Political Science
International Conflict

Yukari Iwanami
330 Harkness Hall
yiwanami@mail.rochester.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to analyze various causes of war and conflict. Students will examine a wide range of literature on international conflict and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. Throughout the semester, we will seek to understand how interactions of individuals, the nature of states, and the structure of the international system affect the onset of international war. We will also do in-depth case studies of WW I, WW II, and the war in the former Yugoslavia and analyze their causes from various theoretical viewpoints.

1 Introduction

1.1 Conceptualization of War


1.2 Realist Theories of War

2 Decision Making and War

2.1 Misperception


2.2 Bureaucratic Politics/Organizational Process


3 States and War

3.1 Regime Type and War


### 3.2 Nationalism and War


### 3.3 Industrialization and War


### 3.4 Diversionary Theories of War


4 Power Balance and War

4.1 Balance of Power


4.2 Offensive/Defensive Balance


4.3 Arms Races

4.4 Deterrence


4.5 Alliances


4.6 Polarity and War


4.7 Power Transition Theory


4.8 Preventive and Preemptive War


4.9 Long Cycle Theory


5 Bargaining and War


6 Resources and War


7 Civil Wars


