

Domestic Determinants of International Relations.

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V53.0795 001
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Brief Description.

Domestic political circumstances affect the policy incentives of leaders. Hence domestic political institutions, economic performance and popularity all influence foreign policy. In turn, international outcomes influence the domestic survival of leaders. This seminar explores the theoretical linkages between domestic and international events and uses this understanding to evaluate the likely success of different policy options. During the seminar we will focus on the efficacy of public policy by considering the theoretical underpinnings and the empirical evidence in support for competing explanations.

Structure, Requirements and Grading

All students are expected to come to class and have done the readings. Classes will have two different formats. In the majority of classes, we will discuss the readings for the week. The focus will be on the theoretical underpinnings of the argument, evidence for the arguments and how the approaches relates to other aspects of decision making. I have set aside 4 classes denoted *Student Projects*. In advance of these classes I will divide students into approximately 5 groups. Each group of students will prepare a short presentation on a case relating to readings in prior classes. For instance, week 3 will examine how regime type affects conflict behavior and each group will pick a case and examine whether the conflict behavior in that case reflects the arguments about how democracies differ from autocracies. As an illustration, students might compare Israel's military spending, equipment, tactics and war aims with those of Egypt and Syria in the 1967 or 1973 conflicts. There will be considerable flexibility in the choice of cases and what aspects of the argument students wish to focus on. Each group is expected to prepare a presentation. The presentation should include some basic components: 1) basic description of the case, 2) the argument being examined, and 3) does the evidence refute or support the argument.

Each presentation will be worth 20% of the course grade. The remaining 20% is for participation.

Topics

There is a class webpage that contains all the readings and additional information:

<https://wp.nyu.edu/alastairsmith/teaching/domestic-determi...elations-seminar/>

Password=dd

Week 1: Introduction to Democratic Peace, Rational Choice model and Interpretation of Statistical Results.

Week 2: How do democracies fight differently?

Week 3: Student Projects I: how democracies and autocracies fight.

Week 4: Diversionary War

Week 5: Public opinion and the use of force

Week 6: Conflict behavior and leader survival:

Week 7: Cycles in conflict: Doves, Hawks and cycles.

Week 8: Student Projects II: Leader motivations for war

Week 9: Sanctions: Success, selection effects and smart sanctions

Week 10: Student Projects III: Assessment of sanctions and negotiations

Week 12: Cooperation and leader change.

Week 12: Student Project IV: Impact of leader change on international agreements

Week 13: Two Level Games

Week 14: Puppet Governments and Nation Building