This seminar will cover a broad array of theoretical and historical literature on conflict, strategy, war, and cooperation. We will discuss the key explanations for both systemic and regional conflicts and will address the question: how does cooperation evolve among states in an anarchic international system? The course will include structural, societal, and psychological explanations of war. Strategies of war and peace, including deterrence, the impact of nuclear revolution and the dynamics of nuclear proliferation form the other core parts of the course. We will conclude with a discussion of change in international politics, especially at the global/systemic level.

Requirements

Students are expected to write a substantive research paper (25-30 double-spaced pages) dealing with: (a) an application of one or more of the theories discussed to a significant event in international relations (e.g. crisis, war, or an event that resulted in a peace settlement or cooperation), or (b), explaining one of the above questions, using one's own theory, or (c) explaining a puzzle or a paradox in the realm of international conflict or cooperation. A one-page outline of the paper should be distributed among the participants beginning from the third week, and the seminar will discuss each of the research topics individually. The proposal should discuss the research question, possible alternative hypotheses, your own hypothesis or argument, methodology, theoretical and policy implications, and conclusions. All papers should conform to Chicago style footnotes and bibliography. In addition, each student is expected to make one or more oral presentations on the basis of the required readings for the week. The deadline for paper submission is November 28, 2016.

Statement of Academic Integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Evaluation

Essay outline and presentations 10%
Class participation & attendance 30%
Research Essay 60%

Week I (Sept 2)
Introduction, Overview


**Week 2 (Sept 12)**
**Is the International System Anarchic? Structural Realism, Liberal Institutionalism and Constructivism**


**Week 3 (Sept 19)**
**Parity vs. Preponderance; Balancing vs. Bandwagoning**


**Week 4 (Sept 26)**
**Limited Wars; The Paradox of Power**


**Week 5 (Oct 3)**

**Security Dilemma; The Spiral Model; Arms Races and War**


**Week 6 (Oct 17)**

**Domestic Sources of International Conflict**


**Week 7 (Oct 24)**

**Democracies and War: Why Liberal Democracies Do not Fight Each Other?**


**Week 8 (Oct 31)**
**Deterrence & Strategic Interaction**


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**Week 9 (Nov 7)**

**Nuclear Weapons**


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**Week 10 (Nov 14)**

**Nuclear Proliferation**


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**Week 11 (Nov 21)**

**Conditions Mitigating Anarchy and Conflict: Hegemony; Regimes; Institutions; Trading States?**


Dale C. Copeland, Economic Interdependence and War (Princeton University Press, 2015), 1-50; 428-446.


Week 12 (Nov 28)
Conflict and Cooperation in the Developing World


Week 13 (Dec 5)
Change in World Politics


