

# Syllabus Day (i.e. Welcome)

POSC 3610 – International Conflict

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Department of Political Science



## Goal for Today

Familiarize students with the topic of the course and the instructor's expectations.

## Course Objectives

1. Define inter-state conflict, militarized interstate disputes, and war.
2. Summarize the basic “correlates” of inter-state conflict.
3. Grasp not just democratic peace theory, but the full implications of the central claim of the peaceful nature of democracies.
4. Understand why states routinely fight each other over the allocation of territory.
5. Read research designs and interpret regression results.

# Books

## Required

Mitchell, Sarah McLaughlin, and John A. Vasquez, eds. 2021. *What Do We Know about War?* 3rd ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

## “Recommended”

Vasquez, John A. 2009. *The War Puzzle Revisited*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

## Grading Policy

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>(Due) Date</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
Participation	N/A	20%
Midterm	<i>before</i> March 3, 4:45 p.m.	20%
Research Paper	<i>before</i> April 16, 9 a.m.	20%
Final Exam	<i>before</i> May 6, 2 p.m.	40%

Check syllabus for more information about the homework and paper requirements.

# Attendance/Participation Policy

I'd otherwise go on a big spiel about the importance of attending class, but...

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For this semester:

- Attendance is assumed not required.
- Please make it a point to attend lectures.
- Please make it a point to be active on Canvas (for record-keeping).
- Please make it a point to participate to the best of your abilities.



**Paul Musgrave** 🍕 🟡

@profmusgrave



pleased to unveil my 2020 teaching strategy: "don't worry about grades, just learn something and please don't die"

5:32 PM · Aug 18, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

January

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	

February

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March

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April

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May

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	

Class Day
  Exams
  Paper Due

*Notable dates: MLK Day (17 January), Spring Break (21-25 March)*



# Contact Policy

Email me: `svmille@clemsn.edu`.

- Please *don't* email me at `svmille@g.clemsn.edu`, or through Canvas.
- tl;dr: I'll still get it, but it's more hoops in order to respond.
- Simple email to `svmille@clemsn.edu` works best.

That said, I will use Canvas for classwide emails.

# Office Hours

Email me: `svmille@clemsn.edu`. We'll set something up.

- All “office visits” will be done via Zoom.

## Late Work/Make-up Policy

I'm otherwise a hard-ass about make-ups and the like, but... ˘(ツ)˘/˘

- Please make it a point to complete tasks on time.
- Please get tested if you do not feel well.
- Please make-up assignments you miss because of extenuating circumstances, as promptly as you can.

Just please put in an honest effort, and try your best.

## Required Materials/Skills

- Ownership of (or access to) a computer/word processing program.
- Knowledge of getting journal articles from university library service.

# Disabilities Policy

I'm more than happy to accommodate, but:

- The student has to take the initiative. I can't.
- Do let me know privately after class if I should expect to hear from SAS soon.

# My Contact Information

- *Name:* Steve Miller (as in the band)
- *E-mail:* [svmille@clemson.edu](mailto:svmille@clemson.edu)
- *Website:* [posc3610.svmiller.com](http://posc3610.svmiller.com)

## Additional Course Materials

I do like making lectures publicly available, though.

- Check course website at [posc3610.svmiller.com](http://posc3610.svmiller.com)
- Check my Github repository (just in case): [github.com/svmiller/posc3610](https://github.com/svmiller/posc3610)

*I encourage the student to take initiative to keep track of their grade through the semester.*

# My Expectations

I come off as a bit cruel in my expectations.

- I expect a lot, and I expect a commitment from you.
- Otherwise, why bother? Your job is to become “pro-ready.”

I also expect it to be a bit difficult for you.

- My philosophy: if you 100% understand something the first time you read it, you didn't learn anything.
- Read and re-read if necessary.
- Lectures should help, but they're not sufficient. You need to read.

I take seriously the “science” of political science.

- This may not be intuitive, but I'm also eager to help in-class or office hours.



# You Have Homework!

Basically, read these on my website (see course materials):

- Taking Good Notes
- Dos and Dont's of Writing for Students
- Assorted Tips for Students on Writing Research Papers
- Exam Grading Policy
- Fun with Attendance and Grades (i.e. Students Should Attend Class)
- The Educational Power of Discomfort
- Everybody Writes: A Web Content Approach for Students

# Table of Contents

Introduction

POSC 3610 Syllabus

Course Policy

Required Materials/Skills

Etiquette and Expectations

Homework