

Syllabus for Govt. 391: International Conflict and Cooperation

**College of William and Mary
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For the past 15 years theorists of international relations have attempted to develop sound explanations for patterns of conflict and cooperation observed in the international arena. However, just when a consensus seemed to be emerging on which theories best explained the real world...that world underwent a series of sudden and dramatic changes. These changes in the real world (the end of the Cold War, the spread of democratic polities, the peaceful dissolution of the Soviet Union and the enlargement of existing international organizations) caused scholars to re-asses their explanations of international conflict and cooperation. As a result, we have seen an explosion of interest in the subject of international cooperation. Today, students of international relations have a large number of theories to choose from, but little consensus on which theories are most helpful at explaining or predicting conflict and cooperation in the real world.

This course provides students of international politics with an opportunity to test these competing theories in a number of interesting ways. After a review of the theoretical literature students will apply these theories to a range of historical and contemporary case studies. Cases are drawn from a range of different policy areas including economic, security and environmental issues. In addition to the case studies, students will have the opportunity to apply the insights of these theories in a series of computer simulations conducted over the internet. These simulations allow students to assume the roll of state leaders, advisors or diplomats and interact with other students at universities in North America, Europe, the Former Soviet Union and Asia. Through the use of the case study method and the simulations, students will draw conclusions about which theories help us to understand patterns of international conflict and cooperation.

I. Outline of the Course:

- I. What Do We Mean by “Cooperation” and “Conflict?”**
- II. The Realist Canon.**
- III. The Liberal Response.**
- IV. Does Cooperation Vary by Issue Area?**
- V. Does Domestic Politics Influence International Cooperation?**
- VI. Applying Theories to Cases**
 - A. NATO Expansion – Collective Good or Domestic Politics?
 - B. The Uneven Enlargement of International Organizations
 - C. Arms Control in Europe Before and After the Cold War
 - D. Economic and Political Integration in Europe and Beyond
 - E. Trans-border Environmental Problems
 - F. Marshall Plan II or Containment Redux?
- VII. Atlantic Council Simulation: Security Crisis in Europe**

II. **Reading Assignments:** The vast majority of the required reading for this course is contained in a Course Reader. The reader is a compilation of book chapters, speeches, conference papers and journal articles. A copy of the reader can be purchased at Staples Office Supply store on Richmond Road and another copy is in the Government Department Office (Morton 10). You should photocopy the entire Reader as soon as possible. Additional reading will be assigned for the simulation and by your class-mates as a supplement to the group projects. All this material will either be distributed in class or through the course web page at <http://courseinfo.wm.edu/courses/GOVT391-01-S00/>.

III. **Grades:** Your course grade will be the weighted average of class discussions, group projects, simulation performance, and the final paper. These 4 elements will be weighted as follows:

Class Discussion	20%
Group Project	20%
Simulations	20%
Final Paper	40% (Due on May 8, 1999)

IV. **Schedule of Lectures, Group Projects, and Readings:**

I. **What Do We Mean by “Cooperation” and “Conflict?” How Are These Related to Negotiation and Bargaining?**

Robert Axelrod, “The Problem of Cooperation,” Chapter 1 from *The Evolution of Cooperation*.

Robert Keohane, “The Concept of Cooperation,” Chapter 4 from *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*.

Starkey and Boyer, Chapter 1 and 5. (Optional cases in chapters 2-4 may make it easier to follow points in chapter 5).

II. **The Realist Canon (and the new pretenders)**

Joseph Grieco, “Realist International Theory and the Study of World Politics,” in Doyle and Ikenberry ed. *New Thinking in International Relations Theory*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1997.

Stephen Krasner, “Global Communications and National Power: Life on the Pareto Frontier,” *World Politics*, April 1992.

John Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future: Instability in Europe After the Cold War,” *International Security*, Summer 1990.

William Pfaff, "The Coming Clash of Europe with America," *World Policy Journal*, Winter 1998/99.

Robert M. White, "Climate Science and National Interests: Coping With Global Climate Change," *Issues in Science and Technology*, Fall 1996.

Helen Milner, "International Theories of Cooperation Among Nations: Strengths and Weaknesses," *World Politics*, April 1992.

Starkey and Boyer, Chapter 2.

III. The Liberal Response.

Andrew Moravcsick, "Taking Preferences Seriously: A Liberal Theory of International Politics," *International Organization*, Winter 1997.

Robert Keohane, "The Demand for International Regimes," *International Organization*, Spring 1982.

Lisa Martin, "Credibility, Costs and Institutions: Cooperation on Economic Sanctions," *World Politics*, April 1993.

Robert A. McCalla, "NATO's Persistence After the Cold War," *International Organization*, Summer 1996.

Edward A. Parson, "Commons Problems: Protecting the Ozone," in Mark Levy, Peter Haas and Robert Keohane, *Institutions for the Earth*, MIT Press, 1993.

IV. Does Cooperation Vary by Issue Area?

Charles Lipson, "International Cooperation in Economic and Security Affairs," *World Politics*, April 1984.

Arthur Stein, "Coordination and Collaboration Games," in *Why Nations Cooperate*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990.

Starkey and Boyer, Chapter 4.

V. Does Domestic Politics Influence International Cooperation?

Robert Putnam, *Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two Level Games*, *International Organization*, Summer 1988

Susan Peterson, *Crisis Bargaining and the State: Domestic Politics of International Conflict*. Michigan, 1996.

Emanuel Adler, "The Emergence of Cooperation: National Epistemic Communities and the International Evolution of the Idea of Nuclear Arms Control," *International Organization*, Winter 1992.

Jeffrey Knopf, *Domestic Society and International Cooperation: The Impact on U.S. Arms Control Policy*. Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Avinish Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, "Making Strategies Credible," *Strategy and Choice*, 1991.

John Odell, "International Threats and Internal Politics: Brazil, the EC and the United States, 1985-87," in *Double Edged Diplomacy*, UC Press, 1993.

Peter Cowhey, "Elect Locally – Order Globally: Domestic Politics and Multilateral Cooperation," *Multilateralism Matters*, Columbia: 1993.

Starkey and Boyer, Chapter 3.

VI. Applying Theories to Cases: High-Tech Group Presentations

A. NATO Expansion

George Grayson, *Strange Bedfellows: NATO Marches East*, 1999.

B. The Uneven Enlargement of International Organizations

Michael Tierney, "Partial Integration of the Former Communist States in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union." Working Paper, 1998.

C. Crisis Management in Europe After the Cold War

Reading to be announced.

D. Economic and Political Integration in Europe

Garrett and Weingast, "Ideas, Interests and Institutions: Constructing the European Community's Internal Market," *Ideas and Foreign Policy*, 1993.

E. Trans-border Environmental Problems

Reading to be announced.

F. Marshall Plan II or Containment Redux? Western Economic Assistance

Reading to be announced.

VII. Atlantic Council Simulation: Crisis Management

J. Byrnes and J. Torney-Purta, "Naïve Theories and Decision Making as Part of Higher Order Thinking in Social Studies," *Theory and Research in Social Education*, Summer 1995.

Starkey and Boyer, Chpt. 6 and 7.

The simulation will use the software from the ICONS web site at the University of Maryland. Feel free to check it out.

<http://www.icons.umd.edu>

The simulation is run by the Atlantic Council. Check out the description and the rules at their web site, or peruse the results of last year's simulation at

<http://www.acus.org/Education/>