Amsterdam Law Forum* 16, 1.

Review Sheet for Final Take-Home Exam sent out at 8 a.m.

What Do We Know About Conflict, Crisis, and War?

James and Scott, pp. 303-318.

Class Cancelled

Term Essay Due at 11 p.m.

Final exam available on December 3 at 8 a.m. – due December 10 at 11 p.m.