

PSC 648 Research in International Politics

Course Syllabus

Fall 2007

Class schedule: Thursday 2-4:50 p.m.

Location: 502 Park Hall

Professor: Dr. Vesna Danilovic

Department of Political Science

University at Buffalo, SUNY

Office: 505 Park Hall

Office hours: Tue and Thr 9-11 a.m.

Course webpage:

<http://www.polsci.buffalo.edu/classes/vesna/PSC648-fall07.html>

Course description

This course covers methodology and research design in international relations. Starting with the general issues of theoretical development and causation, we then focus closely on the issues of conducting research: selecting a research question, generating propositions and hypotheses, developing concepts and their measures, selecting cases and units of analysis for the empirical analysis, and getting familiar with a few major data sets. Toward the end of the course, we will overview the basic issues in the "qualitative vs. quantitative methods" debate as well as statistical estimator choices. Previous coursework in research methods is strongly recommended.

Required readings:

Most readings for the course consist of selected book chapters and journal articles. One book is required for the course and it is available for purchase at Talking Leaves bookstore at 3158 Main Street (close to the South Campus; for hours see <http://tleavesbooks.com/contact.htm>):

- John Gerring. 2001. *Social Science Methodology: A Criterial Framework*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Almost all other required readings are available online. If not available through JSTOR (<http://www.jstor.org>) or SUNY Buffalo electronic journal holdings (<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/ft.html>) UBElectJo, they can be accessed at the UB Library electronic reserve for this course (CElectRes). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to download all linked materials. Only a few of the remaining readings will not be available electronically but rather placed on reserve in the Capen Library are indicated below as Course reserve (Capen Hall).

Excused Absences and Deadline Extensions

If the student is seeking an excused absence, s/he must notify me as soon as possible after the absence, but no later than the end of the second working day after the last date of absence. If the absence occurs the same day as a scheduled presentation or other graded procedure, the student must notify me or the department by the end of the next working day after the absence in order to ensure full rights. At this graduate stage of professional development, it is given that a political

scientist is conscientious in meeting the deadlines, intellectually motivated to contribute to seminar discussions, and regularly attends all seminar meetings. Therefore, the student is expected to provide satisfactory documented evidence within one week of his or her absence to substantiate the reason for it. Deadline extensions can be given ONLY in documented cases of serious illness or family emergency. Otherwise, a homework assignment will be marked down one grade for each day it is late. The final draft of the reserch project will be graded F if not turned in to me by noon on December 11.

All readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned.

Course requirements

Final grades will be based on the following:

- 50% Research Design project -- 40% final draft, 10% presentation at Mini-Conference
- 5% Mini-Conference participation as a discussant
- 20% Research Review
- 15% seminar moderator for one topic
- 10% regular seminar participation

Details about the requirements for the Research Design project and Research Review will be handed out in class.

The breakdown for final grades is as follows:

- 93-100 % (A); 90-92.9% (A-);
- 87-89.9% (B+); 83-86.9% (B); 80-82.9% (B-);
- 77-77.9% (C+); 73-76.9% (C); 70-72.9% (C-);
- 67-69.9% (D+); 63-66.9% (D); 60-62.9% (D-);
- < 60% (F)

NOTE: Any case of plagiarism or any other forms of academic dishonesty will automatically result in grade F for the course. It is the student's responsibility to understand all aspects, instances, and rules regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Consult the UB pages and policy on these issues such as <http://academicintegrity.buffalo.edu/> and also <http://www.plagiarism.org> as a starting point.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 (August 30):

COURSE OVERVIEW

The students should start reading Preface and Chapter 1 in Gerring's book (2001) during this week.

Week 2 (September 6):

THEORY AND CAUSATION

Gerring, Preface, Chapters 1 & 7

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. "Causality and Causal Inference," in their *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 3 (pp. 75-114). /H61 .K5437 1994/ (you should have this book from PSC 500 or PSC 502)

Fischer, David Hackett. 1970. "Fallacies of Causation," in David Hackett Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*. New York: Harper & Row, Chapter 6 (pp. 163-186). *CElectRes

Most, Benjamin A., and Harvey Starr. 1982. "Case Selection, Conceptualizations and Basic Logic in the Study of War." *American Journal of Political Science* 26 (4): 834-856. *JSTOR

Ray, James Lee. 2003. "Explaining Interstate Conflict and War: What Should Be Controlled For?" *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 20 (2): 1-31. *CElectRes

Week 3 (September 13):

Note: No class; Rosh Hashanah observed

Week 4 (September 20):

COMPONENTS OF EMPIRICAL RESEARCH & SELECTING A RESEARCH TOPIC

Gerring, Chapter 2

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. "Major Components of Research Design," in their *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1.2 Section in Ch. 1 (pp. 12-18).

Fischer, David Hackett. 1970. "Fallacies of Question-Framing," in David Hackett Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*. New York: Harper & Row, Chapter 1 (pp. 3-39). *Course reserve (Capen Hall)

Week 5 (September 27):

CONCEPTS AND MEASUREMENT

Gerring, Chapters 3-4

Sartori, Giovanni. 1970. "Concept Misformation in Comparative Politics." *American Political Science Review* 64 (4): 1033-1053. *JSTOR

Adcock, Robert, and David Collier. 2001. "Measurement Validity: A Shared Standard for Qualitative and Quantitative Research." *American Political Science Review* 95 (3): 529-546. *JSTOR

Example I: Economic interdependence

(alternative concepts and measures --> different findings)

Oneal, John R., and Bruce Russett. 1997. "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." *International Studies Quarterly* 41 (2): 267-294. *JSTOR

Gartzke, Erik, and Quan Li. 2003. "Measure for Measure: Concept Operationalization and the Trade Interdependence-Conflict Debate." *Journal of Peace Research* 40 (5): 553-571. *UBElectJo

Week 6 (October 4):

CONCEPTS AND MEASUREMENT (cont.)

Example II: Democracy

(alternative concepts and/or measures)

Elkins, Zachary. 2000. "Gradations of Democracy? Empirical Tests of Alternative Conceptualizations." *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2): 293-300. *JSTOR

Collier, David, and Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." *World Politics* 49 (3) 430-51. *JSTOR

Zakaria, Fareed. 1997. "The Rise of Illiberal Democracy." *Foreign Affairs* 76 (6): 22-43. *UBElectJo

Alvarez, Mike, J.A. Cheibub, F. Limongi, A. Przeworski. 1996. "Classifying Political Regimes." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 31 (2): 3-36. *UBElectJo

Jagers, Keith, and Ted Robert Gurr. 1995. "Tracking Democracy's Third Wave with the Polity III Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 32 (4): 468-82. *JSTOR

Example III: Democratization and International Conflict

(alternative concepts/measures and causations):

Mansfield, Edward, and Jack Snyder. 2002. "Incomplete Democratization and the Outbreak of Military Disputes." *International Studies Quarterly* 46 (4): 529-549. *UBElectJo

Clare, Joe. 2007. "Democratization and International Conflict: The Impact of Institutional Legacies" *Journal of Peace Research* 44 (3): 259-76. *UBElectJo

Week 7 (October 11):

SESSION I: COMPUTER LAB (450 PARK)

Bennett, D. Scott, and Allan Stam. 2001. *EUGene: Expected Utility Generation and Data Management Program*. Documentation and software available at:

<http://www.eugenesoftware.org/>

Selected Standard Variables and Data Sources:

Interstate Conflicts

1. COW Militarized Interstate Disputes:

Ghosn, Faten, Glenn Palmer, and Stuart A. Bremer. 2004. "The MID3 Data Set, 1993–2001: Procedures, Coding Rules, and Description." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 21 (2): 133–54. *UBElectJo

data: <http://cow2.la.psu.edu/COW2%20Data/MIDs/MID302.html>

2. International Crisis Behavior (ICB) Project:

Hewitt, J. Joseph. 2003. "Dyadic Processes and International Crises." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47 (5): 669-692. *JSTOR
data: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/icb/>

SESSION II: PROPOSITIONS AND HYPOTHESES (502 PARK)

Gerring, Chapters 5-6 (re-read Chapter 7)

Examples:

Bennett, D. Scott. 1997. "Testing Alternative Models of Alliance Duration, 1816-1984."

American Journal of Political Science 41 (3): 846-878. *JSTOR

Schultz, Kenneth A. 1999. "Do Domestic Institutions Constrain or Inform?: Contrasting Two Institutional Perspectives on Democracy and War." *International Organization* 53 (2): 233-266. *JSTOR

Week 8 (October 18):

CASE SELECTIONS, UNITS OF ANALYSIS, AND RESEARCH DESIGN

Gerring, Chapter 8

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. "Selection Bias" and "Intentional Selection of Observations," in their *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Sections 4.3 & 4.4. in Chapter 4 (pp. 128-149).

Eulau, Heinz. 1986. "Units and Levels of Analysis," in Heinz Eulau, *Politics, Self, and Society: A Theme and Variations*. Cambridge, Mass. : Harvard University Press, Chapter 2 (pp. 76-91). *CElectRes

Bennett, D. Scott, and Allan C. Stam. 2000. "Research Design and Estimator Choices in the Analysis of Interstate Dyads: When Decisions Matter." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (5): 653-685 *Read only pp. 653-663 (we will read the remaining pages later on). *JSTOR

Lemke, Douglas, and William Reed. 2001. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (1): 126-45. *JSTOR

Selection Bias Issues -- Example: Deterrence

Achen, Christopher H., and Duncan Snidal. 1989. "Rational Deterrence Theory and Comparative Case Studies." *World Politics* 41 (2): 143-169. *JSTOR

Danilovic, Vesna. 2001. "Conceptual and Selection Bias Issues in Deterrence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45 (1): 97-125. *JSTOR

Fearon, James D. 2002. "Selection Effects and Deterrence." *International Interactions* 28: 5-29. *CElectRes

Week 9 (October 25):

SESSION I: COMPUTER LAB (450 PARK)

Selected Standard Variables and Data Sources (cont.):

Capabilities

1. COW Composite Indicator of National Capabilities (CINC score) / National Material

Capabilities (v3.02):

Singer, J. David. 1987. "Reconstructing the Correlates of War Dataset on Material Capabilities of States, 1816-1985." *International Interactions* 14 (2): 115-132. *Course reserve (Capen Hall)

data: <http://cow2.la.psu.edu/COW2%20Data/Capabilities/nmc3-02.htm>

2. Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

Gleditsch, Kristian S. 2002. "Expanded Trade and GDP Data." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46 (5): 712-724. *JSTOR

data: <http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~ksg/exptradegdp.html>

SESSION II: QUALITATIVE VS. QUANTITATIVE METHODS (502 PARK)

Gerring, Chapter 9

Fischer, David Hackett. 1970. "Fallacies of Generalization," in David Hackett Fischer, *Historians' Fallacies: Toward a Logic of Historical Thought*. New York: harper & Row, Chapter 4 (pp. 103-130). *Course reserve (Capen Hall)

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane, and Sidney Verba. 1994. "Increasing the Number of Observations," in their *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference in Qualitative Research*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Chapter 6 (pp. 208-230).

"Review Symposium: The Qualitative-Quantitative Disputation," *American Political Science Review* 89 (2, June 1995): 454-81. (Laitin; Carporaso; Collier; Rogowski; Tarrow; King, Keohane, and Verba) *JSTOR

Gerring, John. 2004. "What is a Case Study and What is it Good For?" *American Political Science Review* 98 (2): 341-354. *UBElectJo

Levy, Jack S. 2002. "Qualitative Methods in International Relations," in Frank P. Harvey and Micahel Brecher, eds., *Evaluating Methodology in International Studies*. Michigan: Michigan University Press, pp. 131-160. *CElectRes

Week 10 (November 1)

Note: No class; the instructor is attending the conference

NOTE: RESEARCH REVIEW IS DUE BY NOON ON NOVEMBER 8

Week 11 (November 8):

SESSION I: COMPUTER LAB (450 PARK)

Selected Standard Variables and Data Sources (cont.):

Alliances

Singer, J. David, and Melvin Small. 1966. "Formal Alliances, 1815-1939." *Journal of Peace Research* 3 (1):1-31. *JSTOR

data: <http://cow2.la.psu.edu/COW2%20Data/Alliances/alliance.htm>

Domestic Regime Type - Polity

Re-read: Jagers, Keith, and Ted Robert Gurr. 1995. "Tracking Democracy's Third Wave with the Polity III Data." *Journal of Peace Research* 32 (4): 468-82. *JSTOR

data: <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/polity/>

SESSION II: QUALITATIVE VS. QUANTITATIVE METHODS (cont.)

Example: Democratic/Liberal Peace

- Danilovic, Vesna, and Joe Clare. 2007. "The Kantian Liberal Peace (Revisited)." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (2): 397-414. *UBElectJo
- Rousseau, David L., Christopher Gelpi, Dan Reiter, and Paul K. Huth. 1996. "Assessing the Dyadic Nature of the Democratic Peace, 1918-88." *American Political Science Review* 90 (3): 512-33. *JSTOR
- Senese, Paul D. 1997. "Between Dispute and War: The Effect of Joint Democracy on Interstate Conflict Escalation." *Journal of Politics* 59 (1): 1-27. *JSTOR
- Farber, Henry S., and Joanne Gowa. 1997. "Politics and Peace." *International Security* 20 (2): 123-146. *JSTOR
- Owen, John M. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security* 19 (2): 87-125. *JSTOR

Week 12 (November 15):

LARGE-N METHODS AND SELECTING A STATISTICAL MODEL

- Bennett, D. Scott, and Allan C. Stam. 2000. "Research Design and Estimator Choices in the Analysis of Interstate Dyads: When Decisions Matter." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44 (5): 653-685 *Read pp. 663-685. *JSTOR
- Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., and Bradford S. Jones. 1997. "Time is of the Essence: Event History Models in Political Science." *American Journal of Political Science* 41 (4): 1414-1461. *JSTOR
- Danilovic, Vesna. 2002. "Appendix D. Questions of Statistical Analysis and Discrete Choice Models." In Vesna Danilovic, *When the Stakes Are High: Deterrence and Conflict among Major Powers*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 236-243. *CElectRes

Week 13 (November 22)

Note: No class; Thanksgiving Holiday

Weeks 14-15 (November 29, December 6):

MINI-CONFERENCE

Presentations of research design projects.

**THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE RESEARCH DESIGN IS DUE BY NOON ON
DECEMBER 11.**